

**United Nations**

**ECONOMIC  
AND  
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**Nations Unies**

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DRAFTING COMMITTEE OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE  
ON TRADE AND EMPLOYMENT

ADMINISTRATIVE SUB-COMMITTEE

ALLOCATION OF PERMANENT SEATS ON THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Suggestion by the Delegation of France

In the course of the work of the first session of the Preparatory Commission, it became apparent that differences of economic structure existing between the countries participating in the Conference, particularly as regards their degree of industrial development, made it necessary to take into account, in drafting a Trade Charter, needs which were common to certain groups of countries.

This fact was recognized more specifically in a new chapter of the draft Charter, intended to ensure the development of countries with insufficiently advanced economic systems.

This is clearly a fundamental idea, very closely affecting the realization of the aims of the Organization, and it appears to be recognized unanimously.

With this in mind, the Delegation of France submits for the Committee's consideration the following suggestion concerning the allocation of permanent seats on the Executive Committee:

"The Member States to be divided into four groups, each group corresponding to a type of economic structure. There would thus be:

First Group: Highly industrialized countries in whose economic systems foreign trade constitutes an essential element.

Second Group: Highly industrialized countries in whose economic

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systems foreign trade represents only a secondary element.

Third Group: Insufficiently industrialized countries in whose economic systems foreign trade constitutes an essential element.

Fourth Group: Insufficiently industrialized countries whose foreign trade is little developed."

The first group, owing to the fully integrated type of economic system which it represents, and which corresponds to the aims pursued by the Organization, would have three seats on the Executive Committee.

Each of the three other groups would have two seats, thus making up a total of nine permanent seats.

Each country would itself be invited to choose the group to which it considered it belonged, the choice being endorsed by a vote of the Conference.

The countries of each group would themselves appoint their representatives to the Executive Committee, taking into account both the representative character of the countries elected and their geographical situation.

The representatives would be appointed for a period of five years.

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