

United Nations
**GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**
FIFTH SESSION



SECOND COMMITTEE 143rd

MEETING

Tuesday, 28 November 1950, at 10.45 a.m.

Official Records

Lake Success, New York

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Chairman: Mr. Gustavo GUTIÉRREZ (Cuba).

Action to achieve and maintain full employment and economic stability: report of the Economic and Social Council (A/1358, A/C.2/L.70/Rev.2, A/C.2/L.71, A/C.2/L.72, and A/C.2/L.74) (*continued*)

DISCUSSION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS (*continued*)

[Item 27]*

1. The CHAIRMAN announced that the authors of the revised text of the Chilean draft resolution (A/C.2/L.70/Rev.1) had reached agreement with the authors of the amendments and had drawn up a revised joint text (A/C.2/L.70/Rev.2) submitted by the delegations of Chile, Pakistan, Peru and Uruguay.

2. He pointed out some slight typographical errors in the French text. In paragraph 2 of the operative part, "*tant*" should be deleted; "*que*" should be replaced by "*et*", and "*si possible*" should be inserted after "*prie de communiquer*".

3. He stated that since no representative had expressed a wish to speak on the draft resolution he would put it to the vote.

4. Mr. VILFAN (Yugoslavia) asked for a separate vote on the two parts A and B of the draft resolution (A/C.2/L.70/Rev.2).

5. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote part A of the draft resolution.

Part A was adopted by 37 votes to 5, with 1 abstention.

6. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote part B of the draft resolution.

Part B was adopted by 37 votes to none, with 6 abstentions.

* Indicates the item number on the General Assembly agenda.

7. Mr. VILFAN (Yugoslavia) said he had abstained in the vote on part A, since although Economic and Social Council resolution 290 (XI) contained many excellent provisions likely to promote the development of international co-operation in the economic field it obviously did not deserve to be considered a "vigorous action". It was doubtful whether it was such as to have an important influence on the question of full employment.

8. Mr. CHERNYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) recalled that, as he had stated the preceding day (142nd meeting), his delegation had been unable to vote for a draft resolution based on a resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its eleventh session in Geneva. He might have voted for some of the provisions adopted if the voting had been in parts.

9. Mr. TANGE (Australia) thought the time opportune for drawing the attention of members of the Committee to the difficulties certain governments might experience in answering some of the questions in the questionnaire visualized in Council resolution 290 (XI). Those difficulties would arise, for example, in connexion with providing quantitative forecasts relating to the principal elements in their international balance of payments, as they hoped to see it in 1954. It would therefore be necessary to give the Secretary-General greater latitude in the matter and he therefore proposed the inclusion in the Rapporteur's report of a passage noting that the Committee felt the Secretary-General might, at his discretion, change the year for which quantitative forecasts would be requested from governments. He read a note to that effect intended for insertion in the report.

10. Mr. CORLEY SMITH (United Kingdom) supported both the form and the substance of the Australian proposal. The inclusion of the proposed passage in the report instead of the passing of a formal resolution on the question was a very good way of dealing with the problem and at the same time of helping the Secretary-General in his work.

11. The CHAIRMAN said that if there were no objections the passage in question would be inserted in the Rapporteur's report.

It was so decided.

12. The CHAIRMAN submitted for discussion the Cuban draft resolution (A/C.2/L.71) and the amendment to that draft resolution submitted by Peru and Pakistan (A/C.2/L.74).

13. Mr. ENCINAS (Peru) wished to explain the aim of the amendment he had submitted jointly with the representative of Pakistan. The first idea in the Cuban draft resolution was excellent; the application of Council resolution 290 (XI) would certainly raise great difficulties for the under-developed countries and assistance should be given to the latter. It was, however, to be feared that the provisions of the draft resolution might impose too heavy a task on the Secretary-General, particularly since the instructions in it were rather vague. It appeared necessary to clarify and limit the task imposed on the Secretariat.

14. If, however, the Secretary-General did not share that view and thought the instructions contained in the Cuban draft resolution were clear and did not impose on him any excessive burden, the delegations of Peru and Pakistan would consider their amendment unnecessary and would be prepared to withdraw it.

15. Mr. VAZQUEZ (Uruguay) wished to know whether the amendment of Peru and Pakistan replaced the text of the Cuban draft resolution or was an addition to it, for it dealt with a different matter. The Cuban draft resolution started from the fact that under-developed countries were unable to collect the statistics requested and its intention was to assist them to work out effective methods for that purpose. On the other hand, the amendment dealt with requests for technical assistance and measures taken to meet them. The two texts were therefore complementary and not contradictory.

16. Mr. ENCINAS (Peru) stated that his text was to be substituted for paragraph 1 of the operative part of the Cuban draft. However, if the Secretary-General thought the task of preparing the material requested by Cuba was not too heavy, the ideas contained in his amendment might be incorporated in the text of the Cuban draft resolution.

17. Mr. VAZQUEZ (Uruguay) wished to know the opinion of the representative of the Secretary-General on that point.

18. The CHAIRMAN drew the Committee's attention to the fact that Mr. Loftus, representative of the Secretary-General, was a member of the United Nations Statistical Office and therefore the person most qualified to answer the question.

19. Mr. LOFTUS (Secretariat) said that under the Cuban draft resolution, the Secretariat would be required to prepare handbooks on the types of data considered necessary, and the procedures and methods suitable for obtaining and presenting such data and for organizing the statistical services necessary for that purpose.

20. The Secretariat thought it was in a position to carry out that task, which it considered very useful.

21. The CHAIRMAN asked the President of the Economic and Social Council to give his opinion, since the application of a resolution of that Council was involved.

22. Mr. SANTA CRUZ (Chile) asked what was the exact point on which his opinion was requested.

23. The CHAIRMAN explained that paragraph 2 of the Cuban draft resolution involving resolution 222 (IX) of the Economic and Social Council was in question.

24. Mr. SANTA CRUZ (Chile) said he could only express an opinion as representative of his country and not as President of the Economic and Social Council. He recalled that since the problem of technical assistance had first been considered in the United Nations, no precise definition of the economic development activities which might benefit from technical assistance had ever been given. The competent organs in the field of technical assistance took decisions on that point for each specific case. The matter as set forth in the Cuban draft resolution came under resolution 222 (IX), since the questions of unemployment and under-employment were closely connected with economic development and their solution would certainly promote such development.

25. By adopting the draft resolution, the General Assembly would make the meaning of resolution 222 (IX) clearer and would give it an even wider scope.

26. Mr. ENCINAS (Peru) and Mr. ALI (Pakistan) noted the statement of the representative of the Secretariat concerning the possibility of giving effect to the Cuban draft resolution and consequently withdrew their joint amendment (A/C.2/L.74).

27. Mr. SPARKMAN (United States of America) asked whether the Committee was competent to adopt the provisions of paragraph 2 of the Cuban draft resolution which appeared to fall within the competence of the Fifth Committee, since they related to expenditure to be made by the Secretary-General and the specialized agencies. The funds necessary to carry out the task might be available to the Secretary-General, in which case the question would not even arise. On the other hand, if it was not so, the question would fall within the purview of the Fifth Committee.

28. He was not sure that the surveys suggested were of a kind which were entitled to benefit from technical assistance. He drew the attention of the members of the Committee to the danger of creating an unfortunate precedent by deciding that expenditure incurred in connexion with that resolution was legitimately chargeable to the Technical Assistance Special Account, particularly in view of the fact that the subject was the maintenance of full employment which was a permanent function of the United Nations.

29. Mr. AGUILAR MONTEVERDE (Mexico) thought that the scope of the Cuban draft resolution was too wide and its wording too vague, and that the task of the Secretariat might be complicated as a result. It would be preferable to limit the resolution to the problem of employment and to formulate it in more specific terms. He therefore suggested that sub-paragraph 1 (a) of the operative part of the draft resolution should be

replaced by the following text: "The types of data considered necessary to provide up-to-date information regarding the various levels of employment, unemployment and under-employment".

30. Mr. TANGE (Australia) thought that the Cuban draft resolution was very valuable. He asked the representative of the Secretariat for an estimate of the cost of implementing the resolution, on the assumption that the necessary funds were drawn not from the Special Account for Technical Assistance but from the ordinary budget of the United Nations.

31. Turning to the text of the draft resolution, he said that the statement in sub-paragraph (b) of the preamble was not quite accurate; he also felt that sub-paragraph (c) did not altogether apply to the question under consideration. He would like the phrase "within their capacities" to be inserted in the second paragraph of the preamble, after the words "should provide", so that the text of the resolution should be identical with Part E of Economic and Social Council resolution 290 (XI).

32. With regard to paragraph 2 of the operative part, he shared the doubts expressed by the United States representative. It was true that the Council resolution recommended that the technical assistance necessary for its implementation should be granted. However, by adopting the Cuban draft resolution, the Committee would be going still further and declaring that the cost of its implementation was legitimately chargeable to the Special Account for Technical Assistance.

33. He did not think that those expenses should necessarily be covered out of technical assistance. They might be a charge on the ordinary budget of the United Nations. In any event, in adopting such provisions, the General Assembly would be trespassing upon the competence of the Secretary-General, the Directors-General of the specialized agencies, the Economic and Social Council and the executive boards of the specialized agencies who were responsible for examining requests for technical assistance, and the criteria which they had adopted for their decisions would thus be modified.

34. It was of course perfectly possible that if a request to that effect was made, the competent authorities would decide to accede to it. There was therefore no need to adopt any decision of principle in the matter.

35. Mr. LOFTUS (Secretariat) was not in a position to give the Committee precise figures for the possible cost of publishing the handbooks in question. He thought, however, that the Secretariat would need about 25,000 dollars a year, over a period of two years, since in order to obtain data on employment, under-employment and unemployment, statistics must also be assembled on the distribution by age and sex of the working population. The possible expenditure of the specialized agencies who would co-operate in that work was not included in the figure he had just quoted.

36. Mr. SANTA CRUZ (Chile) was in favour of the Cuban draft resolution because he felt that it formed a complement to Economic and Social Council resolution 290 (XI) and facilitated its implementation. The information it was proposed to collect would not only be useful to the under-developed countries but would also be of use in a survey of the economic situation in general.

37. In view of the fact that in the under-developed countries the problem of unemployment and under-employment was closely linked to the problem of economic development, the surveys for which it was proposed to make the Secretary-General responsible could obviously come under technical assistance.

38. He did not agree on that point with the Australian representative who had said that technical assistance could only be granted at the express request of governments, and that it would in the main take the form of sending groups of experts or missions to the countries concerned. He recalled that General Assembly resolution 200 (III) did not mention merely missions but also other categories of technical assistance such as study courses, seminars, educational publications and so on. In Economic and Social Council resolution 222 (IX), which concerned the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance, the activities assigned to the Secretary-General and the specialized agencies were the same as those envisaged in the previously mentioned resolution of the General Assembly.

39. He realized, of course, that the Second Committee was not entitled to decide how the funds of the United Nations should be distributed, or those of the Special Account for Technical Assistance. Therefore, in order to satisfy Mr. Sparkman, he suggested that paragraph 2 of the operative part should be reworded as follows:

"The preparation of this material may be regarded as coming under technical assistance according to the terms of General Assembly resolution 200 (III), and Economic and Social Council resolution 222 A (IX)."

40. The adoption of that text would show that the handbooks in question did in fact constitute a kind of technical assistance to the under-developed countries without, however, pledging the resources of the Special Account from the outset. Moreover, if the Secretariat was in a position to do the work with the funds at its disposal, there would be no point in calling on the Special Account for Technical Assistance.

41. Mr. HALIO (Saudi Arabia) said that he was ready to vote in favour of the Cuban draft resolution but had some difficulty in accepting the reference to the International Labour Organisation in sub-paragraph (c) of the preamble as it stood. Saudi Arabia was not a member of that Organisation although it hoped to join it soon. He therefore suggested that the words "in co-operation with its states members" should be inserted after the words "invited the International Labour Organisation to take ..."

42. The CHAIRMAN pointed out to Mr. Haliq that sub-paragraph (c) of the preamble reproduced the terms of the Economic and Social Council resolution and could not therefore be altered.

43. Mr. LE RIVEREND (Cuba) said that his draft resolution was intended to facilitate the implementation of Council resolution 290 (XI) which invited governments to furnish the United Nations with certain information regarding employment, under-employment and unemployment.

44. It was obvious that in order to put those provisions into effect, the under-developed countries must first be granted the necessary technical assistance, since

otherwise they would not be able to collect the data in question. That was why the Cuban delegation referred in its draft resolution to the Special Account for Technical Assistance.

45. In reply to the Australian representative, who had said that sub-paragraph (b) of the preamble attributed to the Economic and Social Council views which it did not hold, he drew his attention to Section VIII of Chapter III of the report of the Economic and Social Council,¹ from which he had taken the last part of the sub-paragraph.

46. Moreover, the work which it was intended to entrust to the Secretary-General did come under technical assistance as defined in resolution 200 D (III) since it was a pilot-project which should promote the economic development of the countries concerned. In addition, resolution 290 (XI) of the Council itself provided that in order to put it into effect, it would be necessary to grant technical assistance to the under-developed countries.

47. He had no objection to accepting the Mexican amendment although he did not feel that the words "level of economic activity" introduced any confusion into the text.

48. Lastly, he said that he was willing to accept the amendment of Chile to paragraph 2 of the operative part.

49. Mr. SPARKMAN (United States of America) said that it would be unwise to try to finance a survey in any way connected with economic development by money taken from the Special Account for Technical Assistance. A highly dangerous precedent in that respect would be created if paragraph 2 of the operative part of the Cuban draft resolution was adopted.

50. Consequently, he would vote in favour of the draft resolution on condition that the paragraph was deleted.

51. Mr. BOTHA (Union of South Africa) suggested that sub-paragraph (b) of the preamble should be deleted. The ideas expressed in it did appear in the report of the Economic and Social Council and had been discussed in detail at the Council's previous session; yet resolution 290 (XI) did not mention them and therefore the sub-paragraph was out of place in the draft resolution. Moreover, he did not think that it would be very wise to ask countries for information which might be "inaccurate".

52. Mr. VAZQUEZ (Uruguay) regretted that he could not agree with the representatives of the United States and Mexico. He intended to vote in favour of the Cuban draft resolution as it stood, since it gave him complete satisfaction.

53. With regard to the proposal to delete paragraph 2 of the operative part, he felt that its importance went beyond the scope of the present draft resolution: it touched upon the question of the competence of Committees. He believed that the Second Committee was perfectly entitled to say that the work in question did come under technical assistance, and that in so doing it would not in any way be trespassing on the functions

of the Fifth Committee. In point of fact, any initiative of the United Nations had financial implications and every Committee was entitled to examine the related problems and make recommendations to the General Assembly. The Fifth Committee was only involved when it was a matter of drawing up specific budgets.

54. He agreed with the Chilean representative that the question under discussion did come under technical assistance, since it was a matter of supplying the under-developed countries with the technical and administrative means which would enable them to collect the necessary information.

55. Lastly, in reply to the representative of Mexico, he said that it would not be sufficient to collect numerical data on employment, unemployment and under-employment, but that it was also necessary to have an accurate notion of the economic situation in the countries concerned. He could not therefore accept the Mexican amendment.

56. Mr. CORLEY SMITH (United Kingdom) agreed on the whole with the Cuban draft resolution and was even inclined to believe that any expenditure incurred in the implementation of the resolution could legitimately be charged to the Special Account. He felt, however, that it did not rest with the Committee to specify which sums were to be used to cover expenditures incurred in the implementation of the resolutions it adopted. The Technical Assistance Board or the Fifth Committee would make the relevant decision. The affirmation contained in paragraph 2 might therefore set a dangerous precedent and he had hoped that the Cuban delegation would withdraw that paragraph. If the representative of Cuba felt that he must insist on the retention of the paragraph, he would be obliged to vote against it.

57. He also noted that, as the representative of the Union of South Africa had already pointed out, the terms of sub-paragraph (b) of the preamble did not appear in resolution 290 (XI).

58. Mr. ALI (Pakistan) felt that the Cuban draft resolution was useful because it laid down the action required to insure that the Council's resolution was applied with full knowledge of the facts.

59. Sub-paragraph (b) of the preamble actually reproduced the terms of the Economic and Social Council's report and not those of the resolution, but the extract was nevertheless completely consistent with the spirit of the resolution itself.

60. If the governments were to furnish the data requested in the resolution they would need technical assistance, which would involve expenditure. He had carefully considered the United States representative's arguments regarding paragraph 2 of the operative part of the Cuban draft resolution and recognized their weight but the amendment proposed by the Chilean representative should satisfy the representative of the United States.

61. The delegation of Pakistan would support the Chilean amendment.

62. He doubted whether the Mexican amendment would serve the purpose and preferred the original text, which defined more clearly the work to be undertaken.

¹ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifth Session, Supplement No. 3*.

63. Mr. LE RIVEREND (Cuba) said that he accepted the Australian amendment to the second paragraph. It was true that sub-paragraph (b) of the preamble did not reproduce the terms of resolution 290 (XI). It was intended to recall the points which the members of the Economic and Social Council had had in mind before they adopted the resolution. To avoid any misunderstanding, he proposed to replace sub-paragraph (b) by the fourth paragraph of the preamble of resolution 290 (XI). That paragraph noted that "... in some predominantly agricultural countries, figures for unemployment and under-employment may not be easily ascertainable and that full employment goals may, if related only to industrial labour, lead to misleading conclusions, and that, consequently, it may not be possible for such countries to implement certain provisions of this resolution".

64. With regard to paragraph 2 of the operative part, he would not insist that the account to which expenditure incurred was to be charged should be explicitly mentioned. He continued to believe, however, that it would be legitimate to charge expenditure incurred in the implementation of the resolution to the special account opened in application of resolution 222 (IX) of the Economic and Social Council.

65. Mr. WOULBROUN (Belgium) recognized the advantages of the Cuban draft resolution.

66. Nevertheless, with regard to paragraph 2 of the operative part, the Belgian delegation had always felt that the Technical Assistance Special Account should be used primarily to pay for such financing as the services of experts, technical assistance missions and fellowships, etc. The efforts of the various countries to obtain the parliamentary support required for the approval of the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance should be all the greater, since their material assistance with a view to other international action was insistently requested. That being so, the Belgian delegation could not but recognize the validity of the arguments of the representatives of the United States and of the United Kingdom, warning the Committee against the possibility of setting a dangerous precedent by adopting paragraph 2 of the operative part. In his opinion, the Cuban draft resolution would not be weakened by the deletion of paragraph 2 and he would vote for it if that paragraph were deleted.

67. Mr. AGUILAR MONTEVERDE (Mexico) observed that his amendment was intended to prevent the Secretariat from being overburdened by work in connexion with the study of the matter. If the representative of the Secretary-General thought that sufficient data could be obtained to undertake a study of the level of economic activity generally, he would not press his amendment.

68. Mr. LOFTUS (Secretariat) replied that in suggesting an additional budgetary figure, he had taken into consideration the various factors mentioned in the Cuban draft resolution. If all those factors were not studied, it would be difficult to deal with under-employment.

69. Mr. AGUILAR MONTEVERDE (Mexico) withdrew his amendment.

70. Mr. BONNE (Israel) observed that the action proposed in the Cuban draft resolution should be taken

as otherwise it would be difficult to make use of the data obtained in some countries. To facilitate the implementation of the draft resolution and to facilitate the adoption of the paragraph relating to its financing, paragraph 2 of the operative part might provide that expenditure incurred in the implementation of the resolution would be legitimately chargeable to the Special Account over a period of one or two years only.

71. The CHAIRMAN noted that the members of the Committee seemed to be in agreement with the whole of the Cuban draft resolution, save paragraph 2 of the operative part, to which amendments had been proposed.

72. He put the Cuban draft resolution, with the exception of paragraph 2, to the vote.

The draft resolution, other than paragraph 2, was adopted unanimously.

73. The CHAIRMAN recalled that the United States had proposed the deletion of paragraph 2 of the operative part while the delegation of Chile had proposed that it should be replaced by a paragraph stating that the preparation of the material mentioned could be regarded as technical assistance within the meaning of resolution 200 (III) of the General Assembly and resolution 222 A (IX) of the Economic and Social Council.

74. He would first put the United States amendment to the vote as it was further removed from the original proposal.

The amendment was adopted by 24 votes to 7, with 15 abstentions.

75. Mr. ENCINAS (Peru) explained that he had voted for the deletion of paragraph 2 of the operative part because in dealing with expenditures chargeable to the Special Account, the Secretary-General should give priority to urgent measures to raise standards of living, in other words, to schemes of a directly humanitarian character. Such measures must have priority over statistical studies of the kind envisaged in the Cuban draft resolution.

76. Mr. SANTA CRUZ (Chile) explained that he had voted against the deletion of paragraph 2 because living conditions could not be improved without economic development and economic development could not be undertaken without data concerning the economic condition of the various countries or without the necessary means of action.

77. The CHAIRMAN said that in view of the adoption of the United States amendment it was unnecessary to put the other amendments to paragraph 2 of the operative part to the vote.

78. Mr. CHERNYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) explained that he had voted for the Cuban draft resolution but that he wished, for the reasons he had stated at the previous meeting, to reserve his position with regard to the reference in the draft resolution to resolution 290 (IX) of the Council.

79. Mr. TAUBER (Czechoslovakia) made a similar observation.

80. The CHAIRMAN said that if there was no objection, he would not take a vote on the Cuban draft resolution as a whole, which could be regarded as adopted with the deletion of the last paragraph.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.