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SECOND COMMITTEE  
Agenda item 26 (a)

### PROGRAMMES OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

#### REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

##### 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 the end of the meeting on Tuesday, 18 December 1956. 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 General Assembly, at its 578th plenary meeting on 15 November 1956, allocated to the Second Committee for consideration and report item 26 of its agenda, "Programmes of technical assistance: (a) Report of the Economic and Social Council; (b) Confirmation of allocation of funds under the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance".
2. The present report is concerned with item 26 (a) "Report of the Economic and Social Council".<sup>1/</sup>
3. The Committee had before it the following documents:  
Report of the Economic and Social Council, Chapter III, Section B (A/3154).  
The Regular Programme of Technical Assistance in Public Administration (A/C.2/189, and Corr.1, English only, and Add.1.)

<sup>1/</sup> Item 26 (b) was considered by the Second Committee on 30 November and the Committee's report was presented to the General Assembly on 7 December 1956 (A/PV.612).

It also received the following draft resolutions and amendments thereto:

(i) Concerning the question of currency utilization:

Czechoslovakia and Romania: draft resolution (A/C.2/L.283)

Argentina, Canada, Cuba, Denmark, Ecuador, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Spain, United States: draft resolution (A/C.2/L.286)

Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Jordan, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Yemen and Yugoslavia: amendments to the Economic and Social Council resolution 623 B III (XXII) (A/C.2/L.288)

Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Jordan, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Yemen and Yugoslavia: draft resolution (A/C.2/L.289)

Cambodia, Canada, Ceylon, Cuba, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Iraq, Jordan, Morocco, Norway, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sudan, Syria and Tunisia: draft resolution (A/C.2/L.291)

(ii) Concerning the question of the membership of the Technical Assistance Committee:

Afghanistan, Brazil, Canada, India, Indonesia, Netherlands, Norway, United States: draft resolution (A/C.2/L.294 and Corr.1)

Bulgaria: amendment to the above draft resolution (A/C.2/L.290)

(iii) Concerning the regulations of the Working Capital and Reserve Fund of the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance:

Note by the Secretary-General containing a draft resolution (A/C.2/L.285)

(iv) Concerning the implementation and the expansion of the Programmes of Technical Assistance:

Denmark, Ecuador, Libya, Netherlands, Pakistan: draft resolution (A/C.2/L.287)

(v) Concerning the question of technical assistance in public administration:

Iran: draft resolution (A/C.2/L.292)

4. The Committee considered item 26 (a) during fourteen meetings

(A/C.2/SR.389-402). The first nine meetings were devoted to the general debate, in which fifty-nine delegations made statements. The Executive Chairman of the Technical Assistance Board and the Director-General of the Technical Assistance Administration also took part in the debate and their statements, at the request of the Committee, were distributed as documents of the Committee (A/C.2/L.279 and 280).

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5. During the 398th to 401st and part of the 402nd meetings the Committee discussed the various proposals submitted to it under the different questions referred to in paragraph 2 above.

6. The five proposals submitted on the question of currency utilization were discussed at the 398th-401st meetings.

- (i) The joint draft resolution by Czechoslovakia and Romania (A/C.2/L.283), submitted to the Committee at its 390th meeting, proposed that the General Assembly: (a) endorse the provisions of Council resolution resolution 623 B III (XXII), with the exception of the provisions contained in paragraphs 2, 3 and 4; (b) request the Economic and Social Council to re-examine the problem of currency utilization at its twenty-fourth session, in accordance with the principles set out in its resolution 222 A (IX); (c) further request the Economic and Social Council to submit a report on the action taken to the General Assembly at its twelfth regular session.
- (ii) The joint draft resolution by Argentina, Canada, Cuba, Denmark, Ecuador, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Spain and the United States (A/C.2/L.286), submitted to the Committee at its 395th meeting, proposed that the General Assembly: (a) commend the Economic and Social Council for having suggested the right and necessary balance between the need to increase the resources available for the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance and the need to increase the usability of contributions to it; (b) endorse the action taken by the Economic and Social Council in resolution 623 B III (XXII); (c) request the Economic and Social Council to include in the section of its annual report to the General Assembly on the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance information concerning developments with respect to this matter.
- (iii) The amendments to Economic and Social Council resolution 623 III (XXII) jointly submitted at the 398th meeting by Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Jordan, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Yemen and Yugoslavia (A/C.2/L.288), proposed to: (a) redraft paragraph 1 of the operative part to read: "Emphasizes that all contributions to the Expanded Programme should be pledged on a voluntary basis and should be to the fullest possible

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extent in a form readily utilizable for programme purposes"; (b) delete paragraph 2 of the operative part; (c) renumber paragraph 3 and redraft it to read: "Urges Governments whose contributions constitute substantial amounts to pledge, as far as possible, a portion of their contribution in the form of, or convertible into, currencies readily usable for meeting the costs of implementing the Programme."; (d) renumber the remaining paragraphs accordingly; (e) delete in operative paragraph 4 the following phrase: "... in 1957 below the limits set in paragraph 2 above," and insert the word "voluntarily" between the words "be converted".

- (iv) The draft resolution, also sponsored by Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Jordan, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Yemen and Yugoslavia (A/C.2/L.289), proposed that the General Assembly decide to endorse Council resolution 623 B III (XXII), subject to the amendments submitted in document A/C.2/L.288.
- (v) The new joint draft resolution (A/C.2/L.291) submitted at the 399th meeting by Cambodia, Canada, Ceylon, Cuba, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Iraq, Jordan, Morocco, Norway, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sudan, Syria and Tunisia, proposed that the General Assembly, recalling that according to paragraph 6 of Economic and Social Council resolution 623 B III (XXII) the Technical Assistance Committee and the Council will consider this problem during the twenty-fourth session of the Council, decide to refer the records of the debate on this subject during the present session of the General Assembly to the Economic and Social Council and the Technical Assistance Committee for that purpose.

7. At the 399th meeting, the representative of Norway, referring to draft resolution A/C.2/L.286, and the representative of Egypt, referring to the proposals contained in documents A/C.2/L.288 and 289, both speaking on behalf of the sponsors concerned, stated that they were not pressing for a vote on these proposals in view of the new sixteen-Power draft resolution.

8. At the same meeting, the draft resolution by Czechoslovakia and Romania (A/C.2/L.283), being voted upon at the request of its sponsors, was rejected by 10 votes to 44, with 14 abstentions.

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9. The remaining sixteen-Power draft resolution (A/C.2/L.291) was further discussed at the 400th meeting. An amendment proposed by the USSR, to delete in the second paragraph of the preamble the words "according to paragraph 6 of Economic and Social Council resolution 623 B III (XXII)", was defeated by 39 votes to 10, with 21 abstentions; and an amendment by Egypt, to replace, in the same paragraph, the words "paragraph 6 of" by the word "the", was adopted by 32 votes to 1, with 36 abstentions. The representative of the USSR further proposed to amend the second paragraph of the preamble and the operative paragraph to read as follows: "Having discussed resolution 623 B III (XXII) of the Economic and Social Council and bearing in mind that the Technical Assistance Committee and the Council will consider this problem during the twenty-fourth session of the Council, Decides to refer for this purpose the above-mentioned resolution 623 B III (XXII) and the records of the debate on this subject during the present session of the General Assembly to the Economic and Social Council and the Technical Assistance Committee." This amendment was defeated by 42 votes to 8, with 20 abstentions.

10. The draft resolution as a whole, as amended, was adopted by 62 votes to 7, with 2 abstentions.

11. The Second Committee therefore recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of resolution I annexed to the present report.

12. The Committee, at its 401st meeting, discussed the proposals relating to the question of the membership of the Technical Assistance Committee.

13. The joint draft resolution (A/C.2/L.284, and Corr.1) by Afghanistan, Brazil, Canada, India, Indonesia, Netherlands, Norway and the United States submitted to the Committee at its 392nd meeting, proposed that the General Assembly:

(a) 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

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interest in the Expanded Programme; and (b) further recommend that the initial elections of these additional members be arranged so as to avoid having their terms of office expire simultaneously.

14. An amendment to this draft resolution was submitted at the 399th meeting by Bulgaria (A/C.2/L.290), proposing to replace, in the first operative paragraph of the draft resolution, 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".

15. At the 401st meeting, the representative of Venezuela moved 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. After some discussion, the motion by Venezuela was adopted by 38 votes to 12, with 13 abstentions.

16. It was therefore agreed that the Second Committee would submit to the General Assembly, at a later date during this session, a separate report on the question of the membership of the Technical Assistance Committee.

17. On the question concerning the regulations of the Working Capital and Reserve Fund of the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance the Committee received, at its 393rd meeting, a note prepared by the Secretary-General (A/C.2/L.285) explaining that, at its twenty-second session, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 623 B II (XXII) in which it amended its resolution 521 A (XVII) and 542 B II (XVIII) and recommended unanimously that the General Assembly give its approval to the amendments.

18. A draft resolution prepared by the Secretary-General and included in his note, to which the amendments adopted by the Council were annexed, was also submitted to the Committee; it proposed that the General Assembly, having considered the report of the Council regarding the Working Capital and Reserve Fund of the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance (A/3154, para. 239), (a) approve the recommendation of the Economic and Social Council in Council

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resolution 623 B II (XXII) that the regulations concerning the Working Capital and Reserve Fund be amended as set forth in the Annex to the present resolution, and (b) amend its resolution 831 B (IX) accordingly.

19. The Committee, at its 401st meeting, without discussion unanimously adopted this draft resolution.

20. The Second Committee therefore recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of resolution II annexed to the present report.

21. The joint draft resolution submitted by Denmark, Ecuador, Libya, Netherlands and Pakistan (A/C.2/L.287), concerning the implementation and the expansion of the Programmes of Technical Assistance, was submitted to the Committee at its 395th meeting. Under this proposal the General Assembly would: (a) take note of Chapter III B of the report of the Economic and Social Council; (b) invite Governments to give the fullest support to the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance when they consider their pledges for the coming years, in order to ensure its continued growth.

22. The Committee, at its 401st meeting, without discussion unanimously adopted this draft resolution.

23. The Second Committee therefore recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of resolution III annexed to the present report.

24. The draft resolution by Iran (A/C.2/L.292) on the question of technical assistance in public administration, submitted to the Committee at its 401st meeting, proposed that the General Assembly endorse the recommendations of the Secretary-General (A/C.2/189) for increased activity in the field of public administration under the Regular Technical Assistance Programme of the United Nations.

25. The Committee, at its 402nd meeting, adopted this draft resolution by 53 votes to none, with 9 abstentions.

26. The Second Committee therefore recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of resolution IV annexed to the present report.

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ANNEX

Resolution I

CURRENCY UTILIZATION

The General Assembly,

Having considered the problem of currency utilization,

Recalling that according to the Economic and Social Council resolution 623 B III (XXII) the Technical Assistance Committee and the Council will consider this problem during the twenty-fourth session of the Council,

Decides to refer the records of the debate on this subject during the present session of the General Assembly to the Economic and Social Council and the Technical Assistance Committee for that purpose.

Resolution II

WORKING CAPITAL AND RESERVE FUND OF THE EXPANDED  
PROGRAMME OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Economic and Social Council regarding the Working Capital and Reserve Fund of the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance (A/3154, para. 239),

1. Approves the recommendation of the Economic and Social Council in Council resolution 623 B II (XXII) that the regulations concerning the Working Capital and Reserve Fund be amended as set forth in the Annex to the present resolution, and
2. Amends its resolution 831 B (IX) accordingly.

Annex

Amendments to Council Resolutions 521 A (XVII) of 5 April 1954  
and 542 B II (XVIII) of 29 July 1954

A. For sub-paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) of paragraph 5 of resolution 521 A (XVII) substitute:

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"(a) The Working Capital and Reserve Fund shall be maintained as a continuing operating reserve for the following purposes:

- (i) To make advances against firm pledges of contributions to finance the Technical Assistance Programme as approved by the Technical Assistance Committee; sums so advanced shall be reimbursed as soon as receipts from contributions are available for the purpose; provided that advances against pledges shall be reviewed periodically by the Technical Assistance Committee to determine whether the advances shall continue or be repaid from other resources of the Programme;
- (ii) To improve and facilitate currency management;
- (iii) To make advances to participating organizations to provide working balances in their bank accounts;
- (iv) To make advances to finance commitments which may be duly authorized by the Executive Chairman of the Technical Assistance Board under authority given to him to meet urgent needs which may arise during the implementation of the annual programme; provided that the repayment of such advances shall constitute a priority charge against the resources of the following year;
- (v) To provide funds to cover forward contractual commitments and to meet residual liquidating liabilities; each participating organization shall limit its forward contractual commitments and residual liquidating liabilities to its pro rata share of the Working Capital and Reserve Fund, based on the allocations authorized for the current year;
- (vi) For such other purposes as may be approved by the Technical Assistance Committee from time to time;

"(b) The size of the Working Capital and Reserve Fund shall be determined from time to time by the Technical Assistance Committee;

"(c) The Technical Assistance Board shall report annually to the Technical Assistance Committee on the advances outstanding at the end of the period;"

B. For sub-paragraphs 1(b), (v) and (vii) of resolution 542 B II (XVIII) substitute the following:

- "(v) Subject to the confirmation of the General Assembly, the Technical Assistance Committee shall authorize the allocation of funds to each of the participating organizations in proportion to their share in the approved over-all programme. These funds shall be drawn from the net financial resources, after setting aside the expenses of the secretariat of the Technical Assistance Board and such amounts

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as may be required to reimburse the Working Capital and Reserve Fund for withdrawals during the preceding year to finance obligations for urgent needs authorized by the Executive Chairman of the Technical Assistance Board under paragraph (vii) of this resolution;

- "(vii) Any extraordinary requests submitted by a Government for modification of the programme received subsequent to the approval of the annual programme by the Technical Assistance Committee may be approved by the Technical Assistance Board and reported to the Technical Assistance Committee at its next meeting. Should it not be possible to effect necessary increases and decreases with the programme of the country concerned, the Executive Chairman of the Technical Assistance Board may authorize participating organizations to enter into commitments to meet urgent needs within limits fixed annually by the Technical Assistance Committee but not to exceed five per cent of the estimated resources for the year. The Technical Assistance Board shall report to the Technical Assistance Committee annually, beginning with the session in November 1957, all allocations made under this provision, together with the circumstances relating thereto. The Technical Assistance Committee shall review those allocations, and make such recommendations as it deems appropriate;"

### Resolution III

#### IMPLEMENTATION AND EXPANSION OF THE PROGRAMMES OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The General Assembly,

Having considered Chapter III B of the report of the Economic and Social Council, covering the period from 6 August 1955 to 9 August 1956, regarding the regular United Nations programme of technical assistance and the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance,

Mindful that under the regular United Nations programme of technical assistance valuable services are being rendered in the fields of economic development, social welfare and public administration,

Convinced that a steady expansion of the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance would contribute substantially to continuing and new projects in assistance of the economic and social development in the under-developed countries,

Noting with satisfaction the increasing moral and material support of the Expanded Programme as expressed in the discussions during the eleventh General Assembly and shown in the contributions for 1956 and 1957,

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1. Takes note of Chapter III B of the report of the Economic and Social Council;
2. Invites Governments to give the fullest support to the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance when they consider their pledges for the coming years, in order to ensure its continued growth.

Resolution IV

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

The General Assembly,

Recognizing that technical assistance in public administration is one of the most effective means of accelerating the economic and social progress of the less-developed countries,

Sharing the views of the Secretary-General on this subject which were expressed in document A/C.2/189 of 25 October 1956,

Endorses the recommendations of the Secretary-General for increased activity in the field of public administration under the Regular Technical Assistance Programme of the United Nations.

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