

TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION

13 June - 1 July 1977

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77/23. Assistance to drought-stricken countries in Africa and adjacent areas

164. At its 580th meeting, on 24 June 1977, the Governing Council took note of the report of the Administrator on assistance to drought-stricken countries in Africa and adjacent areas, as well as of the views expressed during the discussion of the report.

580th meeting
24 June 1977

77/24. United Nations Fund for Population Activities

A

The Governing Council,

Taking into account the comments made during the consideration of item 11,

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director of UNFPA on 1976 activities and the future programme (DP/250 and Corr.1 and DP/250/ANNEX);
2. Approves the UNFPA project in support of the family planning aspects of integrated basic health services in Nepal (DP/FPA/7/Add.1) in the amount of \$680,600 for an estimated period of two years;
3. Takes note of the Executive Director's progress report on the application of criteria for establishing priorities in the allocation of UNFPA resources (DP/263 and Corr.1), and:
 - (a) Notes the general principles and criteria contained in this report, which are to be applied in developing a strategy for future UNFPA support of intercountry activities;
 - (b) Requests the Executive Director to circulate to members of the Governing Council the report on the review of intercountry activities as soon as possible;
 - (c) Requests the Executive Director to prepare the proposed strategy, bearing in mind the needs of developing countries, particularly the needs identified in the formulation of basic population programmes, and to include in the strategy consideration of the role of UNFPA in research;
 - (d) Further requests the Executive Director to submit the strategy to the Governing Council in June 1978;

(e) Notes that the declining scale of resources allocated by UNFPA to intercountry activities in 1975 and 1976 is consistent with the ceiling approved by the Council at its twentieth session for UNFPA support of intercountry activities, and requests the Executive Director to continue this downward trend of support for these activities until the strategy for such activities has been adopted by the Council, bearing in mind the importance of global research projects of an innovative character and of other intercountry programmes of proven effectiveness;

(f) Requests the Executive Director to report on further progress made in the application of criteria for the establishment of priorities, bearing in mind the necessity of a flexible application of the recommendations on priorities and the population needs of all developing recipient countries;

4. Decides to give the Executive Director additional approval authority of \$57 million for 1978, bringing the total for that year to \$105 million, \$37.5 million for 1979, and \$17.5 million for 1980, on the understanding that the Executive Director will limit the approval of projects to the availability of resources.

583rd meeting
27 June 1977

77/25. United Nations Sahelian Office

The Governing Council,

Recalling the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, particularly General Assembly resolutions 3253 (XXIX) of 4 December 1974, 3512 (XXX) of 15 December 1975 and 31/180 of 21 December 1976 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1918 (LVIII) of 5 May 1975,

Considering that the nature and scope of the needs of the countries of the Sudano-Sahelian region make it necessary for the international community to continue and to strengthen its solidarity action to support the recovery efforts and economic development of those countries,

Noting with satisfaction the important role played by the United Nations Sahelian Office in helping to combat the effects of the drought and to implement the medium-term and long-term recovery and rehabilitation programme adopted by the States members of the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel,

Expressing appreciation for the results of the efforts of the United Nations Sahelian Office to mobilize the necessary resources to finance priority projects identified by the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel and its member States,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the medium-term and long-term recovery and rehabilitation programme in the Sudano-Sahelian region (DP/252 and Corr. 1),

1. Takes note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General on the efforts made to implement the medium-term and long-term recovery and rehabilitation programme in the Sudano-Sahelian region;

2. Congratulates the Administrator on the accomplishments of the United Nations Sahelian Office and its work methods;

3. Expresses its profound gratitude to the Governments, United Nations bodies, intergovernmental organizations, private organizations and individuals that have contributed to the implementation of the medium-term and long-term recovery and rehabilitation programme drawn up by the States members of the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel;

4. Urges all Governments, United Nations bodies, intergovernmental organizations, private organizations and individuals to continue to respond favourably either bilaterally or through the United Nations Sahelian Office or any other intermediary, to the requests made by the Permanent Inter-State Committee and by the Governments of the Sudano-Sahelian countries;

5. Requests the United Nations Sahelian Office to continue its close co-operation with the Permanent Inter-State Committee and its efforts to ensure co-operation and co-ordination between the United Nations programmes and bodies with a view to the implementation of medium-term and long-term assistance programmes;

6. Also requests the Administrator to continue to report to the Governing Council on the implementation of the rehabilitation and development programme in the Sudano-Sahelian region.

584th meeting
27 June 1977

77/26. Country and intercountry programming and projects:
newly independent countries

The Governing Council,

Having examined document DP/271 on UNDP assistance to colonial countries and peoples and document DP/276 on the implementation by UNDP of General Assembly and Security Council resolutions concerning assistance to Botswana, the Comoros, Lesotho and Mozambique,

Having considered the statements made by the Assistant Administrator and Regional Director for Africa on assistance to those newly independent countries that the General Assembly assimilates to least developed countries (LDCs), and on the revision of the Indicative Planning Figure (IPF) for the Republic of Djibouti which became independent on 27 June 1977,

Taking into account the comments made by members of the Governing Council,

1. Authorizes the Administrator to increase the respective IPF of Botswana, the Comoros, Lesotho and Mozambique by transferring \$4 million from the amount which has been reserved for "future participants, etc. ..." as recommended in paragraph 12 of document DP/276;

2. Further authorizes the Administrator:

(a) To recalculate and increase by 6.4 per cent the IPFs of Angola, Cape Verde, the Comoros and Sao Tome and Principe, the allocation required for this purpose and estimated at around \$1.4 million being drawn from the reserve covering the category of newly independent countries;

(b) To extend to Angola, Cape Verde, the Comoros and Sao Tome and Principe the other benefits enjoyed by the least developed among the developing countries (benefit from the United Nations Capital Development Fund and from the special allocations for LDCs which would become available in the future, etc. ...);

3. Approves an IPF of \$850,000 for the Republic of Djibouti.

584th meeting
27 June 1977

77/27. Country programmes and global project

The Governing Council

1. Approves the proposed UNDP country programmes for Bolivia, Botswana, the Central African Empire, Ecuador, Guinea-Bissau, the Ivory Coast, Malaysia, Pakistan, Poland, the Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Turkey, the United Republic of Cameroon and Zambia, for the duration of their respective programme periods and within the limits of their IPFs for 1977-1981, taking into account the balance of over-expenditure or under-expenditure of their 1972-1976 IPFs;

2. Authorizes the Administrator to proceed with appraisal and approval action on requests for assistance falling within the outlines of the respective country programmes, while ensuring, in accordance with the decision of the Governing Council at its eighteenth session, that expenditures are kept in reasonable conformity with the relevant IPFs and are contained within the financial resources available at any given time;

3. Approves the global project for assistance to the Integrated Cotton Research and Development Programme and authorizes the Administrator to make the appropriate arrangements for the execution of this project;

4. Approves the Administrator's proposal to provide assistance to Romania from the Programme Reserve for reconstruction and rehabilitation purposes amounting to \$1,572,000, following the earthquake which occurred on 4 March 1977.

584th meeting
27 June 1977

77/28. United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration

204. At its 586th meeting, on 28 June 1977, the Governing Council took note of the reports by the Administrator on the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration and of the views expressed during the discussion of item 7.

586th meeting
28 June 1977

77/29. United Nations Capital Development Fund

217. At its 586th meeting, on 28 June 1977, the Governing Council took note of the report by the Administrator on the United Nations Capital Development Fund and of the views expressed during the discussion of item 8.

586th meeting
28 June 1977

77/30. Establishment of the Regional Bureau for Arab States

The Governing Council,

Recalling its consensus of 1970 as well as its further decision taken at the eleventh session relating to "the establishment of ... four Regional Bureaux, on the understanding that additional Regional Bureaux may be established when appropriate in order to meet the needs of the various geographical areas", 5/

Noting the proposal made on behalf of the Arab States to modify the present Regional Bureau coverage for these countries as well as the views expressed on this matter during the twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council,

Believing that such a modification would contribute to strengthening the role and activities of UNDP, as envisaged, inter alia, in the report of the Administrator (DP/261),

1. Agrees to the establishment of a new Regional Bureau to achieve these purposes;

2. Requests the Administrator to consult with the countries directly concerned with a view to determining the membership and the exact coverage of this Regional Bureau;

3. Notes the Administrator's intention to consult further with the countries directly concerned regarding appropriate arrangements in view of the establishment of the new Regional Bureau, to continue to provide support through an appropriate unit at UNDP headquarters for UNDP activities in countries included in the existing Bureau for Europe, the Mediterranean and the Middle East, but not covered by the new Bureau, and to ensure the effective implementation of the programme of co-operation among all Mediterranean countries as envisaged in the document submitted at the twenty-third session of the Council; 6/

4. Requests the Administrator, following his consultations with the Governments directly concerned, to report for the information of the members of the Council, as soon as possible and before the twenty-fifth session, on the detailed arrangements made regarding the establishment of the Regional Bureau and other arrangements, as appropriate, to service other countries hitherto within BEMME but not in the new Bureau, including information on UNDP staffing requirements for country coverage as well as regional IPF distribution; and

5. Notes that the above-mentioned arrangements can be accommodated in terms of staffing requirements within the budget estimates for 1978 presented by the Administrator to the Council at its twenty-fourth session.

587th meeting
28 June 1977

77/31. Financial outlook for 1977-1981, with comprehensive report on the financial activities during 1976 and other related matters

The Governing Council

1. Takes note of the report of the Administrator on the financial outlook for 1977-1981 and the preliminary financial results of the first IPF cycle 1972-1976 (DP/266 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and 2) and of the views expressed by the members of the Council at its twenty-fourth session;
2. Expresses concern over the resources expected to be available for programme purposes in 1977 and 1978 and appeals to Governments to make every effort to increase their annual contributions to UNDP to ensure that the over-all contribution target for 1977-1981 is reached;
3. Endorses the maintenance of annual expenditure ceilings, as a temporary measure until the financial situation improves;
4. Takes note that actual expenditures for the year 1976 fell short of the authorized level of \$370 million and requests the Administrator to do all he can to ensure that 1977 expenditures reach the target of \$358.7 million, the carryover of \$17.5 million from the previous year being additional;
5. Further takes note of the fact that the first instalment of \$15 million has been set aside in 1977 for the Operational Reserve;
6. Decides that the Administrator may accept cost-sharing arrangements and third party cost-sharing arrangements guided by the following principles:
 - (a) Cost-sharing arrangements and third party cost-sharing arrangements may be accepted for individual projects or, without specific project identification, for country programmes in accordance with UNDP normal procedures;
 - (b) The level of cost-sharing arrangements that may be accepted without prior approval of the Governing Council is limited to \$10 million for the five years 1977-1981, or an amount that would result in the total country programme being double the size of the IPF established for the country, whichever is larger. Proposals for a higher proportion of cost-sharing arrangements should be referred to the Governing Council for decision;
 - (c) The level of third party cost-sharing arrangements that may be accepted without prior approval of the Governing Council is limited to \$10 million for the five years 1977-1981 for a particular country, or an amount that would be equal to the size of the IPF established for the country, whichever is larger. Proposals for a higher proportion of third party cost-sharing arrangements should be referred to the Governing Council for decision;

(d) When considering third party arrangements, it shall be taken into consideration that contributions to these arrangements shall be separate from the voluntary contributions to the general resources of UNDP; the latter shall not be allowed to be diverted for third party arrangements from the over-all resources of the programme;

(e) Within the above-mentioned principles, the annual level of third party cost-sharing arrangements which any donor country may enter into should be related to its annual contribution to UNDP's central resources, the exact share to be determined by the Governing Council at its next session;

(f) Countries participating in cost sharing should, as appropriate, and distinguishing among different sources of financing, reimburse UNDP for any additional administrative costs resulting from their participation in the scheme or make provision for the necessary assistance through an administrative support project charged to country programme costs;

7. Requests the Administrator regularly to report on cost-sharing and third party cost-sharing developments to the Council;

8. Further requests the Administrator to prepare a comprehensive set of rules and procedures covering cost sharing and third party cost sharing and to circulate them provisionally to interested parties until they have been presented to the twenty-fifth session of the Council for information;

9. Takes note of the Administrator's actions to utilize accumulated non-convertible currencies as contained in documents DP/255 and DP/266 and Corr.1, and also notes with interest the report of the Administrator to the Council on his recent consultations with a number of Eastern European countries;

10. Extends its appreciation to the Administrator for his efforts to resolve the problem in accordance with previous Governing Council decisions;

11. Reaffirms the comprehensive decision taken at the twenty-third session of the Governing Council, and encourages all parties concerned to continue their efforts towards this end;

12. Specifically calls on Executing Agencies to facilitate the receipt by experts of portions of their salaries in accumulated non-convertible currencies; and requests a detailed report on this aspect of the issue at its next session covering the progress achieved to date in resolving the problem and the progress made in implementing the provisions of previous Council decisions on this subject, including details on the discussions held with the specialized agencies and others;

13. Commends the Administrator for his efforts in collecting past due amounts and the results achieved in this regard;

14. Appeals to all Governments either to pay all past due amounts or to indicate to the Administrator that the amounts are uncollectable so that these amounts can be removed from UNDP books;

15. Endorses the Administrator's proposal as contained in paragraph 29 (b) of document DP/266 and Corr.1 and requests him to incorporate appropriate text in the

revised financial regulations and rules which will be submitted at the twenty-fifth session of the Council;

16. Takes note of the progress made toward achieving a new integrated information system;

17. Requests the Administrator to submit to the Governing Council at its next session detailed information on the investments of UNDP, with special reference to investments in developing countries, with a view to substantially increasing the investment of UNDP resources in developing countries on safe and profitable terms in a manner consistent with the efficient and effective management of the Programme's resources.

588th meeting
29 June 1977

77/32. Recruitment and use and prospect of reducing the cost
of UNDP-financed experts

The Governing Council

1. Takes note of the progress report submitted by the Administrator on the recruitment and use and prospects of reducing the costs of UNDP-financed experts (DP/260);

2. Further takes note with appreciation of the assistance provided by one member State, JIU and some specialized agencies in carrying out the study;

3. Requests the Administrator to submit the study prepared by JIU to the June 1978 session of the Governing Council, taking into account the views expressed by the Council at its twenty-fourth session, in accordance with the decision of the Council at its twenty-third session (E/5940, 19/ para. 291);

4. Decides that the scope of the study contained in paragraph 7 (g) (iv) of annex I to document DP/260 should refer to obtaining expert services from both donor and recipient countries.

588th meeting
29 June 1977

77/33. Agency overhead costs

The Governing Council,

Having considered the Administrator's report in documents DP/259 and Add.2, the views of the Inter-Agency Consultative Board as contained in document DP/259/Add.1 and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in document DP/284,

Taking account of the statements made and views expressed during the discussion of this item in the Budgetary and Finance Committee,

Recognizing that this question has broader aspects of a policy nature going beyond purely financial considerations and that a long-term solution must be sought through a consensus of Governments, based not only on sound technical factors but also on broader considerations of policy.

1. Decides to establish an intergovernmental Working Group on Overhead Costs, to work during sessions and only if necessary between sessions, open to participation by all members of the Council as well as observers, at no additional cost to the approved budget of UNDP; invites the Administrator of UNDP and the heads of the Executing Agencies or their representatives to participate actively in the work of the Group;

2. Invites the United Nations Board of Auditors, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Joint Inspection Unit, the Administrator and Executing Agencies to submit through the Administrator of UNDP to the President of the Governing Council for submission to the Working Group an expression of their views on the question of overheads including inter alia a clearer definition of the term "overheads" and the cost elements involved as a starting basis for the work of the Group;

3. Requests the Working Group to meet as required and examine comprehensively all aspects of this question in the light of the documents provided to the Council and the statements made and views expressed during the discussion of this item in the Budgetary and Finance Committee at the twenty-fourth session, including the question of reduction of overhead costs with the purpose of achieving an over-all reduction in programme support costs in United Nations technical co-operation programmes and to recommend a long-term system for meeting overhead costs which, while being consistent with the following requirements, would also take into account relationships with the assessed budgets and programmes of work of the Executing Agencies:

(a) Any system should include a clear and detailed enumeration of the expenditures involved in the term "overheads", and should reflect clearly the identifiable additional costs of administrative and technical support provided to technical co-operation programmes;

(b) It should be so designed as to provide an incentive to all parties concerned to minimize overhead costs;

(c) It should include adequate flexibility to take account of the special situation of the different agencies;

(d) It should reflect the fact that support for technical co-operation activities has increasingly become a function of the agencies, as well as the principle of full partnership between UNDP and the agencies in accordance with the Consensus of 1970;

(e) It should be easy to understand, simple to operate and be applicable to all forms of technical co-operation activities in the United Nations system, including all types of cost sharing where necessary support costs of the Executing Agencies as well as UNDP have to be covered;

4. Requests the Administrator of UNDP and the Executive Heads of the agencies to render all necessary assistance to the Working Group in its task;

5. Requests the Working Group to report back to the Governing Council at its session in June 1979, with an interim report at the session in June 1978;

6. Decides that, in the meantime, the present arrangements for reimbursement at 14 per cent of project expenditures, together with the existing flexibility arrangements for the smaller agencies, will continue for the years 1978 and 1979 and, if after this period no final decision is taken on the basis of recommendations of the Working Group, the present percentage shall be reviewed; further decides that cases of particular hardship due primarily to currency exchange fluctuation and heavy programme reduction shall be dealt with on an ad hoc basis;

7. Authorizes the Administrator to reimburse an amount of \$157,168 to the International Telecommunication Union representing a special overhead reimbursement in respect of the year 1976, as an exceptional measure and without making it a precedent for overhead payments to smaller agencies in the future.

588th meeting
29 June 1977

77/34. Administrative budget for 1978

The Governing Council,

Having considered the administrative budget for 1978,

1. Approves appropriations in an amount of \$85,550,600 gross to be allocated from the resources of UNDP to finance the 1978 programme budget as follows:

<u>Programme</u>	<u>\$US</u>
Policy-making organs	1,203,900
Executive direction and management	1,219,700
Programme management and support	39,745,000
Sectoral support services	5,254,500
Administrative and common services	36,263,200
United Nations Volunteers	1,318,000
United Nations Capital Development Fund	546,300
Total gross	85,550,600

2. Resolves that the income estimates in an amount of \$20,592,600 shall be used to offset the gross appropriations in paragraph 1 above;

3. Agrees that the Administrator shall be authorized to transfer credits between programmes of the 1978 budget, within reasonable limits with the concurrence of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;
4. Approves appropriations in an amount of \$1,918,200 gross for the Office of Projects Execution to be financed from UNDP resources under the heading of overhead costs;
5. Resolves that the income estimates in an amount of \$478,000 shall be used to offset the gross appropriations in paragraph 4 above;
6. Approves appropriations in an amount of \$1,099,500 gross for the Office for Projects Execution to carry out Sahelian and Capital Development Fund operations to be financed from the resources of these funds;
7. Resolves that income estimates in an amount of \$1,099,500 shall be used to offset the gross appropriations in paragraph 6 above;
8. Approves appropriations in an amount of \$689,800 gross for the costs of support services for UNDP-executed projects (\$594,800) and the co-ordinating group for interagency procurement (\$95,000) to be financed from UNDP resources under the heading of overhead costs;
9. Resolves that income estimates in the amount of \$106,700 shall be used to offset the gross appropriations in paragraph 8 above;
10. Approves appropriations in the amount of \$506,300 gross for the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration to be financed from the resources of the Fund;
11. Resolves that income estimates in an amount of \$66,900 shall be used to offset the gross appropriations in paragraph 10 above;
12. Approves appropriations in the amount of \$944,700 gross for the United Nations Sahelian Office to be financed from the resources contributed for this purpose;
13. Resolves that income estimates in an amount of \$128,600 shall be used to offset the gross appropriations in paragraph 12 above;
14. Decides to increase the budgetary provisions to finance the requirements of 36 SIDFA posts for 1978 and, to this end, also approves additional appropriation in the amount of \$523,300 gross which would be offset by income estimates of \$89,100;
15. Requests the Administrator of UNDP and the Executive Director of UNIDO to allocate the six additional SIDFA posts in particular to least developed countries and other countries in acute need of industrial development advice;
16. Requests the Administrator of UNDP and Executive Director of UNIDO to explore alternative methods of financing SIDFAs in order to alleviate the UNDP administrative and programme support budget, and to include their findings in the report on sectoral support to be submitted to the Governing Council at its twenty-fifth session;
17. Takes note of the Administrator's report on the Consultative Group on Food Production and Investment and authorizes UNDP's participation in the activities of the Group, and approves an additional appropriation of \$232,500 for 1978 under

the heading "Jointly financed activities" for UNDP's participation in the Group on the understanding that (a) the decision does not at this stage commit UNDP to participation in the Group beyond 1978 and (b) that a comprehensive report on the activities of the Group will be submitted to the Council in 1978;

18. Requests the Economic and Social Council to recommend to the General Assembly that administrative expenses of the Capital Development Fund should be met from voluntary contributions made to that Fund;

19. Endorses the programme budget approach as a step towards a coherent management strategy for UNDP;

20. Requests the Administrator to submit to the Governing Council, at its twenty-fifth session a report on the feasibility of a two-year budget cycle for the UNDP administrative and programme support costs combined with an evaluation of past activities and a longer-term review and projection in alternate years of the manner in which the use of the administrative and programme support budget contributes to the achievement of the programme objectives of UNDP while taking into account any additional aspects deriving from the fact that the budget of UNDP is financed from voluntary contributions pledged on an annual basis;

21. Requests the Administrator in the light of the regulations established by the General Assembly to apply actively a personnel policy aimed at reaching the greatest possible equity in terms and conditions of employment as well as in appointments and promotions enhancing the professional quality of UNDP staff and increasing the productivity of UNDP;

22. Further requests that due emphasis be placed, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 3352 (XXIX), on the appointment, placement, assignment and promotion of women within the UNDP staff, and that periodic reports be submitted to the Council on the progress achieved;

23. Requests the Administrator:

(a) To continue his efforts to create a set of norms to reach the above-mentioned objectives;

(b) To implement the action plan to further improve the quality of personnel management contained in paragraph 10 of document DP/GC/XXIV/CRP.4;

(c) To develop the long-term staffing projections of UNDP into more detailed plans on the need of various categories of staff and their deployment during the second development cycle;

24. Requests the Administrator to include his report to the Council on the above-mentioned aspects of personnel policy in the longer-term review referred to in paragraph 20 above;

25. Requests the Administrator to increase the priority afforded to evaluation and further requests that programme evaluation be clearly shown as a separate activity in future budgets.

588th meeting
29 June 1977

77/35. Administrative budget for 1977: supplementary appropriations

The Governing Council,

Takes note of the Administrator's report on the Consultative Group on Food Production and Investment (CGFPI) and authorizes UNDP's participation in the activities of the Group and approves supplementary appropriation for 1977 of \$208,000 under the programme heading "Jointly financed activities" on the understanding that (a) the decision does not at this stage commit UNDP to participate in the Group beyond 1978 and (b) that a comprehensive report on the activities of the Group will be submitted to the Council in 1978.

588th meeting
29 June 1977

77/36. Custodianship of UNDP funds

The Governing Council

1. Notes with appreciation that the secretariats of the United Nations and the United Nations Development Programme are working in harmony in meeting the objectives listed in document DP/281;

2. Requests the Administrator to continue, in the manner reported in document DP/281, discussions with the Secretary-General on the question of custodianship of UNDP funds, in the expectation that delegations of authority urgently required for the sound financial management of UNDP will be achieved before the twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council;

3. Requests the Administrator to submit a report to the Council at its twenty-fifth session on the progress made with respect to the administration of UNDP funds, together with the comments of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

588th meeting
29 June 1977

77/37. Sectoral support

The Governing Council

1. Takes note of the progress report by the Administrator on sectoral support (DP/253);

2. Requests the Administrator to submit his final report on sectoral support at the June 1978 session of the Council, taking into account the views and observations expressed by the members at the twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council including the possible role of sectoral support in promoting technical co-operation among developing countries.

588th meeting
29 June 1977

77/38. UNFPA: budget estimates for the administrative and programme support services for the year 1978

The Governing Council,

Having considered the 1978 budget estimates for administrative and programme support services of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (DP/264) and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (DP/280),

1. Approves appropriations in the amount of \$4,656,197 net to finance the 1978 programme budget in accordance with the recommendation of the Advisory Committee amended to reflect the reclassification of one post to the P-5 level for the African Section of the Project Division, to be allocated from the resources of UNFPA as follows:

<u>Programme</u>	<u>\$</u>
Executive direction and management	823,100
Administration and public information support services	1,213,302
Programme planning, appraisal and monitoring	<u>2,619,795</u>
Total net	<u>4,656,197</u>

2. Requests the Executive Director of UNFPA to submit a report to the Council at its next session on the feasibility of including the costs of the field co-ordinators in the administrative and programme support budget of UNFPA;

3. Further requests the Executive Director of UNFPA to include information in the future administrative and programme support budgets of UNFPA on workload data in support of staffing proposals as well as the other information referred to in the report of the Advisory Committee (DP/280).

588th meeting
29 June 1977

77/39. UNFPA: Infrastructure support for population posts
in the organizations of the United Nations system

The Governing Council

1. Takes note of the progress report by the Executive Director of UNFPA (DP/257) on infrastructure support for population posts in the organizations of the United Nations system;

2. Authorizes him to continue discussions with the organizations in the United Nations system on this subject with a view to further reducing UNFPA-funded infrastructure posts on the basis of the agreed definition of such posts, until a desirable minimum of UNFPA-funded infrastructure posts is attained in each organization;

3. Requests the Executive Director to submit a further report on this subject to the Governing Council at its next session, bearing in mind the views expressed at the twenty-fourth session of the Council.

588th meeting
29 June 1977

77/40. United Nations technical co-operation activities

533. At its 588th meeting, on 29 June 1977, the Governing Council took note of the report of the Secretary-General on United Nations technical co-operation activities (DP/RP/18 and Corr.1) and of the observations made during the discussion.

588th meeting
29 June 1977

77/41. United Nations Volunteers

The Governing Council,

Taking note of the Administrator's report on United Nations Volunteers (DP/269) and of paragraphs 94 to 98 of the Administrator's annual report (DP/255), and the comments thereon by members of the Council,

Recognizing the importance of employing the most suitable personnel for the achievement of specific objectives as well as the need to make maximum effective use of all resources in order to enhance the assistance available to developing countries,

Convinced that the use of Volunteers can add a valuable extra dimension to development projects,

Realizing that the long-term advantages of Volunteers may not be fully appreciated by all recipient countries,

Recalling its decision at its twenty-second session concerning the future financing of all volunteer in-country costs from country IPFs,

Recognizing, nevertheless, that financing outside the scope of country IPFs may be required for a limited period of time to maintain the viability of the programme in the least developed and newly independent countries,

1. Calls upon the Administrator to increase efforts to publicize the value of volunteer contributions and to explain to prospective recipient countries the technical, practical and economic advantages of their involvement in country projects;

2. Urges the Administrator to integrate Volunteers to the fullest extent practical in the formulation of country projects, bearing in mind the desirability of careful selection of candidates and the appropriateness of individual assignments;

3. Reaffirms its decision at its twenty-second session that all volunteer in-country costs should be financed from country IPFs;

4. Further decides that this shall take full effect from 1 January 1982;

5. Requests the Administrator to encourage the funding of the Volunteers programme increasingly from country IPFs;

6. Approves, as a practical means of moving toward such financing without jeopardy to the continued growth of the programme:

(a) The inclusion of in-country costs for Volunteers in projects funded from the Special Measures Fund for the least developed countries, if so requested by the recipient country concerned;

(b) The utilization from regular UNDP resources up to \$1 million in 1978, \$750,000 in 1979, \$500,000 in 1980 and \$250,000 in 1981 for the funding of in-country volunteer costs in the least developed and newly independent countries;

(c) The continued use until 1 January 1982 of the Special Voluntary Fund at a declining rate and without jeopardy to its specified purposes, to meet in-country costs of Volunteers in the least developed and newly independent countries;

7. Calls upon the Administrator, consistent with the needs and requests of developing countries, to enhance the scope and enlarge the size of the United Nations Volunteers programme through imaginative employment of this source of technical expertise;

8. Appeals to Governments to take into account the growing number and widening scope of the United Nations Volunteers activities and, consequently, to consider contributing, or increasing their contribution, as the case may be, to the United Nations Volunteers Special Voluntary Fund.

589th meeting
30 June 1977

77/42. Technical co-operation among developing countries

525. At its 589th meeting, on 30 June 1977, on the recommendation of the Committee on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, the Governing Council adopted the following decision.

The Governing Council,

Recalling resolutions 3251 (XXIX), 3405 (XXX) and 3461 (XXX), as well as other pertinent resolutions of the General Assembly,

Recalling further the decision on the report on the implementation of the recommendations of the report of the Working Group on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries on its third session, adopted at the twenty-third session (see E/5940, para. 435, decision I), as well as its other pertinent decisions,

1. Takes note of the Study on rules, regulations, procedures and practices of the United Nations development system in recruiting experts, subcontracting, procuring equipment and providing fellowships, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 3461 (XXX), paragraph 3 (DP/229, vols. I and II);
2. Takes note with appreciation of the introductory statements made by the Administrator and the Deputy Administrator and of the observations and suggestions made during the consideration of the item;
3. Considers that the utilization of the capacity of developing countries for providing experts and consultants, fellowship placements, subcontracted services and equipment and supplies constitutes an important means of strengthening technical co-operation in general and technical co-operation among developing countries in particular;
4. Considers further that all necessary measures designed to promote equalization of access to opportunities for providing project inputs by developing countries should be taken by the organizations of the United Nations development system;
5. Requests the Administrator, Participating and Executing Agencies and regional commissions to continue to promote or establish, as the case may be, and to the extent that financial resources, including those effected through savings, permit, a co-ordinated programme for the purposes listed below. If additional resources are required, the Administrator should submit a request, together with a statement on financial implications, to the next session of the Governing Council for consideration and decision:
 - (a) Identification, on a continuing basis, of developing countries' capacities for providing expert and consultant services, fellowship placement facilities, consulting services and equipment and supplies;
 - (b) Exchange of information within the United Nations development system on developing countries' capacities for providing experts and consultants, fellowship placements, consulting services and equipment and supplies;
 - (c) Collecting from the organizations of the United Nations development system and disseminating to all potential suppliers, in particular to those from

developing countries, information on opportunities for providing project inputs, and helping developing countries individually and collectively to identify and to pool their subcontracting and procurement capacities, as well as to identify the elements and specifications of project components which could be provided by them individually and/or collectively;

(d) Organization of interagency special missions for the evaluation of the quality and related aspects of training facilities, consulting services, and indigenous equipment and supplies, and where necessary, making arrangements for the testing of the samples of equipment and supplies;

(e) Identification of training facilities, consulting services and the range of locally produced equipment and supplies in developing countries which need some improvement and/or adaptation for utilization in technical co-operation programmes and where improvement and/or adaptation can be effected within the framework of UNDP technical co-operation programmes;

(f) Identification, in co-operation with the Governments of developing countries, of the needs for and promotion of subregional, regional and interregional training facilities and consulting services or adding subregional, regional or interregional dimensions to national training facilities and consulting services;

(g) Compilation and publication of directories of training facilities, consulting services, firms and equipment manufacturers in developing countries;

(h) Assistance to developing countries in the organization of professional bodies of consulting institutions and manufacturers of equipment and supplies;

(i) Formulating for approval, as appropriate, by the intergovernmental bodies concerned suitable changes in the rules, regulations, procedures and practices of UNDP, Participating and Executing Agencies and regional commissions for recruiting experts and consultants, placing fellows, awarding subcontracts and procuring equipment and supplies in order to facilitate the utilization of developing countries' capacities;

(j) Advising Governments of developing countries how to increase the utilization of their countries' capacities in recruitment of experts, fellowship placement, award of subcontracts and procurement of equipment and supplies;

(k) Holding seminars and workshops to enable Governments, national focal points for TCDC, firms and consulting organizations of developing countries to learn the procedural requirements of the United Nations system covering subcontracting and procurement;

(l) Advising Governments, the national focal points for TCDC, the Missions of developing countries to the United Nations, consulting organizations and firms on the modalities of co-operation and co-ordination necessary in order to strengthen TCDC through the technical co-operation activities of the United Nations development system;

6. Recommends to the Administrator that the Special Unit for Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries in UNDP should serve as the TCDC secretariat and should develop functional linkages with UNDP's Regional Bureaux,

the offices of Resident Representatives, United Nations Participating and Executing Agencies, regional commissions, national focal points for TCDC and Governments of developing countries in order to co-ordinate the establishment of the programme mentioned in paragraph 5 of this decision and to report periodically on its implementation;

7. Invites developing countries to avail themselves of the services of the organizations of the United Nations development system, and especially of the Special Unit for TCDC in UNDP, in order to pool, co-ordinate, streamline and possibly twin their consultancy services at the national, subregional and regional levels. Developing countries should undertake, as soon as possible, a review of their professional organizations, academic institutions, management institutions, research and development organizations and existing consultancy organizations in order to determine existing and/or potential subcontracting and consultancy capabilities. The aim of this exercise should be to help organize the establishment and strengthening of national consultancy and subcontracting organizations in the developing countries, at various levels and in the various sectors of their economies, covering different sets of disciplines;

8. Requests the Administrator, the United Nations Participating and Executing Agencies and regional commissions:

(a) To revise the requirements or conditions laid down for, or governing the inclusion of experts or consultants on their lists and rosters so as to allow a more flexible approach to "age" and "experience" criteria in order to facilitate equitable access to opportunities to developing countries' experts. In this regard, recommendations 6 28/ and 8 29/ of the meeting of Representatives of the National Recruitment Services held in Lomé, should be taken into account;

(b) To orient the job descriptions for the posts of experts and consultants and interviews of the candidates for these posts towards the specific functions of each job. Due weight should be given, in prescribing the qualifications of experts and consultants, to the technical requirements of the functions to be performed as well as to other factors such as flexibility, adaptability and capacity for resourcefulness and improvisation required to operate in an unstructured work environment, ability to undertake effective cross-cultural communication and to establish rapport with national staff, and involvement and identification with the people they are expected to serve;

(c) To define supplier "experience" (technical and organizational), as a requirement for registration on the rosters of consultancy organizations and suppliers of equipment, with greater flexibility without interfering, however, with the technical aspects of project execution so as to allow relevant organizations

28/ "The Meeting recommends that greater provision should be made for the recruitment of young experts for technical co-operation programmes. It stresses the need for a flexible approach to age and experience criteria, as well as the need to ensure that job descriptions contain all the information likely to be of help to national recruitment services in the application of these criteria."
(Document TARS/23/76).

29/ "The Meeting recommends that a greater number of experts, including young experts, should be recruited from the developing countries." (Document TARS/23/76).

and firms from developing countries to participate in the development activities of the United Nations development system;

(d) To give priority, in technical co-operation projects in which the transfer of know-how and/or technology are the primary considerations or inputs, to the proposal of experts or consultants from developing countries with the requisite technical and/or professional qualifications and ensure that full consideration is given to relevant cultural and work background;

9. Invites the Governments of developing countries to contribute towards the compilation, production and publishing of subregional and regional directories of manufacturers, suppliers, consulting organizations and firms through national organizations such as chambers of commerce and industry, manufacturers' associations, departments of trade and industry and using the assistance of the offices of the Resident Representatives, United Nations Participating and Executing Agencies and regional commissions. The work already done by the regional organs of the United Nations organizations should be taken into account in the preparation of these directories which could be published at agreed intervals. The directories should be distributed through national focal points for TCDC, the offices of the Resident Representatives, the chambers of commerce and industry, the departments of trade and industry and through any regional organizations, including regional development banks, and should be used as a means of promoting regional and interregional commercial contacts as well as sources for identifying the capacities of developing countries to deliver equipment and supplies for technical co-operation among themselves. There should be a mutual feedback between the information collected for the directories and the TCDC Information Referral System as a focal point within the United Nations system for information concerning TCDC;

10. Invites the Governments of developing countries to contribute towards the compilation and publishing of directories of educational and training facilities available in each region in order to facilitate the placement of fellows in developing countries. For that purpose, the Governments could call upon the services of UNDP, United Nations Participating and Executing Agencies and regional commissions. At appropriate intervals the Governments, the organizations of the United Nations development system and national and regional institutions should carry out surveys to determine what new types of educational or training facilities need to be established in developing countries in order to provide sources of new skills and technology needed to help sustain economic and social development. The reports of such surveys should include proposals as to what international regional or subregional action or co-operation is required to ensure the establishment of such facilities, including the part likely to be played by the United Nations development system in facilitating the establishment of such institutions. There should be a mutual feedback between the data compiled for the directories and the TCDC Information Referral System;

11. Requests the Administrator, United Nations Participating and Executing Agencies and regional commissions to enforce rigorously the relevant provisions of the decision on new dimensions of technical co-operation adopted by the Governing Council at its twentieth session 30/ and endorsed by the General Assembly 31/ by

removing any prohibition or restrictions on awarding local subcontracts and undertaking local procurement of indigenous equipment and supplies for the UNDP-financed programme, the programmes financed from regular budgets, and the programmes financed from trust and other funds;

12. Requests the Administrator, United Nations Participating and Executing Agencies and regional commissions to formulate and implement specific TCDC orientation training programmes for the personnel of recruitment, fellowship placement, contracting and procurement services. The Special Unit for TCDC should prepare and distribute guidelines for such programmes together with pertinent information on various TCDC projects and activities;

13. Recommends to the Administrator, United Nations Participating and Executing Agencies and regional commissions that staff members with relevant qualifications, competences, and with the understanding of TCDC objectives and approach should be appointed at appropriate levels in their recruitment, fellowship placement, contracting and procurement services;

14. Requests the Administrator to prepare through the Special Unit for TCDC, jointly with the recruitment, fellowship placement, subcontracting and procurement services of the organizations of the United Nations development system, a technical study on the criteria for evaluation of project inputs from developed and developing countries in the context of operational needs of technical co-operation programmes, with concrete case studies wherever feasible. This study should be submitted to the Governing Council and thereafter disseminated to all Governments of developing and developed countries, substantive staff members of the secretariats and the personnel of recruitment, fellowship placement, contracting and procurement services of the United Nations organizations;

15. Requests the Administrator, United Nations Participating and Executing Agencies and regional commissions, in cases of parity in both cost and quality of project inputs available from developing and developed countries, and with the approval of the recipient country, to give preference in the UNDP-financed technical co-operation projects and programmes to inputs from developing countries. In applying this decision to equipment and supplies, quality does not include appearance and finish or standard names, but includes requirements of operation and maintenance, and the appropriateness and adaptability of technology to the real requirements of the project, including the appropriate timeliness of the input, availability of spare parts and after-sales service, etc. The Council recommends that Participating and Executing Agencies and other member organizations in the United Nations system should adopt the same policy in technical co-operation projects and programmes financed from regular budgets and trust and other funds;

16. Requests the Administrator, United Nations Participating and Executing Agencies and regional commissions to take into account both the cost of equipment, including costs of shipment, packaging and insurance, and the recurrent foreign exchange costs on imported spare parts, materials and services during the life of the equipment as the total price of equipment in the case of a cost differential between locally manufactured and imported equipment;

17. Requests the Administrator to report further to the Governing Council on the possibility that, when comparing the cost of imported equipment and supplies with the cost of locally manufactured equipment and supplies of a given recipient country, normal import duties be included in the total cost of imported equipment

and supplies as a measure of equity, even though equipment and supplies for technical co-operation projects may be exempted from such import duties;

18. Requests the Administrator, United Nations Participating and Executing Agencies and regional commissions to grant, with the approval of a recipient country, preferential treatment up to 15 per cent of the purchase price in respect of local procurement of indigenous equipment and supplies of developing countries and requests the organizations in the United Nations system to submit, through the Administrator, a report on the practical effect of this measure after its operation for a period of two years;

19. Decides to entrust the final responsibility for co-ordinating, guiding, monitoring and keeping under continuing evaluation the efforts of the United Nations development system in the implementation of the above-mentioned decisions to the Administrator of UNDP and, through him, to the Special Unit for TCDC and requests him to report regularly to the Governing Council, and to arrange for an external evaluation of the efforts of the United Nations development system in the implementation of these decisions at a suitable time in the future;

20. Requests the Administrator, Participating and Executing Agencies and regional commissions to implement the recommendations of the Working Group on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries contained in paragraphs 43, 44 and 46 of its report 32/ in the following manner:

(a) Lists of experts submitted to the Governments should include, whenever practicable and provided it is consistent with the interests of the prompt implementation and maximum effectiveness of the project, at least 50 per cent from developing countries. Within these conditions, additional efforts should be made to propose experts from developing countries from all geographical regions;

(b) In the placement of trainees and fellows, supply of equipment, subcontracting and consulting services, developing countries should be given the option at the earliest to obtain such facilities and services from both developing and developed countries through the inclusion of a reasonable proportion of facilities and services from developing countries in the offers submitted to Governments. In particular, in those cases where the supply of equipment and consultancy services involves choice of technology, this option should be applied with a view to reducing their present technological dependence and to developing technological self-reliance through co-operation among themselves;

(c) When supplies and equipment are procured by UNDP in a developing country for projects in other developing countries or when they are procured locally, payment should be made in convertible currency when UNDP or Participating and Executing Agencies do not hold accumulated sums of the currency of the supplying country. In the case of countries whose currencies have accumulated the Administrator should consider the implications of allowing payment in convertible currency for components of equipment originally imported and paid for by the supplying country in convertible currency, and should prepare a report on the matter, in order that the appropriate final decisions may be taken.

589th meeting
30 June 1988

77/43. Periodicity of the sessions of the Governing Council

The Governing Council,

Having considered the report of the Administrator on the frequency and timing of future sessions of the Governing Council (DP/256),

Bearing in mind that the present system of biannual sessions places upon delegations, the UNDP secretariat, and the United Nations conference services, a heavy burden in terms of staff, time and over-all cost,

Mindful of the need for the Governing Council to maintain close and effective supervision over the Programme,

Convinced that adequate time must be allowed between sessions for the preparation, well in advance of the meetings, of concise but well-considered documents and proposals which would facilitate the work of the Council and its decision-making process,

Keeping in mind that the General Assembly and its Committee on Conferences have frequently stressed the need to reduce the frequency and length of the sessions of the various organs of the United Nations,

1. Recommends to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, to authorize the Governing Council of UNDP to hold from 1978 onwards and on an experimental basis, one annual session and further recommends as a provisional measure, to hold a three-day meeting of the Governing Council in January 1978 devoted to the consideration and approval of country and intercountry programmes and projects;

2. Requests the Administrator to consult with the United Nations to ensure that the Governing Council documents submitted by the Administrator between the Council's sessions are given proper priority for translation and reproduction so that the Council members can be kept informed without delay of main developments in the Programme and have sufficient time to prepare themselves for the policy decisions to be taken at the sessions of the Council;

3. Requests further that the Administrator make the necessary arrangements for the country programmes to be translated and reproduced by the United Nations as and when they are submitted by Governments, without awaiting the six-week rule for their issuance;

4. Decides to suspend provisionally as from 1978 the application of rule 1 of its rules of procedure, bearing in mind that under rule 2 additional or special meetings can be convened should it become necessary;

5. Decides to suspend the application of rule 11 of its rules of procedure and to elect the members of the Bureau at the first meeting of the annual session of the Council;

6. Recommends further that the venue of the session of the Council in 1978, should, if possible, be in New York and then alternately Geneva and New York unless the Council decides to accept the invitation of a developing country offering to host the session of the Council.

550. Two delegations stated that, while they could support the decision, they would have preferred to have the text specify that the Council meetings in January would be devoted to the country and intercountry programmes and projects and such urgent issues as were referred to the Council by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, which could not wait until the June session.

589th meeting
30 June 1977

77/44. Organizational provisions for the twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council

The Governing Council,

Recognizing the necessity to be kept fully advised on the quality and relevance of the co-operation financed by UNDP,

Bearing in mind the provisions in the Consensus of 1970 33/ concerning evaluation (paras. 50 and 51);

1. Requests the Administrator to make the necessary organizational provisions for the session of the Council in June 1978 in order to enable the Council to discuss selected topics based on inputs from ongoing evaluation of activities of the programme and on inputs from evaluation of selected areas of interest such as those mentioned in paragraph 48 of document DP/261;
2. Requests the Administrator to prepare, in co-operation with the specialized agencies, the relevant documentation for the Council;
3. Further requests the Administrator to make proposals on the most effective way in which this kind of discussion by the Council could be organized in future. /

589th meeting
30 June 1977

77/45. Investment follow-up

The Governing Council,

Bearing in mind the general guidelines for the future orientation of the United Nations Development Programme set out in paragraph (e)(viii) and (ix) of the annex to General Assembly resolution 3405 (XXX),

1. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of the twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council an item entitled "Investment follow-up";

2. Requests the Administrator to prepare, in co-operation with the specialized agencies, the relevant documents for the Council.

589th meeting
30 June 1977

77/46. Annual report of the Administrator for 1976; Assistance to colonial countries and peoples; Information on the regular and extrabudgetary programmes of technical co-operation in 1976 of the organizations of the United Nations system

89. At its 590th meeting, on 1 July 1977, the Governing Council took note of the annual report of the Administrator for 1976, the report of the Administrator on UNDP assistance to colonial countries and peoples and information on the regular and extrabudgetary programmes of technical co-operation in 1976 of the organizations in the United Nations system as well as the views expressed by members and observers during the discussion of those reports.

590th meeting
1 July 1977

77/47. Role and activities of UNDP

The Governing Council,

Taking note of the report of the Administrator on the role and activities of UNDP (DP/261) and of the observations made by members of the Council during the consideration of that item and noting also the observations made by the agencies in the Council's deliberations,

Noting with appreciation the extensive efforts of the Administrator to associate the Participating and Executing Agencies in the discussion of UNDP's role and activities,

Recalling the decisions taken by the General Assembly at its sixth and seventh special sessions calling for the establishment of a new international economic order,

Taking note that Governments, in national and international forums, have reiterated their commitment to accelerate the social and economic development of developing countries in order to eliminate injustice and inequality which afflict vast sections of humanity,

Emphasizing the need to expedite the implementation of the new dimensions as defined at its twentieth session as well as promoting TCDC,

Underscoring the importance of obtaining the resources necessary to meet the requirements of the IPFs for the second cycle,

Re-emphasizing that it is imperative that the resources of the Programme should be utilized for the maximum and efficient delivery of technical co-operation services,

Reiterating the concern expressed at its twenty-second session about improving headquarters and field co-operation and co-ordination within the United Nations system, including the role of the resident representative in accordance with the Consensus of 1970, and taking note in particular of the decisions of that session on the quality and relevance of the Programme,

Reiterating also the need to ensure an integrated and interdisciplinary approach to operational activities, particularly in the field,

Recognizing the need for continued development and strengthening of UNDP in order to improve the work of the Programme,

1. Reaffirms the validity of the Consensus of 1970;
2. Reiterates the sovereign right of Governments to determine their development priorities and objectives;
3. Adopts the following:
 - (a) Multilateral technical co-operation should be directed clearly and exclusively towards the goal of national and collective self-reliance of the developing countries;
 - (b) Technical assistance programmes of UNDP should be increasingly oriented to bring about tangible transfers of technology, skills and know-how to the developing countries;
 - (c) The conceptual goals of new dimensions and TCDC should be translated into operational and concrete programmes covering the range of priorities established by the developing countries;
 - (d) The Administrator should take all necessary measures to introduce more flexibility in UNDP to enhance its dynamism and effectiveness and to make the scope of activities and working methods of the Programme more responsive to the changing needs and priorities emerging from new economic conditions of the developing countries;
 - (e) UNDP and the specialized agencies should together explore, in active consultation with both donor and recipient Governments, how the United Nations system can most effectively assist the developing countries in meeting their development priorities and objectives for technical co-operation, bearing in mind the need for increasing assistance for their priority programmes for the benefit of the poorer sectors;

(f) As the central funding body for technical co-operation in the United Nations system, UNDP should continue to mobilize resources for technical co-operation and manage them efficiently to respond effectively to the development priorities and objectives of the developing countries;

(g) In order to maximize the effectiveness of the technical co-operation operations of the United Nations system, the Administrator should, in full co-operation with the Participating and Executing Agencies, further develop existing functions of planning, appraisal and evaluation of operations of this kind carried out under UNDP programmes, to consolidate them into a comprehensive system of analysis and feedback, so as to ensure the optimal use of resources and a flexible system of programme management suited to each particular circumstance;

(h) The Administrator, in consultation with the Executing Agencies, particularly through IACB and its subsidiary organs, should continue to explore the possibility of harmonized financial, budgetary, personnel and planning procedures for the United Nations development system;

(i) Without prejudice to the universality of the Programme and its relevance to the needs of all developing countries, UNDP and the specialized agencies should continue their efforts to meet the special requirements of the least developed countries and the newly independent countries;

(j) UNDP should aim at further strengthening the universal character of the Programme by utilizing the experience and capacities of the greatest possible number of countries, in particular the developing countries, for technical co-operation in all its fields and geographical areas;

4. Invites the Administrator to continue discussions with the Executing Agencies with a view to improving substantive co-ordination of technical co-operation on the basis of the Consensus of 1970, and by means of:

(a) Progressive improvement of the country and intercountry programming process including, in particular, the implementation phase, for this purpose studying further the recommendations of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit in the light of the comments of members of the Council, the UNDP Administrator and Executing Agencies on this subject;

(b) Further improvement of co-ordination at the field level, with a view to strengthening the impact of the co-operation provided by the United Nations system in support of the development efforts of the developing countries taking into account the role of the resident representative as leading partner within the United Nations system at the country level as stipulated in the Consensus of 1970, endorsed by General Assembly resolution 2688 (XXV) of 11 December 1970;

(c) Where Governments so desire, in accordance with the Consensus of 1970, the expansion of the country programming framework;

5. Appeals to all Governments:

(a) To increase their voluntary contribution to the maximum, with a view to achieving and, if possible, even exceeding the over-all growth rate of 14 per cent on which the IPFs for the second cycle are predicated;

(b) To consider the possibility of giving indications of contributions over a multiyear period;

(c) To contribute to maintaining the coherence of the United Nations system by avoiding the creation of new technical co-operation funds within the United Nations system if such co-operation can be adequately undertaken by UNDP and, wherever feasible, by putting such existing funds within the framework of the United Nations Development Programme;

(d) To bear in mind the need for coherence in the United Nations development system as stated in General Assembly resolutions 2688 (XXV) and 31/171 of 21 December 1976 in their participation in the specialized agencies of the United Nations, including also their governing bodies;

(e) To provide that any additional resources which accrue to the programme over and above the projected resources for the second cycle should, by decision of the Governing Council in each case, be allocated either to the programme reserve to be used prudently for special and extraordinary purposes above IPF levels or, if required, to the operational reserve to protect against financial difficulties in the future; this should be without prejudice to the decision to be taken on the expert variance account deficit during the mid-term review;

6. Requests the Administrator:

(a) To invite, for informal discussions, interested Governments with a view to equitable sharing of the responsibility for providing resources for the Programme and to achieving, if possible, a multiyear financial basis for the programme, for planning purposes bearing in mind the voluntary nature of the programme resources, and the over-all flow of real resources for development assistance;

(b) To accept additional contributions for cost sharing and third-party cost sharing within given limits, prescribed in accordance with the relevant paragraphs of the report of the Budgetary and Finance Committee to the Council at its twenty-fourth session;

(c) To encourage the recipient Governments which are in a position to do so to achieve net contributor status by either increasing their contributions or forgoing their IPFs;

(d) To make every effort possible to reduce the administrative costs of the Programme, thereby making additional resources available for programmes and projects in the developing countries;

7. Requests the Administrator, taking into account the foregoing considerations, to prepare a report for the next session of the Council for further consideration of the role and activities of the United Nations Development Programme;

8. Invites the Economic and Social Council at its sixty-third session to give due consideration to this decision.

590th meeting
1 July 1977

77/48. Provisional agenda for the twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council

1. Opening of the session
2. Election of officers
3. Adoption of the agenda
4. Annual report of the Administrator for 1977 34/
5. Investment follow-up
6. Information on the regular and extrabudgetary programmes of technical co-operation of organizations in the United Nations system
7. Role and activities of UNDP
8. United Nations Sahelian Office and drought-stricken countries in Africa and adjacent areas
9. United Nations Volunteers
10. United Nations Capital Development Fund
11. United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration
12. Technical co-operation among developing countries
13. Action taken in 1977 by organs of the United Nations and organizations in the United Nations system
14. Country and intercountry programming and projects
15. Budgetary, administrative and financial matters:
 - (a) Financial outlook for the second IPF cycle 1977-1981 including the final expenditures for the first IPF cycle 1972-1976
 - (b) Cost-sharing arrangements
 - (c) Development of the Financial and Programme Information Network
 - (d) Budget estimates for 1979
 - (e) Report on the feasibility of establishing a biennial budget
 - (f) Report on the feasibility of further distinguishing between administrative and programme support costs respectively in the budget documents
 - (g) Recruitment and use and prospects of reducing the costs of UNDP-financed experts

- (h) Progress report on matters relating to custody of UNDP funds
 - (i) Agency overheads: progress report of the Intergovernmental Working Group
 - (j) Audit reports
 - (k) Financial regulations and rules
 - (l) Other matters
- 16. United Nations Fund for Population Activities
 - 17. United Nations technical co-operation activities
 - 18. Other matters
 - 19. Date and provisional agenda for the next session of the Governing Council
 - 20. Draft report of the Governing Council to the sixty-fifth session of the Economic and Social Council

591st meeting
1 July 1977

77/49. Date and place of the twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council

554. At the same meeting, the Governing Council decided to meet from 12 to 30 June 1978, with an additional meeting, as necessary, on 3 July 1978 to adopt its report to the Economic and Social Council. The sessional Committee on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries will convene on 5 June 1978 and meet simultaneously with the Intergovernmental Working Group on Overhead Costs. The Budgetary and Finance Committee will convene on 8 June 1978, and continue to meet during the Governing Council session. The meetings of the Governing Council to be held in January 1978 to consider and approve country and intercountry programmes and projects will be scheduled in mid-January.

591st meeting
1 July 1977

77/50. Interagency procurement services

429. At its 588th meeting, on 29 June 1977, on the recommendation of the Budgetary and Finance Committee, the Governing Council requested the Administrator to submit his study of the potential of interagency procurement services as outlined in document DP/272, taking into account the views expressed by members at the twenty-fourth session of the Council and at minimum possible cost in accordance with the approved administrative budget for 1978.

588th meeting
29 June 1977