

with General Assembly resolution 823 (IX), together with a report from the President of the Bank on the progress made toward the establishment of the Corporation,¹⁹

Noting that the Articles of Agreement provide that the Corporation shall be established and begin operations when the Agreement has been signed on behalf of not less than thirty Governments whose subscriptions total not less than \$75,000,000,

Noting from the report presented by the Bank on the results of its work that a substantial number of Governments have taken specific steps toward acceptance of membership in the Corporation,

1. *Expresses* its appreciation of the manner in which the International Bank has carried out the task requested of it by the General Assembly;

2. *Looks forward* to the establishment of the Corporation as soon as practicable.

*892nd plenary meeting,
5 August 1955.*

584 (XX). Technical assistance

A

REGULAR UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The Economic and Social Council

Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General concerning the regular United Nations programme of technical assistance.²⁰

*883rd plenary meeting,
23 July 1955.*

B

EXPANDED PROGRAMME OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

I.

REPORT OF THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE BOARD TO THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE

The Economic and Social Council

Takes note with appreciation of the seventh report submitted by the Technical Assistance Board²¹ to the Technical Assistance Committee.

*883rd plenary meeting,
23 July 1955.*

II.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL ON QUESTIONS RAISED BY THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY QUESTIONS

The Economic and Social Council,

Considering that the General Assembly, in its resolution 831 D (IX), requested the Council to furnish to the General Assembly at its tenth session a report on the progress made in the consideration of the questions raised

¹⁹ E/2770.

²⁰ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Twentieth Session, Annexes, agenda item 7, document E/2736.*

²¹ *Ibid., Supplement No. 4 (E/2714) and document E/2714/Add.1.*

in the first report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to the General Assembly at its ninth session,²² together with the comments of the Advisory Committee on the report of the Council,

Having examined the report of the Advisory Committee together with paragraphs 9 to 15 of the report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination,²³

Submits to the General Assembly the report annexed hereto.

*883rd plenary meeting,
23 July 1955.*

Annex

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN RESPONSE TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 831 D (IX) ON THE FIRST REPORT OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY QUESTIONS TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS NINTH SESSION.

1. The Economic and Social Council is grateful to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for its review, made at the request of the General Assembly, of the administrative procedure and expenditure of the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance, and for the comments and suggestions set out in parts I and II of its first report²⁴ to the General Assembly at its ninth session.

2. With regard to the matters reviewed in part I of the report of the Advisory Committee, the Council approves the views and recommendations of its Technical Assistance Committee, which are stated below:

(a) While recognizing that in addition to the resident representatives of the Technical Assistance Board who, in connexion with the shift of emphasis to country programming have been assigned a special responsibility under Council resolution 542 B (XVIII), there may be a need for agency regional representatives and country mission chiefs, the Technical Assistance Committee has requested the Technical Assistance Board and the participating organizations to keep under review their arrangements for field representation with a view to appropriate inter-agency co-ordination in the field, and to eliminating any unnecessary posts and overlapping functions and to report to TAC on this matter. The TAC reiterated its views that all participating organizations should make the fullest possible use of the resident representatives.

(b) The TAB secretariat and the participating organizations have been urged, in promoting the objectives of the Expanded Programme, to make the fullest use of the existing administrative and other services of the United Nations and the specialized agencies, in order that as much as possible of the Special Account may be available for operational purposes.

(c) The Executive Chairman has reported that the Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions has reviewed the present classification of costs in the light of the recommendation of the Advisory Committee that the present distinction between "administrative" and "indirect operational costs" be removed, and produced a unanimous report, which has been endorsed by TAB and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination. It is proposed that the new classification of costs, which will bring the accounting practices of the Expanded Programme into line with those of all the other operating agencies in the United Nations, should go into operation on 1 January 1956.

(d) The Executive Chairman has reported that intensive efforts have again been made this year by the participating

²² A/2661.

²³ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Twentieth Session, Annexes, agenda item 4, document E/2728, paras. 9 to 15.*

²⁴ A/2661.

organizations and the TAB secretariat to reduce the level of those costs which are now classified as indirect operational and administrative costs to the lowest level consistent with the efficient operation of the Programme. The TAC noted with satisfaction that the Executive Chairman expected that, in 1955, those costs would not exceed the limits suggested by the Advisory Committee—namely, 12 to 14 per cent of total programme costs in the case of the participating organizations, and approximately 5 per cent of the total cost of the Expanded Programme in the case of the TAB secretariat and field staff—in spite of the heavy additional responsibilities resulting from the new country programme procedures.

(e) The TAC has urged the participating organizations to do everything possible to increase the effectiveness of the integration of expenditure under their regular programmes and the Expanded Programme, and invited the comments of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination on the annual report of TAB, with particular reference to the interrelationship between the Expanded Programme and comparable activities under the regular budgets.

(f) While it is too early to make a final judgement, TAC heard with approval the following statement by the Executive Chairman on the new local costs payments scheme: "Experience in the field so far indicates that the centralization of local cost payments is developing satisfactorily and is relieving Governments of much detailed work. Agencies which have not yet fully come into the plan as regards payments to their experts are increasingly making use of TAB field office facilities in this respect and it is hoped that this tendency will continue wherever savings can be shown or improved administrative support for the experts would result." The TAC will review the operation of the scheme at a later date.

(g) The TAC noted that considerable progress had been made in securing uniformity of administrative and financial terminology and procedures. The new classification of costs would bring the administrative costs definition into line with that of other United Nations programmes. A substantial measure of uniformity prevailed in financial practices. One or two outstanding differences still existed (such as the definition of period of validation of obligations) but efforts were being continued to remove those differences, consistently with the special requirements of the Expanded Programme.

(h) It was expected that the Working Capital and Reserve Fund would reach a total of \$9 million this year, and \$12 million early in 1956. When the total of \$12 million was reached it would be desirable to review the purposes for which the Fund was established.

(i) The TAC considered that, in view of the new country programme planning and approval procedure, it was unrealistic to expect TAB to carry out its responsibilities in two sessions only, as suggested by the Advisory Committee, and endorsed the view expressed by the Executive Chairman that three meetings would be the normal number, except in an emergency.

(j) The TAC considered that while the inter-agency responsibility for the supervision of the Expanded Programme should be exercised primarily through TAB and its own working committees, that should not exclude the use of subsidiary organs of ACC, such as the Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions and the Consultative Committee on Public Information, where appropriate. The role of ACC is referred to in paragraph 3 below.

(k) With respect to evaluation of the Expanded Programme, TAC had not requested TAB to undertake any extensive or costly processes. Six country studies and a review of the fellowship programme had been prepared by the TAB secretariat and the participating organizations, but no additional budgetary provision had been made for that purpose. In view of the primary responsibility of recipient Governments for determining the effectiveness of the programmes, a general questionnaire is also to be addressed to countries to which resident representatives have been accredited.

(l) On the question of administrative co-ordination with other agencies, TAC noted the comments made in the seventh report of TAB to TAC, which states: "The General Assembly has adopted two resolutions, 411 (V) and 672 (VII), which encourage the use of joint administrative services in the field. There are one or two promising developments which may mature in 1955. A more concentrated effort will, however, be required if substantial progress is to be achieved, especially with regard to the smaller offices. In the meantime it must be reported that progress was disappointing during 1954, when no significant improvement could be noted. . . ." ²⁶

3. The general matters referred to in part II of the report of the Advisory Committee ²⁶ were considered by TAC, together with paragraphs 9 to 15 of the report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination. ²⁷ The views of TAC with regard to these matters are expressed in the resolution which it adopted on 11 July 1955. ²⁸

4. The TAC will consider at its next session the possibility of studying during next year the establishment of a more effective budgetary control.

III.

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR 1956

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered the report of the Technical Assistance Committee on the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance, ²⁹ together with the seventh report of the Technical Assistance Board, ³⁰

Noting the arrangements approved by the General Assembly in resolution 831 B (IX) for review and approval of the programme and allocation of funds for 1956 and subsequent years,

Reaffirming its faith in the Expanded Programme as an effective instrument for promoting the economic development of the less developed countries and strengthening the foundations of a peaceful world,

1. *Urges* States participating in the Expanded Programme to continue to give their support to the Programme, financially and otherwise, on an expanding basis;

2. *Requests* that, in order to facilitate the review and approval of the Programme for 1956 by the Technical Assistance Committee by 30 November 1955, as laid down in Council resolution 542 B (XVIII), the Negotiating Committee for Extra-Budgetary Funds, appointed under General Assembly resolution 861 (IX), undertake negotiations with Governments regarding their pledges to the Special Account for 1956 as soon as possible after the close of the twentieth session of the Council, and that the sixth Technical Assistance Conference be held as early as possible during the tenth session of the General Assembly.

*883rd plenary meeting,
23 July 1955.*

²⁶ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Twentieth Session, Supplement No. 4 (E/2714), part I, para. 63.*

²⁷ A/2661, paras. 41 to 54.

²⁸ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Twentieth Session, Annexes, agenda item 4, document E/2728, paras. 9 to 15.*

²⁹ *Ibid.*, agenda item 7, document E/2779, para. 27.

³⁰ *Ibid.*, parts I, III, IV, V and VI.

³¹ *Ibid.*, Supplement No. 4 (E/2714) and document E/2714/Add.1.