



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
Resumed Thirty-second Session
OFFICIAL RECORDS

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NEW YORK

CONTENTS

	Page
<i>Agenda item 33:</i>	
<i>Question of an increase in the membership of the Technical Assistance Committee (continued)</i>	13

President: Mr. E. PENTEADO (Brazil).

Present:

Representatives of the following States: Afghanistan, Brazil, Bulgaria, Denmark, El Salvador, Ethiopia, France, Italy, Japan, Jordan, New Zealand, Poland, Spain, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela.

Observers for the following Member States: Canada, Colombia, Greece, India, Indonesia, Madagascar, Netherlands, Pakistan, Thailand, Yugoslavia.

Representatives of the following specialized agencies: International Labour Organisation; Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; World Health Organization.

The representative of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

AGENDA ITEM 33

Question of an increase in the membership of the Technical Assistance Committee (E/L.929) (continued)

1. Mr. URQUIA (El Salvador) said that he accepted the suggestion made by the Italian representative at the previous meeting that the Salvadorian proposal to increase the membership of the Technical Assistance Committee (TAC) should be voted on now but that the election of the new members for which it provided should be deferred until the thirty-third session of the Economic and Social Council. The deferment of the election could be provided for either by a separate resolution or by an amendment to the Salvadorian draft resolution (E/L.929). It was urgent only to adopt a decision on the principle of increasing the membership of the Committee; as far as the election was concerned, he agreed that the Council should avoid giving the impression that it was acting precipitately in making the proposed change.

2. The PRESIDENT said that if the proposal to enlarge TAC was adopted and it was decided to postpone the election of the six additional members, the Council might also wish to consider postponing the election to fill the three seats which were about to become vacant; he did not think it would be desirable to have two separate elections.

3. Mr. KLUTZNICK (United States of America) said that he did not think the acceptance by El Salvador

of the Italian suggestion would make it possible to achieve the desired unanimity, for those who had objected to the Salvadorian proposal had based their opposition not on the question of the time when the election of the proposed additional members would take place but on the question of the increase itself. His own delegation was in favour of the increase and thought that it would be preferable for several reasons to elect the additional members now. First, the membership of the Council would change on 1 January 1962 and the new members taking their seats at that time would be less familiar than their predecessors with the work of TAC and therefore less well qualified to decide who the six new members should be. Secondly, he agreed with the Chairman that the Council should avoid holding separate elections for the three vacancies in TAC about to fall due and for the proposed additional members, since that procedure would make it less likely that the most satisfactory selection in terms of geographical distribution would be made. All nine elections therefore should be held at the same time, whether now or at the thirty-third session. Finally, he could not agree that if the Council held the elections now it would be acting with undue haste, for he thought its members were sufficiently well acquainted with the facts to enable them to make a suitable selection at once.

4. Mr. MAÑUECO (Spain) said that the Salvadorian representative's statement concerning the election would make it possible for him to vote in favour of an increase in the membership of TAC. His delegation had always maintained that United Nations bodies should have a genuinely representative character; the total membership of thirty proposed by El Salvador should be sufficiently representative and yet not jeopardize efficiency. He had voted against the proposal to include the question of an increase as an additional agenda item not because he had been opposed to the increase but because in view of the importance of the Committee's work the proposed additional members should not be elected until the Council had had sufficient time to familiarize itself with the background of the candidates.

5. Miss SALT (United Kingdom) said that she had already made it plain that her delegation was not in favour of expanding TAC at that time. That Committee had been the first subsidiary body to take account, in the context of the Council's work, of the increase in the number of United Nations Members by increasing its own membership. In expanding its functional commissions during the previous summer the Council had simply been following the good example which it had set itself in enlarging the membership of TAC. Secondly, her Government had been largely responsible for the increase in the membership of the United Nations as a whole and had been among the first to urge an increase in the membership of the Council itself. When the obstacles to such an increase were lifted, the expansion of TAC would, by reason of its composition, follow automatically. Thus if that Committee were enlarged at once, as

proposed in the draft resolution (E/L.929), it would again increase when the Council's membership increased and a permanent imbalance between the Council and the Committee would result. She did not think that that would ensure the best possible results in what was perhaps the most important part of the work of the Council. Thirdly, as far as results were concerned, the saying "the bigger the better" did not apply to a committee whose work was as technical and complex as was that of TAC. It would be difficult to fix precisely the optimum number of members; the Council should not seek to do so too hurriedly, lest it exceed that number, for to go back to that number would be difficult. Fourthly, a committee of the Council—the Ad Hoc Committee of Eight—would meet in less than four weeks to discuss the organization of the work done by the whole United Nations family in technical assistance for economic and social development; the Council should therefore not anticipate its own conclusions by acting in advance of what it might then decide.

6. If the Council should, nevertheless, decide to adopt the draft resolution, she would suggest amendments to meet the point which she had raised concerning the future expansion of the Council itself. The words "the following" in paragraph 1 should be deleted and replaced by the words "thirty members as follows" and the word "twelve" in paragraph 1 (b) should be replaced by the word "additional". Her delegation would prefer a total membership of twenty-seven rather than thirty, but if that was not acceptable to other members she would not press it.

7. Before taking a stand with regard to the timing of the election of the proposed additional members of TAC, she would like to hear the views of those delegations representing the areas for whose better representation the extra seats would provide.

8. Mr. PAZHWAK (Afghanistan) wished to make it clear that the objections he had raised at the previous meeting had not been objections to the principle of an increase in the membership in the Council and that they had, in fact, been raised not on behalf of his own delegation but on behalf of the whole area to which Afghanistan, as a member of the Council, had certain obligations. Had he had only his own country in mind he would have been able to take an affirmative stand on the Salvadorian proposal at once. But having consulted with the representatives of the other countries in his area, he would support the United States representative's proposal that the election for the proposed additional members of TAC should be held immediately.

9. Mr. NORRISH (New Zealand) observed that the United States representative had given eloquent expression to his country's faith in the future of the United Nations and had stressed that the activities of the Council played a crucial role in strengthening the Organization. Those opinions were shared by his country, which desired that the bodies engaged in those activities should be enabled to do their work as effectively as possible. It recognized the difference between efficiency and effectiveness. There had been a time when many delegations, including his own, had favoured restricting the membership of those bodies on the grounds that the smaller they were the more efficient, and he still felt that that had been true at the time. Eventually, however, a point had been reached where efficiency was being achieved

at the expense of effectiveness, for with the increasing membership of the United Nations the views of the relatively few countries represented on such bodies had ceased to carry enough weight to be authoritative. He considered that the increases which had since been made in the membership of TAC and other bodies had helped to increase their authority and strength and thus to make them more effective.

10. The statement made by the representative of El Salvador had showed quite convincingly that there was now a pressing need for a further increase in the membership of TAC. The adoption of his draft resolution would make it possible to take into account the interests of the new Member States and to ensure a more satisfactory balance within the Committee in terms of geographical distribution and of the representation of the developed and the less developed countries. He would therefore unreservedly support the substance of the draft resolution. He would, however, favour the United Kingdom representative's suggested amendments, which would produce the same result while guarding against possible future difficulties. As far as the timing of the elections was concerned, he thought that there was no need to defer them since the countries which were members of the Council were fully able to take into account the interests desires of the other countries in the areas which they, in a sense, represented. The work of TAC was exceedingly complex; indeed, the programmes under its supervision and the methods by which they were carried out were perhaps more complex than any with which the United Nations family had to deal. It was therefore essential that that Committee should be able to give the most careful consideration to all questions affecting its work. If the elections were put off until the Council's thirty-third session, the work of the Committee's July meeting might suffer to some extent because the new members would not have had time to become fully familiar with the intricate nature of the Committee's programme. If, on the other hand, they were elected at once, they would have six months in which to prepare themselves.

11. Mr. WODAJO (Ethiopia) said that the membership of technical bodies such as TAC should not be too large, for otherwise their efficiency might be impaired. TAC as at present constituted was not very representative but that defect could be remedied without increasing its membership. The point at issue was sufficiently important to merit exhaustive discussions in the Council and would need a considerable amount of preparatory work and consultations among Governments. The views of the members of TAC itself should also be sought before the Council took a decision. Furthermore, if the Council adopted the Salvadorian draft resolution there and then, there would be no time to get in touch with the Governments of all Member States which might wish to seek representation on the enlarged TAC. For all the foregoing reasons, he was in favour of postponing a decision until the thirty-third session of the Council.

12. Mr. EL-FARRA (Jordan) said that his delegation was in favour of expanding the membership of TAC in view of the increase in the number of States Members of the United Nations and the need to ensure equitable geographical representation. On the other hand, he had reservations concerning the wisdom or practicability of electing additional members immediately after the adoption of the draft resolution.

When, on 3 August 1961, the Council had decided to increase the membership of a number of its functional commissions, it had provided in resolution 845 (XXXII) that the election would take place at the resumed part of the thirty-second session, i.e., four months later, and that in the meantime the Secretary-General would inform the Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies of the increases in the membership of those commissions and would invite them to indicate to which commissions they would propose to put forward their candidatures. It would be more practical to adopt the same procedure in the case of TAC.

13. Mr. DANGEARD (France) said that several members of the Council seemed to have reservations with regard to the draft resolution before them. He had been particularly impressed by the arguments adduced by Ethiopia. Since TAC was not scheduled to meet until July 1962, the matter of enlarging its membership was not particularly urgent. He therefore proposed that the Council should defer further consideration of the item and proceed immediately to fill the vacancies on the functional commissions.

14. The PRESIDENT drew the Council's attention to the provision in operative paragraph 1 of draft resolution E/L.929 that the membership of TAC would be enlarged "as from 1 January 1962". Consequently, the Council would have to elect the additional members at its resumed thirty-second session, unless the draft resolution was amended.

15. Mr. URQUIA (El Salvador) said that he would be prepared to amend his draft resolution in such a way as not to mention a specific date. On the other hand, he could not agree to the French proposal that the debate on the item under consideration should be suspended since a very advanced stage had already been reached.

16. The PRESIDENT put the French proposal to the vote.

The French proposal was rejected by 12 votes to 4, with 2 abstentions.

17. Mr. URQUIA (El Salvador) said that although the Council had to take steps to increase the membership of TAC, he had not been convinced by the arguments of the United States representative that it was urgent to fill the new seats on the Committee. Since the Committee was not scheduled to meet until July 1962, the election could be postponed until the thirty-third session of the Council in April 1962, so that in the meantime Members could put forward their candidatures.

18. With reference to the statement by the United Kingdom representative, it was of course true that an enlargement of the Economic and Social Council would automatically entail a corresponding increase in the membership of TAC. An increase in the membership of the Council, however, would have to await a change in the international atmosphere which seemed unlikely to occur in the immediate future. By the time agreement to revise the United Nations Charter was reached, the present membership of the United Nations would have been exceeded so that a further increase in the membership of TAC would have become necessary. That additional increase would result from the enlargement of the Council.

19. Miss SALT (United Kingdom) explained that her amendments did not prejudice in any way the issue of the enlargement of the Council. If the membership of TAC was limited to thirty as she proposed, the number of elected members would be twelve—as provided for in draft resolution E/L.929—as long as the present size of the Council remained unchanged. An enlargement of the Council would entail a corresponding reduction in the number of elected members of TAC.

20. Mr. FRANZI (Italy) said that he was in favour of the United Kingdom amendments, which were in line with the views he had expressed at the preceding meeting.

21. Mr. KAKITSUBO (Japan) said that the right balance had to be struck between efficiency and an increase in membership which would make the Committee more representative and effective. He was therefore in favour of the United Kingdom amendments.

22. With regard to the date of the election of new members of TAC, he agreed with the arguments put forward by the representatives of Ethiopia and Jordan. Since there was no time before the closure of the resumed thirty-second session to get in touch with all the Members likely to be interested in putting forward their candidatures, he was in favour of the suggestion by the representative of El Salvador to amend the draft resolution to provide for the election of the six additional members of TAC at the thirty-third session of the Council.

23. Mr. WODAJO (Ethiopia) said that his delegation had reservations concerning the provision in operative paragraph 1 (b) of draft resolution E/L.929 that the Council would elect twelve members of TAC with "due regard to...the representation of contributing and recipient countries...". That was a new theory. His delegation felt that the contributing countries were already adequately represented whereas the recipient countries were not.

24. Mr. URQUIA (El Salvador) said that his delegation, like that of Afghanistan, had desired to consult delegations of countries not represented on the Council, particularly those of Latin America, in order to ascertain their views on the question of the enlargement of TAC. However it had not yet been able to do so.

25. He drew the Ethiopian representative's attention to the fact that operative paragraph 1 (b) of the draft resolution did not introduce any new factors as its text was practically the same as that of operative paragraph 1 (b) of Council resolution 647 (XXIII). His delegation was prepared to accept the amendments suggested by the United Kingdom representative, in the hope that the latter would give her delegation's support to the draft resolution.

26. Mr. KLUTZNICK (United States of America) regretted that what was a relatively straightforward issue should have given rise to a somewhat involved debate. His own delegation had no particular interest to defend save that of ensuring that TAC had maximum effectiveness. It did not seek a committee of any specific size and was governed solely by a desire to be as helpful as it could to the countries in need of technical assistance.

27. Although TAC was an important organ, it was not, strictly speaking, a body of technical specialists required to perform very technical functions, but

was rather similar to the Council itself, in that it was composed of Government representatives and was concerned essentially with administrative and procedural questions. Consequently, its requirement for efficiency and effectiveness was no greater than that of many other United Nations organs.

28. There appeared to be fairly general agreement on the need to increase the membership of the Committee, although some delegations appeared to doubt whether the increase should be made effective immediately. He appreciated that some felt the need to take such action at a later time, but believed, for his part, that the Council, with its present membership, experience and knowledge of the situation, was at present better fitted to select new members for TAC than it would be immediately following changes in its own membership. If additional members were not to be elected to the Committee at the current session, his delegation would prefer to see nine members elected to it in April 1962. It would be difficult to guarantee a properly balanced representation in the Committee, if three members were elected to it in 1961 and a further six members in 1962.

29. Mr. DANGEARD (France) suggested that the draft resolution should not be voted upon until the next meeting. Such a postponement would allow time for consultation between delegations. He further suggested that the first item of business at the next meeting should be the elections to the functional commissions.

30. Mr. DE MELO FRANCO (Brazil) supported the French representative's suggestions. He had some doubts concerning the United Kingdom representative's amendments to the draft resolution as their adoption might give rise to a situation in which members of TAC might not be able to serve for the full term for which they had been elected.

31. Miss SALT (United Kingdom) considered that the possibility mentioned by the Brazilian representative was purely hypothetical. If such a question arose it could be solved by the Council on an ad hoc basis. She wished to emphasize, as the position of her delegation appeared to have been misunderstood, that her Government was, in principle, opposed to an enlargement of TAC.

32. Mr. URQUIA (El Salvador) accepted the suggestion that the draft resolution should be voted upon at the next meeting. In view of the clarification by the United Kingdom representative of her delegation's position, his delegation withdrew its acceptance of the latter's proposed amendments to the draft resolution. A problem somewhat similar to that mentioned by the Brazilian representative had arisen in recent years in the case of the Trusteeship Council.

33. Mr. EL-FARRA (Jordan) saw no objection to the Council's electing three members to TAC at present and an additional six members in 1962. In his view, the two types of election were entirely different and there was no necessity to combine them.

34. Mrs. WRIGHT (Denmark) suggested that the Council's first action at the next meeting should be to vote upon the draft resolution amended, as suggested by its sponsor, by the deletion of the words "as from 1 January 1962" in operative paragraph 1. It could then, later, decide when it desired to elect new members to TAC, if the draft resolution was adopted.

35. Mr. DANGEARD (France) and Mr. PAZHWAQ (Afghanistan) expressed their objection to the procedure suggested by the Danish representative.

The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.