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RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED ON THE REPORT OF THE JOINT SECOND AND THIRD COMMITTEE AND THE FIFTH COMMITTEE, MEETING JOINTLY

309 (IV). Action taken in pursuance of the agreements between the United Nations and the specialized agencies

The General Assembly,

Noting the report¹ on action taken in pursuance of the agreements between the United Nations and the specialized agencies, transmitted to it by the Economic and Social Council in response to the instruction given by the General Assembly in its resolution 50 (I)² of 14 December 1946,

Noting the recommendations made by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 259 (IX) C of 9 August 1949,³

Decides to take no measures at this session for revision of the agreements with the specialized agencies and requests the Economic and Social Council to submit a report on this subject to the next session of the General Assembly.

*255th plenary meeting,
24 November 1949.*

310 (IV). Problem of the proliferation and overlapping of the pro- grammes of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies

The General Assembly,

Considering that the proliferation of activities and the multiplicity of projects and programmes may impair the effectiveness of the United Nations and the specialized agencies, impeding the necessary concentration on projects and programmes of primary importance,

Considering, further, that the resulting excessive number of sessions and meetings, as well as the creation of subsidiary organs, is placing a severe burden on the technical and personnel resources of Member States, rendering difficult an adequate participation and representation of their Governments in international work,

Noting with concern that the majority of Member States are encountering increasing difficulties in meeting the contributions and other indirect expenses incidental to their membership in the various international organizations,

Bearing in mind that the co-ordination of the increasing activities of the international organiza-

tions already constitutes a very complex problem, which would be further aggravated by a too rapid growth of those activities,

Considering the desirability of concentrating the limited technical, administrative and financial resources of Member States for the effective implementation of projects already approved or under consideration, which cover a wide variety of fields, and of limiting new initiatives, in so far as possible, to those which are of an urgent nature or deemed necessary to achieve the objectives of plans already initiated,

Resolves therefore

1. To urge Member States to refrain from initiating new projects other than those which are urgently required and which can be effectively carried out;

2. To draw the attention of the competent organs of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies to the recommendations contained in the annex to resolution 259 (IX)⁴ of the Economic and Social Council of 9 August 1949, with special attention to paragraph 2 of section I relating to a greater concentration of effort and available resources;

3. To request the Secretary-General, through the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, to assist the Economic and Social Council in the discharge of its responsibility in this regard by putting before it any relevant recommendations;

4. To request the Secretary-General to supplement the *Catalogue of Economic and Social Projects* with such information on costs and duration of projects described therein as may be available;

5. To request the Economic and Social Council to review the *Catalogue* referred to above in terms of categories of priorities and to report thereon to the fifth regular session of the General Assembly;

6. To commend the Economic and Social Council for the initial action it has taken looking towards the termination, absorption and integration of certain inter-governmental organizations and the establishment of relationships between other such organizations and the United Nations or the specialized agencies, and to urge the Members of the United Nations concerned to take such action as may be necessary to give effect to the recommendations of the Council; and further

¹ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fourth Year, Ninth Session, Supplement No. 17.*

² See *Resolutions adopted by the General Assembly during the second part of its first session*, page 78.

³ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fourth Year, Ninth Session, Resolutions*, page 67.

⁴ *Ibid.*, page 68.

7. To request the Council to pursue its work on this matter with a view to simplifying the structure of the inter-governmental organizations and reducing the over-all cost of participation therein.

*255th plenary meeting,
24 November 1949.*

311 (IV). Budgets of the specialized agencies for 1950

A

The General Assembly,

Having reviewed the sixth report⁵ of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the budgets of the specialized agencies for 1950,

1. *Requests* the several specialized agencies and the several organs of the United Nations to give continued attention to the relative urgency and productivity of each of their projects, with a view to obtaining the best results from the budget expenditures of the United Nations, the International Labour Organisation, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the International Civil Aviation Organization, the World Health Organization, the International Refugee Organization, the International Telecommunication Union and the Universal Postal Union;

2. *Requests* the specialized agencies and the United Nations to give continuing attention to a reduction in the total number of meetings and to strive towards a balanced over-all meeting calendar to facilitate programme and budgetary co-ordination;

3. *Draws* the attention of Member States of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies to the necessity for prompt payment of contributions to assure the adequate financing of budgets approved by them;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the heads of the specialized agencies to review the arrangements of the agencies as to their reserve funds, including the adequacy of the existing funds and simplicity of arrangements, and the purposes and conditions for the use of these funds; and to study methods for maximum utilization of soft currencies for the financing of expenditures;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the heads of the specialized agencies to intensify their efforts to achieve a common form of budget, giving particular attention to common definitions of administrative and operational expenses, to the quality of budget justification and to methods for showing estimates of reimbursement for services rendered;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the heads of the specialized agencies to continue further their studies of the organization of administrative and financial services and

⁵ See *Official Records of the fourth session of the General Assembly, Annex to the Joint Second and Third Committee*, document A/1005.

the standards of conference services, in order to achieve a maximum of economy and efficiency;

7. *Urges* the specialized agencies not already participating in the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Scheme to take the necessary steps to this end; and to adhere to the joint system of external audit approved by a majority of the specialized agencies through the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination;

8. *Requests* the specialized agencies to supply the Secretary-General of the United Nations with appropriate information concerning total assessments under the 1950 budgets by 1 December 1949 in order that complete information may be sent to all Governments by the beginning of the new fiscal year.

*255th plenary meeting,
24 November 1949.*

B

The General Assembly,

Believing that there is room for closer relationship between the assessments of Member States in the contributions both of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies,

1. *Recognizes* that, to the extent that the contributions of members of the specialized agencies are assessed in accordance with principles similar to those on which the contributions of Members of the United Nations are based, it is desirable that the same data should be utilized for the assessment of those contributions;

2. *Authorizes* the Committee on Contributions to recommend or advise on the scale of contributions for a specialized agency if requested by that agency to do so;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to inform each agency that the Committee is available to perform this service.

*255th plenary meeting,
24 November 1949.*

C

The General Assembly,

Having examined the administrative budgets of the specialized agencies in accordance with Article 17, paragraph 3 of the Charter,

1. *Notes with concern* that, since some contributions are in arrears, the expenditure of certain agencies considerably exceeds the funds reasonably expected to be received during the year;

2. *Recommends* to each specialized agency that it keep its expenditure each year from its regular budget within the amount of funds reasonably expected to be received in respect of that year, and that the programme of expenditure be reviewed periodically during the year so that, if necessary, it can be adjusted to keep it, as far as possible, within the limits of the anticipated annual receipts;

3. *Requests* that this recommendation be brought to the attention of the next meeting of the governing body and of the assembly of each specialized agency.

*255th plenary meeting,
24 November 1949.*