

United Nations  
GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY

SIXTEENTH SESSION

Official Records

SECOND COMMITTEE, 775th  
MEETING

Tuesday, 5 December 1961,  
at 3.25 p.m.



NEW YORK

CONTENTS

Organization of the Committee's work. . . . .	Page 327
Agenda items 31 and 32:	
Progress and operations of the Special Fund	} 328
United Nations programmes of technical co-	
operation:	
(a) Report of the Economic and Social Council;	
(b) Use of volunteer workers in the operational	
programmes of the United Nations and re-	
lated agencies;	
(c) Confirmation of the allocation of funds	
under the Expanded Programme of Tech-	
nical Assistance. . . . .	

**Chairman:** Mr. Blasco LANZA D'AJETA (Italy).

Organization of the Committee's work (A/C.2/L.608)

1. The CHAIRMAN said that he had consulted the officers of the Committee and the Secretariat, as had been suggested by several representatives, in order to formulate a proposal regarding the Committee's future work. Although it would be advisable, before taking a final decision with regard to the order of consideration of the remaining items on the agenda, to wait until the General Committee had decided whether or not there would be a resumed session, he would suggest as a provisional measure that the Committee should take up the most pressing items, namely, those entitled "Provision of food surpluses to food-deficient peoples through the United Nations system" (item 28 (e)), "Progress and operations of the Special Fund" (item 31), and "United Nations programmes of technical co-operation" (item 32), consideration of which could be completed by the evening of Monday, 11 December. The Committee would thereafter revert to the regular order of business agreed upon at the 716th meeting.

2. Mr. TABIBI (Afghanistan) supported that proposal but asked that, in the event of the General Committee's meeting before the Second Committee had completed its consideration of those three items, the Chairman should inform the General Committee that the majority of the members of the Second Committee were not in favour of a resumed session.

3. Mr. BERNARDO (Argentina) observed that the Chairman's proposal implied a change in the work programme approved earlier, according to which the Committee should proceed immediately to consider the agenda items entitled "Population growth and economic development" (item 84) and "Permanent sovereignty over natural resources" (item 87). He was convinced that the sponsors of the draft resolution relating to item 84 (A/C.2/L.601) were ready, as was Argentina, to embark on a discussion of that important question. He therefore considered that it was prema-

ture to amend the order of business without knowing whether or not there would be a resumed session.

4. Mr. CARANICAS (Greece) supported the Chairman's proposal. He assured the representative of Argentina that the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/L.601 were extremely anxious to broach the consideration of item 84. He reserved Greece's position with regard to a possible resumption of the session. The Committee was not, he thought, unanimous in its views on that subject.

5. Mr. NATORF (Poland) believed that while most members of the Committee were not in favour of a resumed session, the Chairman ought not to make a formal report to the General Committee until the Second Committee had taken a final decision. He wondered, moreover, whether the order of business proposed by the Chairman would not have the effect of preventing the consideration of two-thirds of the questions still to be discussed, since only some fifteen meetings remained before the date of closure of the session, whereas forty-five meetings were needed.

6. Mr. TABIBI (Afghanistan) said that it was essential to inform the General Committee that the Second Committee was not in favour of a resumed session; otherwise, the General Committee might think that the Committee had not taken up all the items on its agenda because it was counting on a resumed session.

7. Mr. ERROCK (United Kingdom) said that his delegation, although it had no very firm opinion, was not greatly in favour of a resumed session. He proposed that the Committee should take advantage of the presence of the Executive Chairman of the Technical Assistance Board to confirm the allocation of funds under the Expanded Programme (A/C.2/211). The Committee would then at least have completed consideration of one question of substance.

8. Mr. LINGAM (India) supported the Chairman's proposal to proceed with the most pressing items—namely, those which must be settled in order not to create difficulties for bodies which would have to meet early in 1962—without prejudice to the importance of the remaining items. The Committee could begin with the programmes of technical co-operation so as to take advantage of the presence of the Executive Chairman of the Technical Assistance Board.

9. Mr. EL-MUTWALLI (Iraq) accepted the Chairman's proposal on the understanding that the Committee would revert to the order provided for in document A/C.2/L.566 when the question of a resumed session had been settled.

10. Mr. HARLAND (New Zealand), supported by Mr. BERNARDO (Argentina), said that he saw no reason why item 28 (e) on the provision of food surpluses should be linked with item 31, relating to the Special Fund and item 32, relating to programmes of technical co-operation, nor why it should be taken up before

the Committee had heard the statement to be made by the Director-General of FAO on Friday, 8 December. He believed that the Committee should begin by considering items 31 and 32 together, and only then go on to take up item 28 (e). He supported the United Kingdom representative's proposal that the Commission should hear the Executive Chairman of TAB immediately and confirm the allocation of funds under the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance.

11. Mr. MALHOTRA (Nepal) suggested that the three items mentioned by the Chairman should be discussed in the following order: item 31, item 32 and item 28 (e).

12. In reply to a question from Mr. EL-MUTWALLI (Iraq) and Mr. NATORF (Poland), the CHAIRMAN stated that the Committee would resume consideration of the organization of its work on the afternoon of Monday, 11 December, whether or not it had completed consideration of items 28 (e), 31 and 32 by that time.

13. Mr. HARLAND (New Zealand) said that he would be ready to support the Nepalese representative's suggestion had it not been for the fact that up to the present time the items relating to the programmes of technical co-operation and the Special Fund had always been taken together. The provision of food surpluses could not be considered an operational programme in the same way as the technical assistance programmes and the programmes of the Special Fund.

14. Mr. FINGER (United States of America) supported the Chairman's proposal, for it seemed to him that the Committee would be well advised, at the present stage, to take items in series.

15. Mr. KAKITSUBO (Japan) supported the Chairman's proposal. He reserved his delegation's right to submit a draft resolution on item 31 in the very near future and hoped that the Chairman did not intend to limit the debate to the draft resolutions already submitted.

16. The CHAIRMAN reassured the representative of Japan on that point.

17. Mr. BRILLANTES (Philippines), speaking on a point of order, suggested that the Committee should interrupt its discussion of procedure to take a decision on the specific proposal made by the representative of India.

18. Mr. GEORGIEV (Bulgaria), speaking on a point of order, suggested that items 31, 32 and 28 (e) should be discussed during the remainder of the current week, and that consideration of them should in any case be interrupted on Monday, 11 December. The order of business adopted by the Committee ought not to be altered on the pretext of expediting the Committee's work.

19. Mr. DANGEARD (France) and Mr. TABIBI (Afghanistan) supported the Philippine representative's suggestion.

20. Mr. EL-MUTWALLI (Iraq) said that he was prepared to accept the Indian representative's proposal on the understanding that he was not thereby committing himself concerning the priority to be given to any particular agenda item. If the question of priorities should be raised, his country might find itself obliged to give preference to other items than the three previously mentioned, and specifically to item 87.

21. Mr. LINGAM (India) pointed out that by adopting his proposal the Committee was not prejudging the

stand that it would take when it learned whether or not the session would be resumed; also, it was not deciding to modify the order of business which it had already decided on. The Committee should in the normal course have completed consideration of the three items referred to by the Chairman by Monday, 11 December, and then be able to resume its work in the order that had been agreed upon.

22. Mr. MAKEEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) thought that in view of the unwillingness of many delegations to begin with item 28 (e), the best course was to take up items 31 and 32 without further delay and then decide on the order in which the remaining agenda items should be taken up.

23. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should adopt the Indian representative's proposal.

*It was so decided.*

#### AGENDA ITEMS 31 AND 32

Progress and operations of the Special Fund (A/4820 and Corr.2, chapter III, section III; A/4897, E/3435, E/3521, SF/L.45 and Corr.1, SF/L.45/Add.1 and Corr.1, A/C.2/L.555 and Add.1-3)

United Nations programmes of technical co-operation:

- (a) Report of the Economic and Social Council (A/4820 and Corr.2, chapter III, sections 1, II and IV; A/C.2/L.555 and Add.1-3);
- (b) Use of volunteer workers in the operational programmes of the United Nations and related agencies (A/4820 and Corr.2, chapter III, section VI);
- (c) Confirmation of the allocation of funds under the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance (A/C.2/211)

24. Mr. OWEN (Executive Chairman of the Technical Assistance Board), reporting on the technical co-operation carried out under the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance, said that, as he had indicated to the Committee at the fifteenth session of the General Assembly (694th meeting), the initial anxieties concerning the resources available for the approved programme in 1960 had been dispelled, thanks to the generous action of a number of Governments, and it had been possible, for the first time in five years, to issue financial authorizations to the participating organizations up to the full level of the programme approved by TAC. That welcome trend had gained momentum in 1961, when the funds pledged had been 21 per cent greater than in the preceding year. However, there were no grounds for complacency. Growing needs for technical assistance, coupled with rising costs, meant that still more resources must be sought for 1962 and onwards.

25. The programme implemented in 1960 had amounted to \$27.91 million. A total of 103 countries and territories had benefited directly from it, and 2,258 expert assignments had been carried out. The fact that implementation in 1960 had not risen with contributions had been primarily due to the strict policies aimed at full use of currency resources which TAB had felt compelled to adopt. Although those policies had produced encouraging results in 1961, the basic problem would continue to demand diligent attention.

26. A significant feature of the programme carried out in 1960 had been the continued increase in the share devoted to Africa. Thanks to the substantial increase in

total funds pledged for 1961, it was possible to plan for a further considerable increase for Africa in the 1961-1962 programme, bringing its share up to 29 per cent. That included a supplementary programme of more than \$9 million for twenty-one newly independent and emerging African countries. In some of those countries it had already been possible to appoint resident representatives who had been active in helping the countries concerned to identify their most urgent needs for technical assistance. In that way, it was hoped that the Expanded Programme would make the greatest possible contribution to the development of those countries at the present crucial stage in their history.

27. A special feature of the Board's report to TAC for 1960 (E/3471 and Add.1) was an extensive review of training institutes and centres established or assisted under the Expanded Programme since its inception. One of the most striking of the conclusions that review made possible was that host Governments had borne almost two-thirds of the total cost of \$65 million, while only about one-third had fallen to the share of the Expanded Programme. Since the beginning of the Expanded Programme, substantially more people had received training at those institutes and centres than had been awarded EPTA fellowships overseas, and the average cost to the Programme had been substantially less. Despite the higher cost, the need for overseas fellowships would continue, particularly in the more specialized areas of knowledge, but, as had been emphasized in TAC, there was justification for looking closely at the potentialities of national and regional training facilities in the developing countries, especially where they seemed to offer training as good as or better than was available in the more advanced countries.

28. In view of the concern expressed from time to time regarding the number of fellowships awarded under the Expanded Programme, it should be borne in mind that fellowships were not the only element of training; institutes and centres, as well as the training provided under bilateral programmes, must also be taken into account. Moreover, occasional declines in the number of fellowships granted under the Expanded Programme were more often than not offset by increases in the number's provided under the regular programmes of the specialized agencies. The Board was in any case keenly aware that training of all kinds was one of the principal keys to economic development and was therefore of major importance in its programmes of technical co-operation. The participating organizations could, of course, only ensure the availability of fellowships and encourage Governments to take advantage of them; it was the recipient countries which actually determined the balance between fellowships and expert assistance in their programmes.

29. The expansion of the technical co-operation programme had presented new challenges, not the least of which was the need to maintain and improve the quality of the services provided. The problem of recruitment required increasing attention as the mounting volume of aid to the developing countries made it more and more difficult to find all the experts needed, and the question was under study by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination. One aspect of it had recently been touched on by the Economic and Social Council when it had adopted resolution 852 (XXXII) calling on TAB and the participating organizations to seek increasingly the assistance of the developing

countries themselves. TAB had, in fact, from the early days of the Programme, obtained about one-quarter of its total force of experts from that source, and the Board was examining further means of meeting the Council's request. In that connexion, it was noteworthy that a considerable diversification had already taken place in regard to the sources from which experts were drawn.

30. The recent decision of the General Assembly to revise salary scales (resolution 1658 (XVI)) should also alleviate some of the major difficulties encountered in the recruitment of international technical assistance personnel. During the current session of TAC, a number of constructive suggestions had been made to improve the recruitment situation. At its next session, the General Assembly could be expected to have before it the comments and recommendations of TAC and possibly the Council on those matters.

31. Turning to the current programme, he said that the first period of two-year programming was now approaching its half-way point. Implementation was proceeding at a reasonably good pace. With the doubling of the period covered by the approved programme, the system of contingency allocations had proved of even greater value than hitherto; indeed, it would otherwise have been impossible to build up the programmes for the African countries to the extent which had in fact been achieved. Better coverage of those countries by resident representative offices was needed to speed up the programmes, and specific proposals to that end were being made in the 1962 budget estimates which had now been approved by TAC.

32. The Technical Assistance Committee was confident that the system of project programming, which was to come into effect in 1963, coupled with the abolition of agency sub-totals from country planning targets and the elimination of agency planning shares, would considerably simplify the programming procedures and facilitate the orderly development and execution of projects, especially long-term projects. The Committee was particularly anxious to ensure an appropriate balance between long-term and short-term projects, and planned to review the question in the summer of 1963. Initially, it had been decided that projects might be authorized for periods of up to four years.

33. In addition to the continuing co-operation of government officials throughout the world, the success of project programming would depend in no small measure on the ability of Governments to formulate their needs and organize their use of technical assistance within the framework of national development plans and under the guidance of national co-ordinating units. That was essential for a sound assessment of priorities in requests for technical assistance. The Second Committee's draft resolutions on planning for economic development and the establishment of regional institutes (A/C.2/L.584) and on decentralization (A/C.2/L.585) were of relevance in that connexion.

34. An outstanding event in the matter of international aid and technical co-operation had been the establishment of the Alliance for Progress, which visualized a great intensification of co-operative effort by the Latin American countries in regard to economic and social development, supplemented by external aid of the order of \$20,000 million over the next ten years. That was bound to have important repercussions on

the United Nations programmes of technical co-operation in Latin America. Besides acknowledging the help already given by the United Nations, the representatives at the Inter-American Economic Conference at Punta del Este had visualized continued close co-operation with appropriate United Nations agencies, in particular ECLA.

35. The Committee would be interested to learn that TAC was arranging a series of meetings with the staff of the regional economic commissions and the corresponding resident representatives to ensure maximum co-operation in the preparation of EPTA programmes. The first of those meetings had just taken place at Santiago, Chile, and similar meetings would be held at Bangkok and Addis Ababa early in 1962.

36. As he had remarked to the Committee at the previous session, the existence of the Special Fund not only gave new meaning to many established technical assistance projects but created a need for new kinds of technical assistance in preparation for its own activities. Many projects carried out under the Expanded Programme had acquired greater significance through subsequent action by the Special Fund. For example, preliminary surveys of mineral resources in Chile had prepared the way for a large-scale mineral exploration project financed by the Fund. In other cases, the existence of the Fund had affected the character of the assistance requested under the Expanded Programme. In at least two cases, Governments had asked for and received assistance under contingency allocations in the preparation of projects for submission to the Fund.

37. The influence of the regional economic commissions on the programmes continued to be extensive and constructive. It was most clearly evident in regional projects, of which about half had originated in discussions and decisions of the commissions. Many other regional projects had had their origin in the work of inter-governmental bodies meeting under the auspices of member agencies of the United Nations system.

38. The Economic and Social Council had recently devoted considerable attention to the question of co-ordination, both at the centre and in the field. It was noteworthy that both the Council and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination had recognized explicitly the essential contribution which the resident representatives could make to the countries they served as well as to the broader purposes of the various programmes of technical co-operation. Governments were increasingly using the resident representatives as their sole channel of communication with the participating organizations in regard to all matters relating to the Expanded Programme and the Special Fund. From the point of view of co-ordination, that development had obvious advantages and was most welcome. Now that agency sub-totals had been abolished, it might also help the resident representatives, when countries were preparing their 1963-1964 programme requests, to keep within healthy bounds the natural enthusiasm of the participating organizations to be of maximum service.

39. In practical terms, the Board was expecting some increase in the number of resident representatives as well as the strengthening of administrative support in some of the existing field offices. In that process it would bear in mind the Council's emphasis on persons of high calibre, a broad geographical basis of selection, and the desirability of drawing increasingly on the

services of persons from the developing countries themselves.

40. The results of the United Nations Pledging Conference for 1962, though still incomplete, were both a tribute and a challenge. While they revealed the prospect of a \$2 million increase over the 1961 pledges the problem of financing the multilateral programmes of technical co-operation carried out by the United Nations continued to represent a tremendous challenge to the world community, a challenge which had been succinctly stated by the Second Committee in 1960 when, after examining the problems of development and the capacity of multilateral programmes to meet them, it had set a combined contribution target of \$150 million annually for the Expanded Programme and the Special Fund (General Assembly resolution 1529 (XV)). He was confident that, as the two programmes continued to demonstrate their ability to meet the critical needs of the developing countries, the contributors would together find the resources necessary to meet that goal.

41. Special mention should be made of the generous increases pledged by many Governments, large and small, for the Expanded Programme in 1962. More than one-quarter of the Governments whose pledges had been recorded had announced increases over their pledges for 1961. The fact that the largest contributor, the United States of America, had pledged \$60 million to the two programmes, subject to a matching provision, should be a great stimulus to increased pledges from other countries.

42. The results of the Pledging Conference, and expectations concerning pledges which had not yet been announced, confirmed the judgement made by TAC in approving the largest programme in its history for the 1961-1962 biennium. If those expectations were fulfilled, it would be possible to intensify present efforts, especially in the newly independent and emerging countries of Africa and elsewhere, and to plan for the future with reasonable assurance. It would soon be time to embark on the programming exercise for 1963-1964, under the new rules adopted by the Economic and Social Council. That exercise would call for the closest co-operation between officials of all the Governments of the recipient countries and representatives of TAB and the participating agencies. Their function would be to prepare programmes of technical assistance based on local needs and priorities and related so far as possible to national plans of economic and social development. Compared with some of the large bilateral programmes, the multilateral efforts of the United Nations might not be great; but they had many assets—in their wide range of international recruitment, in the technical and professional services of the international agencies, and in their political neutrality—of which recipient Governments should take full advantage. It was also hoped that the principal donor countries would provide early indications of possible future increases in their contributions so that the element of speculation in programming could be reduced to a minimum. The Technical Assistance Board welcomed the decision taken by the Second Committee in inaugurating a United Nations Development Decade (A/C.2/L.599). Technical assistance was only one element in the development picture, but it was a vital element in many countries, and he trusted that substantially increased resources would be provided to enable it to play its full part in the decade ahead.

43. Mr. AHMAD (Pakistan) proposed that the statement made by the Executive Chairman of TAB should be circulated as an official document of the Committee.

*It was so decided.*<sup>1/</sup>

44. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had before it a draft resolution relating to agenda item 32 (c) (A/C.2/211) and a draft resolution relating to agenda items 31 and 32 (A/C.2/L.555 and Add.1-3).

45. Mr. FINGER (United States of America) introduced the draft resolution contained in documents A/C.2/L.555 and Add.1-3 on behalf of the fifteen Powers which had also been the sponsors of the draft resolution concerning the United Nations Development Decade (A/C.2/L.599). The decision which the Second Committee had just taken with regard to the Development Decade was recalled in the first preambular paragraph of the present draft resolution. If, as stated in the second preambular paragraph, the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance and the Special Fund were to play an increasingly important role, they must have additional resources. That was why the draft resolution called upon States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies to review their contributions to the end that the target of \$150 million laid down by the General Assembly in resolution 1529 (XV) might be reached. Although the amount of contributions pledged for 1962 was relatively high, it was not adequate to the need, and countries must therefore make an additional effort. There was no question of exerting pressure on Governments but of inviting each one of them to con-

<sup>1/</sup> The complete text of the statement made by the Executive Chairman of the Technical Assistance Board was circulated as document A/C.2/L.610.

sider, in a spirit of "soul-searching", whether it was in a position to make an additional effort.

46. In operative paragraph 2, the General Assembly would request the Special Fund to consider the desirability of assuming two new functions. The service proposed in sub-paragraph (a) would be particularly useful for countries that had only recently become independent and were sometimes not familiar with the policies, rules, regulations and practices of existing sources of development capital. The recommendation was properly balanced inasmuch as both public and private capital were mentioned. The service referred to in sub-paragraph (b) would assist developing countries, upon request, in obtaining expert advice in the preparation and implementation of national and regional development plans. Although it was true that they could already obtain such assistance from IBRD or within the framework of numerous bilateral programmes or of various regional groupings such as the Alliance for Progress, all those sources of aid combined were not sufficient to meet the considerable need of the developing countries. Until such time as the regional planning centres were opened, countries should be able to apply to the Special Fund for advice about various possible sources, such as, for example, universities and research institutes. The Special Fund would not be required to set up a special research section but would inform countries where that kind of assistance could be obtained.

47. The draft resolution did not raise any controversial points and should be examined in the spirit in which it had been submitted.

The meeting rose at 5.10 p.m.