

849 (XXXII). Use of volunteer workers in the operational programmes of the United Nations and related agencies designed to assist in the economic and social development of the less developed countries

The Economic and Social Council,

Recognizing that volunteer technical personnel provided in response to requests from Governments and agencies can play an important role in the economic and social development of developing countries,

Recognizing further that the use of volunteer technical personnel in groups that are international in character can assist in the promotion of peaceful relations among nations,

Noting that the funds available for technical co-operation programmes for the economic development of developing countries are not commensurate with existing needs and that volunteer technical personnel provides additional supporting assistance,

Noting also the contents of the note by the Secretary-General,¹⁸

1. Approves, upon agreement of the recipient Government, the consideration of the use of volunteer technical personnel in the technical assistance activities of the United Nations, and those carried on by United Nations related agencies with the help of the United Nations Special Fund, the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance and other voluntary funds for which the United Nations is responsible, on a limited and experimental basis, subject to review and elaboration by the General Assembly;

2. Invites the United Nations related agencies to give consideration to the use of volunteers not only in their technical co-operation programmes financed with the help of United Nations resources, but also those technical assistance activities financed from their assessed budgets;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to inquire of Member States of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies whether they are willing to offer and/or to receive volunteer personnel to be used in approved programmes and projects of technical co-operation;

4. Authorizes the Secretary-General and invites the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency to make use of voluntary personnel to the extent that requests for their services are forthcoming from the Governments of the developing countries, directly or through the Special Fund, and the administrative costs can, in this initial stage, be absorbed within existing budgetary authorization;

5. Requests the Executive Chairman of the Technical Assistance Board to present a report to the thirty-fourth session of the Council on the implementation of this resolution, including therein his recommendations on the handling of administrative problems and costs;

6. Decides that the assignment of volunteer personnel to technical assistance programmes and projects of the United Nations and those carried out by related agencies with funds provided by the Expanded Programme of

Technical Assistance, the Special Fund and other voluntary funds of the United Nations shall be subject to the principles listed in the attached annex.

*1182nd plenary meeting,
4 August 1961.*

ANNEX

Principles governing the use and assignment of volunteer technical personnel

1. The services of volunteers shall be utilized only in connexion with programmes and projects certified as eligible for the assignment of volunteer personnel by the executing agencies. Volunteers shall not be placed at the Headquarters of the United Nations or its related agencies in any established posts.

2. No volunteers shall be sent to a country without prior approval of the receiving country, and any such volunteer may remain only with the permission of such country.

3. The final decision for the assignment of volunteers to specific programmes and projects shall rest with the executing agency and the recipient country.

4. Volunteer personnel will be required to take a United Nations oath of office and be subject to the appropriate staff rules and regulations of the executing agency. They will be subject to the authority of the executive head of the executing agency and his representatives in the field.

5. The acceptance of a volunteer will confer upon him the legal status of an international civil servant and both offering and receiving countries shall undertake to respect this status.

6. The Government providing volunteer personnel shall be responsible for all identifiable costs as maintenance allowances, insurance, costs of transportation to the place of assignment (as appropriate via the headquarters of the executing agencies).

850 (XXXII). Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance: annual report of the Technical Assistance Board to the Technical Assistance Committee

The Economic and Social Council

Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Technical Assistance Board to the Technical Assistance Committee.¹⁹

*1182nd plenary meeting,
4 August 1961.*

851 (XXXII). Co-ordination of technical assistance activities

The Economic and Social Council,

Considering that the establishment of national economic and social development programmes is one of the key factors in the identification of country development objectives, priorities and possibilities, and that the United Nations system can mobilize and apply its resources in the most effective manner to assist Member States to this end,

Recognizing the importance of the interrelationship between the Technical Co-operation Programmes of the United Nations and specialized agencies and the

¹⁸ E/TAC/109.

¹⁹ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 5 (E/3471).