

(c) Withdrawals from the Working Capital and Reserve Fund shall be replaced before the end of the financial period in which they are made.

761st plenary meeting,
5 April 1954.

B

SYSTEM OF ALLOCATION OF FUNDS UNDER THE EXPANDED PROGRAMME OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered the report²⁸ of the Technical Assistance Committee,

Bearing in mind the opinion of the Secretary-General and of the Technical Assistance Committee that the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination should be given the opportunity to consider and comment on the questions relating to the basis for the allocation of funds before a final decision is taken in that respect,

1. Considers that in the further examination of this question the following possible alternatives should be taken into account:

Alternative (a): Automatic allocations would be eliminated altogether and the programmes submitted by the Technical Assistance Board would be approved each year by the Technical Assistance Committee;

Alternative (b): The Technical Assistance Committee would determine each year, on the basis of comprehensive country plans and a careful review of existing and proposed programmes, the percentage of available funds to be allocated for the following year to each of the participating organizations, as well as the percentage to be reserved for allocation by the Technical Assistance Board;

Alternative (c): The present system of automatic allocations would be gradually modified in order to reduce the proportion which, at the date of the present resolution, is distributed among the participating organizations under the system of automatic allocations by 25 per cent each year until completely eliminated;

Alternative (d): The present system of automatic allocations would be retained in some such form as the following:

(i) Twenty-five per cent of the available funds would be in fact at the disposal of the Executive Chairman and of the Technical Assistance Board, for allocation by them at their discretion in accordance with the principles established by the Technical Assistance Committee and more particularly with that of the drawing up of technical assistance programmes at the country level;

(ii) A substantial percentage of up to 50 per cent of the available funds would be put at the disposal of the Executive Chairman and of the Technical Assistance Board, for allocation among the participating organizations in accordance with the principles established by the Technical Assistance Committee and more particularly with that of the drawing up of technical assistance programmes at the country level;

2. Invites the Technical Assistance Committee to resume the consideration of the question of the alloca-

²⁸ *Ibid.*

tion of funds in the light of the debates of the Council on the matter, with a view to formulating proposals which the Council could consider at its eighteenth session.

761st plenary meeting,
5 April 1954.

C

REPORTS OF THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE BOARD TO THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE

The Economic and Social Council,

Having noted the report²⁹ of the Technical Assistance Committee approving, subject to appropriate action by the Council, the modifications³⁰ suggested by the Technical Assistance Board in the system of regular reports of the Board to the Committee,

Decides to amend its resolution 222 A (IX) by deleting sub-paragraph 3 (e) thereof.

761st plenary meeting,
5 April 1954.

522 (XVII). Freedom of information

A

REPORTS AND STUDIES ON FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

The Economic and Social Council,

Taking note with appreciation of the report³¹ on freedom of information submitted by the Rapporteur, Mr. Salvador P. López, who was appointed in his personal capacity at the fourteenth session of the Council for an experimental period of one year;

1. Requests the Secretary-General, in conjunction with the specialized agencies concerned, particularly the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the International Telecommunication Union, and in consultation with professional associations and information enterprises, to prepare for submission to the Council at its nineteenth session:

(a) A concrete programme of action to promote among news personnel everywhere a wider knowledge of the work of the United Nations, of foreign countries and of international affairs, with a view to promoting friendly relations among nations based on the Purposes and Principles of the Charter;

(b) A world-wide survey of current principles and practices involved in the censorship of outgoing news dispatches;

(c) A study of the legal aspects of the rights and responsibilities of the media of information;

(d) A study of the problem of the protection of sources of information of news personnel, taking into account the preliminary report³² already prepared by the Secretary-General on the subject;

²⁹ *Ibid.*

³⁰ See document E/TAC/33.

³¹ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Sixteenth Session, Supplement No. 12.*

³² See document E/CN.4/Sub.1/146.

(e) A study of public and private information monopolies and their effects on freedom of information;

2. *Requests* Member States to collaborate with the Secretary-General and the specialized agencies concerned.

*788th plenary meeting,
29 April 1954.*

B

TRANSMISSION OF OUTGOING NEWS DISPATCHES

The Economic and Social Council,

Taking note of the recommendation³³ adopted at the Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union, Buenos Aires, 1952, recommending members and associate members of the Union to facilitate the unrestricted transmission of news by telecommunication services,

Invites the International Telecommunication Union to report to the Council at its nineteenth session on action taken by Governments in response to the above-mentioned recommendation.

*788th plenary meeting,
29th April 1954.*

C

STATUS AND MOVEMENT OF FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS

The Economic and Social Council,

Requests the Secretary-General to transmit to member and non-member States the following two studies:³⁴ "Study of the Law and Practice Governing the Status and Work of Foreign News Personnel and Measures to Facilitate the Work of such Personnel" and "Study Relating to the Definition and Identification of Foreign Correspondents"; and to request them to study the possibility of implementing the administrative measures contemplated in these studies with a view to facilitating the professional activities of foreign correspondents.

*788th plenary meeting,
29 April 1954.*

D

COPYRIGHT

The Economic and Social Council,

Taking note of the complex problems arising from the lack of uniform copyright agreements, and the effect of this on the dissemination of information through the Press, radio, television and films,

1. *Recommends* to governments that they adhere to the Universal Copyright Convention;³⁵

2. *Takes note* of the efforts being undertaken on the international level to solve the problems of performers' rights and draws the attention of Governments to the importance of the protection of these rights to ensure

³³ See *General Secretariat of the International Telecommunication Union: International Telecommunication Convention, Buenos Aires, 1952—Geneva, 1953*, p. 163.

³⁴ See documents E/CN.4/Sub.1/140 and E/CN.4/Sub.1/148.

³⁵ See *United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization: Copyright Bulletin*, volume V, No. 3-4, Paris 1952, p. 30.

freedom of information and to the interest attached to international action in this field; and

3. *Invites* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to initiate a study of copyright in respect of news and information media and to formulate recommendations thereon.

*788th plenary meeting,
29 April 1954.*

E

INDEPENDENCE OF INFORMATION PERSONNEL

The Economic and Social Council,

Taking note of the work currently being done by the International Labour Organisation through its Advisory Committee on Salaried Employees and Professional Workers in collecting current information and complete documentation on problems relating to the economic independence of information personnel,

Considering that the economic security of such personnel may have an important bearing on their ability to withstand pressures, whether direct or indirect, which would be prejudicial to the proper exercise of their profession,

Invites the International Labour Organisation to give full consideration to this factor in the course of its current studies, taking into account the views and suggestions of professional organizations, more particularly professional organizations of employers and workers.

*788th plenary meeting,
29 April 1954.*

F

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

The Economic and Social Council,

Recognizing the desirability of intensifying international action to assist in the professional training of information personnel.

Noting with satisfaction the efforts of various governments in establishing bilateral programmes for the exchange of persons, including information personnel, as well as similar efforts on the part of private institutions,

1. *Urges* governments, particularly those with highly developed mass communications, to co-operate to the fullest possible extent in offering facilities for foreign information personnel and students of journalism, including the granting of visas and currency facilities;

2. *Recommends* to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization that it consider the possibility of increasing the scope of its mass communication fellowship programme;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in view of the importance of adequate information as a factor of economic development, to explore, in co-operation with the appropriate specialized agencies, the possibility of providing an increasing number of scholarships and fellowships for information personnel under the regular and expanded programmes of technical assistance;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to communicate the present resolution to governments.

*788th plenary meeting,
29 April 1954.*

G

PRESS RATES AND PRIORITIES

The Economic and Social Council,

Recognizing that the transmission of press messages on telecommunication channels at lower rates and with increased priority would facilitate the free flow of information between countries,

1. *Requests* the International Telecommunication Union and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to prepare for the Council at its nineteenth session a joint study of the problems of transmitting press messages, including that of disparities and anomalies in press rates, with the object of formulating and helping promote remedial measures which might be submitted for consideration at the next International Telephone and Telegraph Conference;

2. *Invites* governments meanwhile to study the question.

*788th plenary meeting,
29 April 1954.*

H

INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting the increasing complexity of the problems arising from the lack of international agreement on the utilization of radio frequencies, and the fact that continuation of this situation is likely to affect the flow of information by broadcasting,

1. *Affirms* the vital need for such international agreement and urges governments to make every effort to reach an agreement on the distribution of frequencies on an equitable basis, giving adequate attention in the preparation of such an agreement to the desirability of increasing the flow of objective news and information through international broadcasting;

2. *Requests* the International Telecommunication Union to consider, with the assistance of countries members of the Union, the possibility of developing new techniques leading to economy in the use of frequencies and to the elimination of wasteful competition and duplication;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all governments.

*788th plenary meeting,
29 April 1954.*

I

TARIFF AND TRADE PRACTICES

The Economic and Social Council,

Taking note of the importance of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's

efforts to remove tariff and trade obstacles which affect the free flow of information between countries,

1. *Recommends* to governments which have not yet done so to adhere to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Agreement³⁶ on the Importation of Educational, Scientific and Cultural Materials;

2. *Recommends* to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization that it consult, when the time is opportune, with the States Parties to this Agreement on their views as to the desirability of extending it to provide further dispensations in the allocation of foreign exchange for the purchase of educational, scientific and cultural materials;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to communicate the text of the present resolution to the governments referred to in article IX of the above-mentioned Agreement.

*788th plenary meeting,
29 April 1954.*

J

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

I

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting the constructive nature and extent of the technical assistance programmes administered by the United Nations and the various specialized agencies,

Recommends to the appropriate specialized agencies and the United Nations Technical Assistance Administration that they give due consideration, under their regular programmes and under the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance, to the requests which governments may submit for aid, within the scope and objectives of existing programmes, which would be useful in promoting freedom of information.

II

The Economic and Social Council,

Bearing in mind that under Article 66 of the Charter of the United Nations the Council "may, with the approval of the General Assembly, perform services at the request of Members of the United Nations and at the request of specialized agencies",

Believing that the fields in which the Secretary-General is at present authorized to render assistance for the purpose of freedom of information may appropriately be broadened,

Decides that, subject to the approval of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General shall be authorized to render, at the request of Member States, services which do not fall within the scope and objectives of existing technical assistance programmes, in order to assist these States in promoting freedom of information.

*788th plenary meeting,
29 April 1954.*

³⁶ See *United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization: Records of the Fifth Session of the General Conference, Florence, 1950, Resolutions, Paris, 1950, p. 141.*

K

ENCOURAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF INDEPENDENT
DOMESTIC INFORMATION ENTERPRISES

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting the report ³⁷ of the Secretary-General on the subject of the encouragement and development of independent domestic information enterprises, and those portions of the Rapporteur's report ³⁸ on freedom of information which relate to this problem,

Recalling Council resolution 442 E (XIV) and General Assembly resolution 633 (VII),

1. *Decides* to draw the attention of governments to the suggestions for action contained in chapter VIII of the Secretary-General's report; ³⁹

2. *Invites* the governments of the under-developed countries, separately or jointly, to study the possibility of encouraging the development of existing and the establishment of new or additional independent radio broadcasting facilities, news agencies, and other information enterprises; and suggests that for this purpose they should consult, as appropriate, with national, regional or international professional associations and information enterprises;

3. *Draws the attention* of these Governments to the possibility of seeking technical assistance for these purposes from the United Nations, the specialized agencies and other inter-governmental organizations and, specifically, to Council resolutions 522 F (XVII) and 522 J (XVII) above;

4. *Draws the attention* of the United Nations and the specialized agencies to the desirability of continuing to give the prominence in their publications and films to information about countries whose domestic information enterprises are unable to reach a foreign public;

5. *Recommends* that the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to the extent that available resources and existing priorities permit,

(a) Intensify its activities with a view to increasing its aid to governments desiring to encourage the development of independent domestic information enterprises;

(b) Provide, at the request of governments and upon approval of plans for the establishment or development of independent domestic information enterprises, the services of experts to assist:

(i) In the development of such enterprises;

(ii) In the training of technicians and professional workers for information, press, radio and cinema enterprises according to the particular needs of each country;

(c) Continue its work of research and documentation in order to enable under-developed countries to profit by the experience of countries with a high level of technical advancement, and to undertake and promote research likely to encourage the development and raise the efficiency of independent domestic information enterprises.

*789th plenary meeting,
29 April 1954.*

³⁷ See document E/2534.

³⁸ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Sixteenth Session, Supplement No. 12.*

³⁹ See document E/2534.

L

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF NEWSPRINT

The Economic and Social Council,

Taking into account the valuable work being done by the Food and Agriculture Organization, in co-operation with the United Nations and the other agencies interested, in seeking a long-term solution of the newsprint problem,

1. *Notes with satisfaction* the studies which are being undertaken by the Economic Commission for Latin America in co-operation with the Food and Agriculture Organization and the Technical Assistance Administration and other related organizations with a view to the development of the paper and pulp industry in Latin America, and also the proposal to convene a meeting of experts on important aspects of the industry at Buenos Aires, in September 1954, under the auspices of the Economic Commission for Latin America, the Technical Assistance Administration and the Food and Agriculture Organization;

2. *Recommends* to the Food and Agriculture Organization that it continue to pay due attention to requests by governments for the provision of services and advice on pulp and newsprint, especially with a view to, *inter alia*, the systematic expansion of production capacity when conditions will ensure efficient production, not only within the scope of the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance, but also as part of its regular programme;

3. *Further recommends* that the United Nations and, in particular, the Technical Assistance Administration and the regional economic commissions, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and other interested agencies continue to co-operate in seeking new measures to deal with the newsprint problem, with particular attention, in the under-developed countries among others, to the possible utilization of new materials, as well as available raw materials and the position of the spot market consumer of newsprint.

*789th plenary meeting,
29 April 1954.*

**523 (XVII). Allegations regarding infringements
of trade union rights**

A

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling that Council resolution 351 (XII) of 28 February 1951 was transmitted by the Secretary-General to the Government of Romania, bringing to its attention allegations of violations of trade union rights brought against it by the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions and inviting that Government to submit its observations on the matter,

Noting that the Secretary-General, on 6 August 1953, transmitted another communication to Romania pursuant to Council resolution 474 C (XV) which expressed the hope that Romania would find it possible to indicate its willingness to co-operate in this matter,