

EB11.R57 WHO Participation in the United Nations Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance

Having considered a report on the participation of WHO in the United Nations Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance for the Economic Development of Under-Developed Countries ;

Having considered the projects started, completed and now in operation as well as those planned, including the activities during the first and second financial periods and those planned for the fiscal year 1953 ;

Considering the provisions of the several resolutions concerning this programme which have been adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the World Health Assembly and the Executive Board ;

Considering the provisions of the Constitution of WHO and the articles therein establishing the Organization's functions, particularly Article 2 (a) which provides that it shall "act as the directing and co-ordinating authority on international health work" ;

Considering that resolution 222 (IX) of the Economic and Social Council provides particularly that "the projects falling within the competence of participating organizations should be carried out by them, and the co-ordination of their work should be effected, with due regard to their constitutions and the relations established between them", and that "the work undertaken by the participating organizations under the expanded Technical Assistance programme should be suitable for integration with their normal work" ;⁴³

Considering that the agreement between the United Nations and WHO provides, in Article I, that "the United Nations recognizes the World Health Organization as the specialized agency responsible for taking such action as may be appropriate under its Constitution for the accomplishment of the objectives set forth therein" ;

Considering the inadequate financial resources which appear to be available for carrying out the activities assisted by WHO during 1953 ;

Considering resolution WHA3.116, in which the Third World Health Assembly noted with interest and approval United Nations resolution 304 (IV) with particular reference to resolution 222 A (IX) (of 15 August 1949) of the Economic and Social Council and the principles established by the Council entitled "Observations on and Guiding Principles of an Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance for Economic Development" ;

Considering the amendments to resolution 222 (IX) which have been made by the Economic and Social Council by the adoption in July 1952 of its resolution 433 A (XIV) and which provide for a reorganization of the Technical Assistance Board, including the appointment of an Executive Chairman for that Board ;⁴⁴

Considering that these amendments have not yet been examined by the Health Assembly,

The Executive Board

1. TRANSMITS to the Sixth World Health Assembly a report dealing with the several aspects of the present stage of development of the United Nations Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance ;⁴⁵
2. DRAWS the attention of the Health Assembly to the resolutions dealing with each of the various aspects of the Technical Assistance programme on which the Board took action⁴⁶ under the authority delegated to it by the Fifth World Health Assembly (in resolution WHA5.61) ;
3. REQUESTS the Director-General to furnish to the Sixth World Health Assembly a supplementary report on any additional developments which may occur between the eleventh session of the Executive Board and the convening of the Health Assembly.

EB11.R57.1 Legislative Responsibility for Review and Approval of the Technical Assistance Programme

The Executive Board,

While of the opinion that the appointment of an Executive Chairman of the Technical Assistance Board as a co-ordinator may be desirable ;

Considering the responsibility of WHO to act as the directing and co-ordinating authority on international health work, in accordance with Article 2 (a) of the Constitution ;

Recognizing the inseparability of social, economic and health factors ;⁴⁷

Considering that the Executive Board and the Health Assembly, in accordance with the wishes expressed in the United Nations General Assembly, review and approve the programme to be financed from Technical Assistance funds, after the participating governments have examined the value of the programmes which they themselves have requested,

1. VIEWS WITH CONCERN the responsibility given to the Executive Chairman and the Technical Assistance Board by the Technical Assistance Committee, under which they are required to examine and approve programme proposals and projects submitted by WHO and to appraise the effectiveness of programmes which are technically the responsibility of the Organization ;
2. PROPOSES that, in accordance with resolution WHA4.23 concerning co-ordination of the Technical Assistance programme and resolution EB9.R50 of the Executive Board concerning co-ordination of joint projects under the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance, planning and co-ordination of country programmes should be undertaken by the government concerned, whose responsibility it is to determine the kind of assistance needed and the rate at which it can be absorbed in orderly development ;
3. URGES the Sixth World Health Assembly to consider this matter during its examination of the amendments made by the Economic and Social Council to its resolution 222 (IX) ; and, in the meantime,
4. REQUESTS the Director-General to communicate these views to the Technical Assistance Committee of the Economic and Social Council and to the Technical Assistance Board.

EB11.R57.2 Technical Assistance Programme : Administrative Structure and Costs ⁴⁸

The Executive Board,

Having considered the administrative structure resulting from the reorganization of the administration of the Technical Assistance programme and the costs attendant on that structure,

1. REQUESTS the Director-General to present to the Technical Assistance Board its concern regarding the complicated administrative structure and the costs thereof, together with the suggestion of the Executive Board that every effort be made to simplify the structure and reduce the costs ; and further
2. REQUESTS the Director-General to continue to carry out the part of the programme for which WHO is responsible with the greatest economy possible in central administrative and indirect operational costs, so that any savings which may be realized on the amount ear-marked for WHO for these purposes may be used for health projects.

EB11.R57.3 Co-ordination of Assistance to Governments under the Technical Assistance Programme

The Executive Board,

Considering the constitutional responsibility of the World Health Organization to establish and maintain effective collaboration with governmental health administrations ;

Having noted the practice of appointing resident Technical Assistance representatives, responsible for co-ordinating assistance to the governments to which they are accredited under the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance,

1. EXPRESSES THE OPINION that WHO is not in a position to interpose any indirect channels of communication between the Organization and governmental health administrations, or to abrogate its constitutional responsibilities as the directing and co-ordinating authority on international health work ;
2. BELIEVES that in the present financial situation the practice of appointing resident Technical Assistance representatives should be limited as far as possible ;
3. REQUESTS the Director-General to bring this view of the Executive Board to the attention of the Technical Assistance Board ; and further
4. REQUESTS the Director-General to continue to co-operate with resident Technical Assistance representatives, taking into account the provisions of the Constitution of the World Health Organization.

EB11.R57.4 Financial Resources Available or expected to be Available for the Technical Assistance Programme in 1953

The Executive Board,

Having considered the serious financial situation which faces the Organization in effectively implementing the programme planned for 1953, and the various proposals for meeting the situation ;

Considering that the rapid development and increase of the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance by WHO is the result of the urgent requests of the Economic and Social Council and its Technical Assistance Committee and the desires of individual governments contributing to this programme ;

Considering that the programme to be carried out by the World Health Organization in 1953 and to be financed from both regular and Technical Assistance funds was endorsed by the Executive Board at its ninth session and approved by the Fifth World Health Assembly as an integrated whole, and considering that a large number of Technical Assistance projects included in that programme are ready for implementation in accordance with formal signed agreements between the World Health Organization and governments, entered into with the concurrence of the Technical Assistance Board ;

Considering that the United Nations General Assembly at its seventh session established a goal in the amount of twenty-five million dollars for this programme in 1953 ;⁴⁹

Considering that the preliminary estimates made in December 1952 by the Executive Chairman and the Technical Assistance Board of resources available for 1953 represented a conservative estimate of the outstanding amounts expected to be paid for the previous financial periods and the amounts to be pledged and paid for the 1953 financial period ;

Considering the statement made by the Executive Chairman of the Technical Assistance Board to the Executive Board wherein the Board was informed that resources could be expected to be available in the amount of three or four million dollars in addition to the amounts of the preliminary estimates of December 1952 ;⁵⁰

Considering that, under the provision of resolution 222 (IX) of the Economic and Social Council, " the work undertaken by the participating organizations under the expanded technical assistance programme should be suitable for integration with their normal work " and that therefore WHO has always regarded this programme as an expansion of its normal functions of providing technical assistance ;

Considering that it is essential, in dealing with this financial crisis, to consider all possible resources available to WHO, including (1) the regular budget, (2) the funds available from the Technical Assistance programme, (3) co-operative arrangements with UNICEF, (4) possible arrangements with other multi-

lateral or bilateral programmes of technical assistance, and (5) the institution of campaigns to raise funds by voluntary contributions ;

Considering that the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance has already proved itself an effective and valuable programme and that incalculable damage would result if any existing activities should be discontinued or if certain projects far advanced toward the stage of actual implementation were not allowed to go forward ;

Considering that the abandonment, curtailment or interruption of projects in operation or for which detailed plans have already been agreed between the requesting government and the participating organization, and which are far advanced toward implementation, would seriously hamper future relations between the governments and organizations participating in the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance ;

Considering that the Technical Assistance Conference is convened for 26 and 27 February 1953 and that only at that time will more specific information be available as to the amount of new pledges to be made for 1953 ; and that the next meeting of the Technical Assistance Board in March 1953 will, with its Executive Chairman, be reconsidering the entire financial position ; and

Considering that by resolution WHA5.61 of the Fifth World Health Assembly the Executive Board was authorized " to act on behalf of the World Health Assembly in connexion with any aspect of this programme, including any necessary modification thereof, in order to adjust it to the amount of funds made available " ,

1. AUTHORIZES the Director-General :

- (1) to continue all projects and activities at present in operation ;
- (2) to proceed with the implementation of those projects not yet started where plans have proceeded to the point where staff has been employed, where supplies or equipment have been ordered, and/or where the government of the country concerned has proceeded with arrangements for the project to the extent that funds already spent or set aside would be lost if the project did not go forward ;

2. REQUESTS the Director-General :

- (1) to take into consideration all resources at present available under both the regular budget and Technical Assistance funds ;
- (2) to defer starting new activities wherever and whenever possible in order to provide to the maximum extent for the financing of the activities which must continue and those which must be started as provided for in the preceding paragraph, provided that, to the extent that sufficient funds become available, additional projects may be started ;
- (3) to give serious consideration to methods of ensuring that the financial stringency in Technical Assistance funds in 1953 does not interfere with the development of WHO assistance to any country where assistance was planned to be financed only from Technical Assistance funds ;
- (4) to take all possible action to alleviate the financial deficiency by :
 - (a) continuing his negotiations with UNICEF to obtain such temporary financial assistance as it can provide during the 1953 financial period ;
 - (b) taking steps to explore with other multilateral and bilateral sources and private foundations the possibility of some of the new projects being taken over for financing, either directly or on a reimbursable basis ;

3. REQUESTS the Director-General to call the attention of the Technical Assistance Board and its Executive Chairman to the desirability of :

- (1) making every possible effort to assure that all governments are made aware of the critical situation which exists with regard to the inadequate financial resources available for the continuation and expansion of this programme ;
- (2) requesting the participating organizations to arrange jointly to concentrate and co-ordinate their efforts to obtain increased contributions from governments ; and
- (3) considering the possibility of a campaign to raise additional funds by an appeal to the general public ;

4. RECOGNIZES that this financial position will have to be reviewed at the time of the Sixth World Health Assembly in the light of developments which may occur by that time.

EB11.R57.5 Participation of Member States in Certain Costs incurred in the Operation of Technical Assistance Projects

The Executive Board,

Recalling resolution WHA5.59 of the Fifth World Health Assembly concerning the participation of Member States in certain costs incurred in the operation of field projects, as well as earlier resolutions of the Health Assembly and the Board on this subject,

1. REAFFIRMS that the present requirement that governments contribute to the costs of maintaining in the country experts provided to them under the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance creates great difficulties for receiving countries, in view of the other costs which governments must meet in carrying on projects for which international assistance is provided under the programme ;
2. RECOMMENDS strongly to the Technical Assistance Committee that it reconsider favourably the proposal of the Fifth World Health Assembly for the removal of the requirement that governments provide lodging and travel per diem in the country in any form whatsoever ; and, in the meantime,

Cognizant of the decision of the Economic and Social Council at its fourteenth session with regard to this problem ;

Having studied the proposal of the Technical Assistance Board to the Technical Assistance Committee for meeting local project costs ;

Considering that such contributions shall be considered as contributions to the Special Account ;

Noting that this plan will be implemented only in agreement with the country concerned,

3. BELIEVES that the proposal of the Technical Assistance Board for the establishment of a scheme for lump-sum contributions for local costs of experts ⁵¹ is preferable to the present system ;
4. BELIEVES that the part of the proposal related to fellowship costs is not desirable because of the substantial expenses borne by governments in connexion with fellowships, including salaries, allowances, internal travel costs, and insurance ; that this part of the proposal is not compatible with paragraph 4 of resolution No. 4 of the Technical Assistance Committee ; ⁵² and that it should therefore be omitted from the proposal ;
5. AGREES with the decision of the Technical Assistance Committee contained in paragraph 2 of resolution No. 4 that “ requesting governments should not be required to provide the cost of lodging or travel per diem for experts in respect of such projects and programmes for the implementation of which extensive staff and other facilities are provided by the requesting governments ; in all cases requesting governments should undertake to secure suitable accommodation for the experts ” ; ⁵²
6. REQUESTS the Director-General to transmit the present resolution to the Technical Assistance Committee of the Economic and Social Council, and to the Technical Assistance Board.

EB11.R57.6 Criteria for the Development of Health Aspects of the Technical Assistance Programme

The Executive Board,

Recalling the authorization given to the Director-General by the Board at its sixth session (resolution EB6.R1) “ to implement the expanded programme of technical assistance as approved by the Third World Health Assembly . . . and, in implementing the programme . . . to give as high a priority as possible

to the following items : (i) stimulation of campaigns against communicable diseases, (ii) professional and technical education including fellowships, and (iii) public-health administration ” ;

Considering that the human factor is fundamental to social and economic development, and that the protection and improvement of health must underlie any programme to raise the standard of living ;

Considering that no rapid progress in raising the standards of living of under-developed areas could be expected by piecemeal methods ;

Considering that resolution 222 (IX) of the Economic and Social Council provides that (1) “ the kinds of services to be rendered to each country shall be decided by the Government concerned ” ; (2) “ the technical assistance furnished shall . . . be designed to meet the needs of the country concerned and . . . be provided as far as possible in the form which that country desires ” ; and (3) “ the work undertaken by the participating organizations under the expanded technical assistance programme should be suitable for integration with their normal work ” ;

Considering the further requirement of resolution 222 (IX) that “ the participating organizations, when reviewing and placing in order of priority the requests which they receive, should so far as possible ensure that due regard is paid to the needs of the various applicants and to their geographical distribution ” ;

Considering the desirability that the activities of WHO be carried out on as wide a geographical basis as is consistent with the available resources and the ability of countries and territories to absorb such activities ;

Recognizing the need for integration of the total programme of Technical Assistance for economic development and the fact that such integration can be accomplished in an orderly manner only over a period of time ;

Considering that the Executive Board at its ninth session (resolution EB9.R21) requested the Director-General and the regional committees, in planning and co-ordinating health programmes, to be guided by the following considerations :

- (1) the responsibility of WHO to act as the directing and co-ordinating authority on international health work ;
 - (2) the inseparability of social, economic and health factors ;
 - (3) the major purpose for which aid is provided ;
 - (4) the kind of assistance needed and the rate at which it can be absorbed in orderly development ;
- and

Considering that WHO is the competent body for the determination of criteria and priorities for technical projects in the health field,

1. EXTENDS and AMPLIFIES the priorities adopted by the Executive Board at its sixth session for health programmes financed under the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance for Economic Development according to the following criteria :

- (1) Assistance in the health field should be designed primarily to strengthen the basic health service of the country and to meet the most urgent problems affecting large sections of the population, with due regard to the stage of social or economic development of the country concerned.
- (2) Efforts should be directed towards measures of preventive as compared with curative medicine, it being fully recognized that the line between preventive and curative medicine is a tenuous one, and that, for the development of optimal health programmes, activities more directly related to curative medicine must in some instances be undertaken.
- (3) Professional and technical training and education, including assistance to educational institutions and fellowships directly related to projects for economic and social development and preferably a part thereof, should form essential elements of the programme. Emphasis must be laid on the training of nurses and auxiliary personnel in giving assistance to national training schemes for the development of national and regional training programmes as particularly needed by the under-developed countries.

- (4) Control of major communicable diseases should be directly related to improving the health of the population for productive purposes.
 - (5) Development and improvement of the standard of environmental sanitation is essential for the improvement of health and the raising of the standard of living, especially when undertaken in relation to social, industrial or agricultural schemes.
 - (6) Other basic factors for the promotion of a healthier, and therefore a more productive, population should include such measures as health education of the public, improvement of maternal and child health and of nutrition.
 - (7) Measures should be taken to mitigate the probable consequences of economic changes concurrent with the economic and social development. Social and occupational health measures must not, therefore, be ignored.
 - (8) Demonstration and pilot projects of limited duration for applying new methods and techniques, and designed to act as catalysts and produce an impact in the country, should be undertaken, since they offer an effective means of quick and successful transfer of knowledge.
2. REITERATES the importance attached to an equitable geographical distribution of the assistance which can be made available to countries, taking into account the ability of the countries and territories to absorb such assistance ;
 3. BELIEVES that it is not economically sound to abandon or curtail projects which are in operation with the assistance of any one of the participating organizations in order to make funds available for starting new projects, whether in the same or other fields, because of the resulting loss of the work already done ;
 4. REQUESTS the Director-General to call the attention of the Technical Assistance Board and its Executive Chairman to the fact that it is desirable that greater efforts be made to utilize all the available currencies and services contributed to the Expanded Programme, and that to reach this objective it will be necessary to give priority to projects which will make this possible.

EB11.R57.7 Technical Assistance Programme : Conditions of Service for Experts

The Executive Board

NOTES the conditions of service for Technical Assistance experts⁵³ announced by the Executive Chairman and adopted at the twenty-second meeting of the Technical Assistance Board.

EB11.R57.8 Technical Assistance Programme : Central Administrative, Indirect Operational and Project Costs

The Executive Board,

Having reviewed the definition of central administrative costs, indirect operational costs and project costs adopted by the Technical Assistance Board ;⁵⁴

Having considered the comments of the United Nations Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on these definitions,⁵⁵

1. BELIEVES that the definitions are suitable ;
2. URGES that the Technical Assistance Board take whatever action is necessary to carry out the suggestion of the Advisory Committee according to which “ efforts should be made to distribute indirect operational costs to the respective projects, possibly on a general *pro rata* basis ”.

EB11.R57.9 Long-term Planning and continued Financing of the Technical Assistance Programme

The Executive Board,

Recalling resolution EB7.R84 of the Board at its seventh session, concerning the need for long-term planning and for continued contributions to the Special Account for Technical Assistance ; and

Considering resolution 84 adopted by the seventh session of the United Nations General Assembly on 21 December 1952,⁵⁶

NOTES with satisfaction that arrangements are expected to be made for the expansion of the Technical Assistance programme and its continued progress.

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for EB11.R57.5 : 7.1.3

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