

ARTICLE 17 (3)

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TEXT OF ARTICLE 17 (3)

The General Assembly shall consider and approve any financial and budgetary arrangements with specialized agencies referred to in Article 57 and shall examine the administrative budgets of such specialized agencies with a view to making recommendations to the agencies concerned.

INTRODUCTORY NOTE

1. At its ninth and tenth sessions, the General Assembly followed the same practice as that set out in the study of Article 17 (3) in the Repertory. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions submitted reports on the

administrative budgets of the agencies as referred to in paragraph 5 of the earlier study, and these reports were considered by the General Assembly in the manner described in paragraphs 25 and 26 of that study. 1/

2. The Advisory Committee also submitted reports to the General Assembly at its ninth and tenth sessions on the administration of technical assistance activities, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 722 (VIII).

**I. GENERAL SURVEY

II. ANALYTICAL SUMMARY OF PRACTICE

****A. Nature and scope of the financial and budgetary arrangements with the specialized agencies**

****B. The phrase "administrative budgets" of specialized agencies**

C. Nature and scope of examination of administrative budgets

3. In its report on the administrative budgets of the agencies to the General Assembly at its tenth session 2/, the Advisory Committee drew attention to the fact that the practices that had been developed both in the Advisory Committee and in the Fifth Committee constituted no more than a cursory review of the agency budgets. The Advisory Committee stated that it was doubtful whether such a review could be regarded as an adequate implementation of Article 17 (3) of the Charter, and suggested that the time had come when this question should be reconsidered. In this context, while it noted that a decision in this matter rested with the General Assembly, the Advisory Committee wondered whether it might not be possible, in order to meet the situation, to substitute for the present procedure a more thorough review, to be made at regular intervals of a few years, with only one or, at most, two agencies coming under review in a given year. The Advisory Committee recognized that a departure from present practice should be the subject of careful prior study.

4. In the discussion of this suggestion in the Fifth Committee at its 516th meeting, a number of delegations supported it, but they agreed with the Advisory Committee that any departure from the present procedure should be the subject of careful study. Further, in connexion with this suggestion and with the comments of the Advisory Committee regarding the need for a comprehensive financial appraisal of the activities of the United Nations and the specialized agencies, through the medium of inter-governmental discussion at a central point 3/, several delegations stated that while they would support the consideration of methods which might enhance effective co-ordination of and unity of purpose in the programmes and activities of the organizations and concentration of resources available for them, caution must at the same time be exercised to ensure that the autonomy of the specialized agencies in their particular fields of effort was not impaired.

1/ The reports of the Advisory Committee to the General Assembly at its ninth and tenth sessions are: G A (IX), annexes, a.i. 43, p. 1, A/2835; G A (X), annexes, a.i. 45, p. 1, A/3023. The relevant reports of the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly are: G A (IX), annexes, a.i. 43, p. 9, A/2861; G A (X), a.i. 45, p. 11, A/3098.

2/ G A (X), annexes, a.i. 45, p. 1, A/3023, paras. 24-26.

3/ Ibid., para. 6.

D. Financial and budgetary arrangements - analysis of recommendations made by the General Assembly to the specialized agencies

5. In paragraphs 75-77 of the study of Article 17 (3) in the Repertory, reference is made to decisions by the General Assembly at its eighth and ninth sessions in respect of a review by the Advisory Committee of the "administrative procedures of the Technical Assistance Board and those of the participating organizations as well as their administrative expenditures so far as those are financed from the Special Account for the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance". As noted in these paragraphs, the Advisory Committee submitted a report on the review it made under resolution 722 (VIII) to the General Assembly at its ninth session, and under resolution 831 (IX), the General Assembly referred the suggestions and recommendations contained in this report to the Economic and Social Council for consideration and report.

6. Pursuant to this resolution, the Economic and Social Council reported 4/ to the General Assembly at its tenth session, and the Advisory Committee submitted comments 5/ on that report. These reports were considered by the Second Committee; and on the report of the Second Committee, the General Assembly adopted resolution 921 (X) in which it took note of the report of the Economic and Social Council and requested the Economic and Social Council to continue its efforts to secure the maximum administrative efficiency and co-ordination of activities of participating organizations in the technical assistance programme.

7. Reference is also made, in paragraph 77 of the study of Article 17 (3) in the Repertory, to the decision of the Fifth Committee at the ninth session of the General Assembly authorizing the Advisory Committee "to respond favourably to any invitation received from a specialized agency to continue at the headquarters of such agency the study of administrative and budgetary co-ordination between the United Nations and the specialized agencies, including the questions on technical assistance matters" raised in its first report 6/ to the ninth session of the General Assembly ...". At the tenth session, the Advisory Committee reported that invitations had been received from the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the World Health Organization (WHO), and the representative of the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) reported that such an invitation would be forthcoming from that agency. The Fifth Committee noted these reports with satisfaction and reiterated its authorization to the Advisory Committee to accept such invitations 7/.

**** E. Role of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and of the Economic and Social Council**

4/ E S C resolution 584 (XX), annex.
5/ G A (X), annexes, a.i. 24, p. 1, A/2994.
6/ A/2661.
7/ G A (X), a.i. 45, p. 11, A/3098, para. 8.

