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THE FINANCING OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Report by the Board of Governors

1. Pursuant to General Conference Resolution GC(XXIII)/RES/368, in which the Conference requested the Board of Governors to study the matter of the financing of technical assistance and to submit a comprehensive report to it at its twenty-fourth regular session on all possible effective means of technical assistance financing, the matter was studied by the Board of Governors at its meetings in March, June and September, by the Technical Assistance Committee in February, by the Administrative and Budgetary Committee in May, and at informal consultations conducted by the Chairman of the Board in April, May and June.
2. For their discussions, the Board and the Administrative and Budgetary Committee had before them a document prepared by the Secretariat in April^{1/}.
3. During the discussions, representatives of the Group of 77 maintained the view that the Agency's technical assistance programme should be financed from the Regular Budget; they stated, however, that they could, for the time being, agree to an interim solution which might be mutually acceptable. Other representatives expressed the view that the financing of technical assistance should continue to be on a voluntary basis.
4. Recognizing that a greater measure of forward planning would benefit the Agency's technical assistance programme, the Board arrived at a consensus on the need for greater assurance and predictability with regard to the resources available for the technical assistance programme and on the desirability of the

^{1/} This document is reproduced in the Annex to document GC(XXIV)/631.

Board's recommending "indicative planning figures" which would serve as a non-binding guide in fixing targets for voluntary contributions to the Technical Assistance Fund in a number of future years; for example, periods of two, three or five years were discussed.

5. The Board agreed to recommend an increase in the target for voluntary contributions to the Technical Assistance Fund from US \$10.5 million in 1980 to US \$13 million in 1981 and figures of US \$16 million and US \$19 million, suggested by the Chairman, as indicative planning figures for 1982 and 1983 respectively.