

Third regular session 1996
9-13 September 1996, New York
Item 3 of the provisional agenda
UNDP

**OUTLINES OF UNDP AND UNFPA ISSUES PROPOSED FOR
CONSIDERATION BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD IN 1997**

INTRODUCTION

1. In its decision 96/25, the Executive Board decided, *inter alia*, to introduce an annual work plan for the Executive Board, and in paragraph 5 of the same decision requested that UNDP and UNFPA prepare, for the third regular session "an outline of issues that could be considered by the Board in 1997, based on previous deliberations of the Board and the organizational priorities and objectives set for 1997". The present document responds to that request.

I. UNDP

Guiding principles

2. The present document is intended to assist the Executive Board to structure its agenda around topics that are directly relevant to the ongoing or planned UNDP work programme. This will enable the Board to provide the most effective policy guidance to UNDP management on matters of current significance. The UNDP plan for the period 1996-1997 provides a new tool for identifying such topics and issues. It is further assumed that reports and other inputs from the secretariat that direct the attention of the Board to policy issues, rather than to managerial or technical matters, will also facilitate the role of the Board in the governance of UNDP. Thus, the proposals made herein focus on:

- (a) What UNDP considers to be its main organizational objectives in 1997;
- (b) What UNDP believes are the main challenges and issues in attaining those objectives;
- (c) How various reports due in 1997 might be related to the objectives or be handled in other constructive ways, either through the clustering of such reports under common headings, or by rescheduling certain items.

UNDP proposals

3. The proposals presented below are in the form of two tables. Table 1 presents the key points of the 1997 policy agenda arising from the 1996-1997 UNDP plan and the UNDP change management process, which senior management will need to consider in the coming year. The table links the priority topics on the agenda to relevant past decisions of the Executive Board and indicates the nature of the input the secretariat would be expected to provide. Executive Board consideration of these priority topics and the policy issues associated with them would help to guide the course that UNDP is expected to take during 1997 and beyond.

4. Table 2 is a compilation of all of the reports requested by the Executive Board that fall due in 1997, presented in a form intended to facilitate their efficient treatment. The table is provided to assist the Board in designing its work plan in a manner that ensures due attention to all salient items.

5. The proposals below are intended to serve as an input to the discussion by the members of the Executive Board on its work plan for 1997. A revised proposal will be submitted at the first regular session 1997, based on the outcome of the consultations held at the present session.

Table 1. UNDP 1997 priority issues

UNDP issue	UNDP input	Target date	Executive Board action
<p>1. Building poverty eradication into UNDP policy and programming as the top priority (UNDP plan objective 1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - further elaboration of SHD thematic focus; - approaches to capacity development; - support to country offices; - programme strategies and partnerships. [95/22] 	<p>Strategy paper</p> <p>Informal consultation</p>	<p>May 1997</p>	<p>Dialogue and guidance</p>
<p>2. Management of change (UNDP plan objective 5)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - update on status of implementation of change-management process; - proposals for aligning the UNDP organizational structure, management and support systems with its mandate. 	<p>Progress report</p> <p>Policy proposals</p>	<p>January 1997</p> <p>May 1997</p>	<p>Dialogue</p> <p>Dialogue and decisions</p>

Table 1 (continued)

UNDP issue	UNDP input	Target date	Executive Board action
<p>3. Implementing the new programming framework and ensuring programme quality: (UNDP plan objectives 1,2,5)</p> <p>(a) Focus issue: national execution;</p> <p>(b) Country/regional cooperation frameworks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - submission of CCFs/RCFs in accordance with programming criteria and General Assembly resolutions 47/199 and 50/120; [96/7] <p>(c) Interim report on implementation of the new arrangements; [95/23]</p> <p>(d) Format and timing of review of the new cycle, taking into consideration the rate of programme development and approvals; [95/23; 96/7]</p> <p>(e) Evaluation, learning and programme quality:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - annual evaluation report; compliance report; - lessons learned and their application; - strategic evaluation findings. [96/20] 	<p>Revised framework</p> <p>CCFs/RCFs</p> <p>Interim report</p> <p>Proposal for substantive review in 1998</p> <p>Major evaluation findings</p>	<p>May 1997</p> <p>Early 1997 through late 1997</p> <p>End 1997</p> <p>Spring 1997</p> <p>May 1997</p>	<p>Dialogue and guidance</p> <p>Decisions</p> <p>Dialogue and guidance</p> <p>Dialogue and guidance</p> <p>Dialogue and guidance</p>
<p>4. Information and publication policy (UNDP plan objective 3)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - targeted advocacy/communication strategy including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) effective approaches to decision-makers, legislators and civil society; (ii) focused publications and reporting; (iii) use of the Internet [96/22] 	<p>Policy paper</p>	<p>May 1997</p>	<p>Dialogue and guidance</p> <p>Take note</p>

Table 1 (continued)

UNDP issue	UNDP input	Target date	Executive Board action
<p>5. Supporting the resident coordinator system (UNDP plan objective 4)</p> <p>Progress under measures taken by UNDP (with JCGP and CCPOQ) to strengthen the resident coordinator cooperation system, including use of special funds for resident coordinator support. [General Assembly resolutions 47/199 and 50/120]</p>	Report	End 1997	Take note/ dialogue
<p>6. Financial and managerial oversight and planning (UNDP plan objective 5)</p> <p>(a) Financial and managerial oversight - annual review of financial situation; [95/28]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - strengthened accountability framework; [95/32] - scope and follow-up of audit activities in programme and systems development; [95/3] - changes required in Financial Regulations and Rules; <p>(b) Programme funding strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - core funding; - new programme funding sources; - options for replenishment process (UNDP plan objective no. 3) <p>(c) Budget strategy: [95/18]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - measures for synchronizing UNDP organizational plan and 1998-1999 budget strategy; - harmonization of budget presentations; - 1998-1999 budget proposals (in new format) 	<p>Report on accountability</p> <p>Reports</p> <p>Strategy paper</p> <p>Report</p> <p>Proposals</p> <p>Budget proposals</p>	<p>End 1997</p> <p>January 1997</p> <p>Sept 1997</p> <p>End 1997</p> <p>End 1997</p>	<p>Take note/ dialogue and possible decisions</p> <p>Dialogue and guidance</p> <p>Dialogue and decisions</p> <p>Dialogue and decisions</p>

Abbreviations: CCFs = country cooperation frameworks; CCPOQ = Consultative Committee on Programme and Operational Questions; JCGP = Joint Consultative Group on Policy; RCFs = regional cooperation frameworks; SHD = sustainable human development.

Table 2. UNDP consolidated list of reports to the Executive Board in 1997

Subject	Type of report	Deadline for preparation of report
ANNUAL SESSION		
ITEMS FOR ACTION		
1. Annual report of the Administrator		
A. Introduction 1. Major achievements and problems encountered in 1996; 2. Focus area: poverty eradication as central priority of UNDP (95/22) 3. Focus area: change management 4. Support for resident coordinator system	Written	End March 1997
B. Evaluation (96/20)	Written	End March 1997
C. Main programme record, including: 1. Environment and development (93/12); 2. Gender in development; 3. National capacity-building; 4. Programme management issues, including decentralization and the programme approach; 5. Issues relating to programme quality, impact, sustainability, efficiency and programme/project audits (ii-v: 92/2) and reports of: 1. Office to Combat Desertification and Drought; 2. United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration; 3. Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian people; 4. Technical cooperation among developing countries; and annual report on internal oversight	Written	End March 1997
2. Report to the Economic and Social Council (95/17).	Written	End March 1997
3. UNDP information and publication policy (96/22)	Written	End March 1997

Subject	Type of report	Deadline for preparation of report
4. United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) (96/33)	Written	End March 1997
5. United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) (95/18)	Written	End March 1997
ITEMS FOR INFORMATION		
1. Annual report of the Administrator:		
D. Statistical annex	Written	End March 1997
E. Reports of Joint Inspection Unit of interest to UNDP	Written	End March 1997
F. Subcontracts awarded and major equipment ordered in 1996	Written	End March 1997
G. Role of UNDP in the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (94/13)	Written	End March 1997
REGULAR SESSIONS		
ITEMS FOR ACTION		
6. Organizational matters		
Annual work plan (95/25)	Conference room paper	January 1997
Rules of procedure (95/25)	Conference room paper	January 1997
7. Issues relating to the programming cycles		
A. Country cooperation frameworks (CCFs), regional cooperation frameworks (RCFs), intercountry and global programmes and projects (95/25) - 130 CCFs/RCFs to be produced in 1997 [Starting in January]	Written	November 1996 for January 1997 submission
B. Assistance to Myanmar (96/1)	Written	November 1996
C. National execution (92/2) - focus issue for 1997	Written	End March 1997
D. Interim report on implementation of the new programming arrangements	Written	July 1997

Subject	Type of report	Deadline for preparation of report
ITEMS FOR INFORMATION		
8. United Nations Capital Development Fund (92/2)	Written	July 1997
9. Financial, budgetary and administrative matters		
A. Accountability review (95/32)	Written or oral	January 1997 if oral report; November 1996 if written report
B. Audit reports (95/3)	Written	November 1996
C. Harmonization of presentation of budgets and accounts (95/30) (UNDP/UNFPA)	Written	November 1996
D. Annual review of the financial situation 1996, including 1. net flow of contributions by donor and recipient Governments, including Management Service Agreements; 2. trust funds established by the Administrator; 3. status of the Reserve for Field Accommodation; 4. proposed amendments to the UNDP Financial Regulations and Rules (95/28)	Written	Autumn 1997
E. Revised budget estimates for biennium 1996-1997 (95/28)	Written	Autumn 1997
F. Budget estimates for biennium 1998-1999 (in new format)	Written	Autumn 1997
G. Activities of the Inter-Agency Procurement Services Office (95/28)	Written	Autumn 1997
H. UNOPS budget estimates and audit reports	Written	Autumn 1997
I. United Nations system regular and extrabudgetary technical cooperation expenditures (92/2)	Written (1998)	November 1997
10. United Nations technical cooperation activities (92/2)	Written (1998)	November 1997
11. Support to the resident coordinator system (General Assembly resolution 50/120)	Written	July 1997
Other matters		
12. Reports on field visits (two) (UNDP/UNFPA)	Conference room paper	Autumn 1997
13. Other matters: Round-table process	Oral	Autumn 1997

Note: In the column headed "Subject", numbers in parenthesis refer to Executive Board decisions.

II. UNFPA

Based on its organizational priorities and objectives, the Fund proposes the following list of topics, which are current preoccupations of UNFPA, as an outline of issues for consideration by the Board in 1997. Executive Board deliberation on these issues would help set the direction that the Fund would follow in coming years. The outline is presented according to five main groupings - programme priorities; programme implementation; programme support; resources; and budgetary and financial issues - as a way of helping to structure Executive Board deliberations according to thematic areas. The divisions are, of course, somewhat artificial, in that the themes, especially those dealing with gender, capacity-building, and national execution, inevitably cut across many aspects of the Fund's programme. In addition, table 4 provides a consolidated list of UNFPA reports to be submitted to the Executive Board in 1997.

Table 3. UNFPA 1997 priority issues

UNFPA issue	UNFPA input	Target date	Executive Board action
I. Programme priorities			
1. Continued follow-up to ICPD - how to implement ICPD priorities more effectively in UNFPA programmes, including the integration of gender concerns in all UNFPA activities	Reported on in annual report	Annual	Dialogue and guidance
2. Design UNFPA country programmes to help achieve ICPD goals (96/13)	40-plus UNFPA country programmes	Ongoing	Review and approval of country programme presentations; guidance on how to present large number of country programmes in 1997
3. Operationalize reproductive health services and information/advocacy at the country level, including for adolescents	Reported on in annual report	May 1997	Dialogue and guidance; possibly decision on endorsing importance of activities benefiting adolescents and encouraging UNFPA to intensify such activities.

Table 3 (continued)

UNFPA issue	UNFPA input	Target date	Executive Board action
4. Promote participation of NGOs, especially at the national level, in UNFPA-supported activities	Reported on in annual report	Annual	Dialogue and guidance
II. Programme implementation			
1. Build up national capacity in programme planning and implementation	Reported on in annual report	Annual	Dialogue and guidance
2. TSS arrangements (a) Implement and monitor TSS arrangements as way of building national capacity (95/34) (b) Assess appropriateness and effectiveness of TSS specialist posts	Reported on in annual report Separate report	May 1997 Sept. 1997	Dialogue and guidance Dialogue and guidance; decision regarding TSS specialists
3. More systematic monitoring of UNFPA programme activities, including a review of how policies are being applied	Reported on in annual report	Annual	Dialogue and guidance
4. Evaluation (a) Priority to evaluation of project and programme activities - to thematic evaluations - to key issues of ICPD Programme of Action (b) Make greater use of national experts in evaluation exercises (c) Enhance feedback of lessons learned into strategic planning	Reported on in annual report Reported on in annual report	Annual Annual	Dialogue and guidance Dialogue and guidance
III. Programme support			
1. Further develop UNFPA strategy and policy in area of advocacy, information and communication (96/18) - to increase awareness and promote better understanding of UNFPA activities - to support population and development at national and local levels	Separate report	May 1997	Decision to endorse strategy

Table 3 (continued)

UNFPA issue	UNFPA input	Target date	Executive Board action
<p>IV. Resources</p> <p>1. Income</p> <p>(a) Increase resource base of UNFPA</p> <p>(b) Explore ways and means to ensure that income is stable and predictable</p> <p>2. Further implement new approach to resource allocations (being accomplished through Fund-wide effort to project resource allocations country-by-country and to apply them in country programme submissions)</p>	<p>Reported on in Annual Report and work plan</p> <p>Reported on in the context of the work plan for 1998-2001</p>	<p>May 1997</p> <p>Annual</p>	<p>Dialogue and guidance; possibly a decision on more flexible use of reserve or other means of ensuring programme delivery</p> <p>Dialogue and guidance; approval of work plan</p>
<p>V. Budgetary and financial issues</p> <p>1. Approve APSS biennial budget estimates for 1998-1999</p> <p>2. Approve audit reports</p>	<p>Biennial budget estimates</p> <p>Audit reports</p>	<p>Every two years</p> <p>Every two years</p>	<p>Approval of biennial budget for 1998-1999</p> <p>Approval</p>

Abbreviations: ICPD = International Conference on Population and Development; TSS = technical support services; APSS = administrative and programme support services.

Table 4. UNFPA Consolidated list of reports to the Executive Board in 1997

Subject	Type of report	Target date
ANNUAL SESSION		
ITEMS FOR ACTION		
1. Workplan for 1998-2001	Written	March 1997
2. Recommendations on format, content and timing of country programme presentations (96/13)	Written	March 1997
3. Information and communications strategy (96/18)	Written	March 1997
ITEMS FOR INFORMATION		
1. Report of Executive Director for 1996 on: A. Core programme areas B. Evaluation C. Implementation of ICPD Programme of Action (95/15) D. Implementation of General Assembly resolutions 47/199 and 50/120 E. Global contraceptive commodity programme (96/03)	Written	March 1997
2. Reports to Economic and Social Council (General Assembly resolutions 47/199 and 50/120; Executive Board decision 94/23)	Written	March 1997
3. Status of financial implementation of UNFPA country programmes	Written	March 1997
REGULAR SESSIONS		
ITEMS FOR ACTION		
1. Approximately 40 country programmes	Written	November 1996 and January 1997
2. Implementation and monitoring of TSS arrangements (95/34)	Written	July 1997
3. Biennial APSS budget estimates	Written	July 1997
ITEMS FOR INFORMATION		
1. Audit reports	Written	November 1996
2. Harmonization of budget presentations (with UNDP)	Written	November 1996
3. Evaluation of UNFPA training activities (95/35)	Written	July 1997
4. Annual financial review, 1996	Written	July 1997

Abbreviations: ICPD = International Conference on Population and Development; TSS = technical support services; APSS = administrative and programme support services.

Annex I

ALLOCATION OF SUBJECTS FOR
FIRST REGULAR SESSION 1997
(13-17 January 1997)

Item 1. Organizational matters

- Annual work plan 1997
- Rules of procedure

UNDP segment

Item 2. Country cooperation frameworks and related matters

- Country cooperation frameworks (CCFs) (approximately 50);
Regional cooperation frameworks (RCFs); Intercountry and
global programmes and projects (95/25)
- Report on assistance to Myanmar (96/01)

Item 3. Audit reports (95/3)

Item 4. Report on accountability system of UNDP

UNDP/UNFPA segment

Item 5. Harmonization of presentation of budgets and accounts (written report)

UNFPA segment

Item 6. Country programmes [approximately 20] and related matters

Item 7. Audit reports

Item 8. Other matters
