Executive Board
of the
United Nations
Development Programme
and of the
United Nations
Population Fund

Second regular session 1994
10-13 May 1994, New York
Item 5 of the provisional agenda

COUNTRY PROGRAMME, MID-TERM REVIEWS AND RELATED MATTERS

Report on field visits to Albania and Uzbekistan
MISSION REPORT

UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL

STANDING COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME MATTERS

FIELD VISIT

TO

ALBANIA AND UZBEKISTAN

(9-23 August 1993)

New York, August 1993
REPORT ON THE
FIELD VISITS TO ALBANIA AND UZBEKISTAN

Introduction

In accordance with UNDP Governing Council decision 91/2, eight members of the Council’s Standing Committee on Programme Matters (SCPM), comprising Algeria, Benin, Canada, Ecuador, Indonesia, Nicaragua, Poland and Slovakia visited Albania from August 8-14, and subsequently Uzbekistan from August 16-23, 1993, to review UNDP/UNFPA activities. This was the first SCPM field trip to countries covered by UNDP’s Division for Europe and the CIS. The team was accompanied throughout by a member of UNDP’s Division of External Relations, and during the Albania portion by a headquarters-based UNFPA programme officer.

UNDP organized three pre-departure briefing meetings for team members, and provided the team with comprehensive briefing material, particularly on Albania, well in advance of the trip.

Annexes A and B contain full details on the team and its programmes in Albania and Uzbekistan.

PART ONE: ALBANIA

I. Organizational Arrangements for the Mission

The programme drawn up by the Resident Coordinator in Albania was aimed at providing team members with an understanding of the Albanian context, and the role of UNDP and UNFPA in Albania. It involved meetings with the country’s top leaders, including the President, Prime Minister and several cabinet ministers; briefings by the Resident Coordinator and UN agency representatives; discussions with Government officials and representatives of institutions and NGO’s; as well as visits to UNDP/UNFPA projects and selected industrial and mining enterprises, both in and outside the capital, Tirana.

Logistical arrangements for all the meetings and visits were to the team’s complete satisfaction. Particularly praiseworthy was the thoroughly professional interpretation service provided by the Resident Coordinator’s office.

The programme provided the team with a well-balanced exposure to Albania’s development prospects and constraints, and the
UNDP/UNFPA response to the country’s needs. However, in hindsight, the number of meetings and visits may have been excessive. The shortness of time sometimes made it difficult for team members to pursue various issues in depth. The briefing documentation prepared by the Resident Coordinator’s office was excellent; nevertheless, a longer period of time with the Resident Coordinator on the first official day of the programme would have been helpful, to give team members a more extensive overview of the Albanian situation and UNDP/UNFPA activity in the country.

II. Context

A. The Situation of Albania

Albania has recently emerged from 46 years of totalitarian communist rule, during which time it became one of the most isolated countries in the world. This regime established the most rigorously centralized economy of Eastern Europe, with all forms of private economic activity prohibited, except private gardening. The results of its policies were low levels of productivity, the maintenance of obsolete decades-old technology, economic stagnation and decline characterized by zero or negative growth since 1985, a population with no capacity for individual initiative or independent decision-making, and general deterioration and decay of economic and social infrastructure.

Starting in 1990, the dictatorship began to unravel. This process was completed in March 1992, with the election of the country’s first democratic government. The reform agenda of the new Government is nothing less than the complete overhaul of the country’s political and socio-economic system. During the initial period of transition, output collapsed, monthly inflation soared to as high as 25%, foreign exchange reserves virtually disappeared, and repeated attempts were made at mass emigration. Consequently, the Government’s first priorities have been aimed at restoring political, economic and social stability. At the same time, it has undertaken a far-reaching privatization programme, a full restructuring of the banking system and monetary policy, and a comprehensive liberalization of prices, external trade and currency exchange. As a result of these initiatives together with a massive infusion of foreign aid, the Albanian economy has experienced a modest degree of recovery over the past year, particularly in the agricultural sector. However, the industrial sector remains in deep decline.

With a per capita GNP estimated by the World Bank to be as low as $250 and an average wage rate of $20-$30 per month, Albania is decidedly the poorest country in Europe. However, its legacy from the communist regime has included some benefits, including complete electrification across the country, a relatively good road system, and an educated and retrainable population. Combined with
its considerable natural resources endowments (chromite, copper, oil and fertile agricultural land, most of it irrigated), and its small population (3.2 million people), these factors point to a solid development potential for the country.

In assessing the current situation of Albania, one cannot ignore the war in the neighboring ex-Yugoslavia. This casts a shadow over the entire Balkan region, and certainly has some negative implications for foreign investor confidence. At the same time, political tensions persisting within Albania itself have created further uncertainty, underlining the fragility of the new order emerging from Albania's radical transformation.

B. Aid Flows

Foreign aid commitments to Albania for the period 1991-1993 total $1.4 billion. The largest single contributor, with $405 million in commitments, is the European Community. Italy, with nearly $400 million in commitments, is by far the largest bilateral donor, followed by the USA and Germany. Next come the Bretton Woods institutions with commitments of $88 million and $81 million from IMF and the World Bank respectively. At the present time, World Bank assistance is totally in the form of IDA credits.

The initial phase of this large-scale aid effort has focused on food aid, humanitarian assistance, and balance of payments support. It is fair to say that the Albanian Government has been critically dependant on this assistance during the past two years. However, with the recovery of agricultural production, both the Government and donors recognize that it is time to bring the humanitarian assistance phase to an end, and redirect aid efforts towards sustainable development. Technical cooperation should be a major component of the second phase. However, total aid flows may well decline during the second phase, since development assistance is more difficult to plan and deliver than food and commodity aid.

C. UNDP and UNFPA Programmes

UNDP is currently in the second year extension of the fourth cycle country programme for Albania. This programme, which began in 1987 in cooperation with the previous regime, totals $6,647,000 in IPF resources. It was originally focussed on the provision of equipment, an obvious distortion of UNDP's technical assistance mandate. However, it has since been reshaped, and plans for the fifth cycle, which will entail $5,983,000 in IPF resources, will feature a much more appropriate balance between advisory services, training and equipment. The three major themes which are planned for the fifth cycle programme are: national capacity building,
alleviation of the social impact of structural economic reform and human development.

UNFPA is at the approximate mid-point of its first country programme in Albania. This five-year programme entails UNFPA assistance totalling $3 million, over half of which is directed toward maternal and child health and family planning. UNFPA also has two operational projects in the areas of data collection and analysis, and population dynamics, and is in the final stage of preparation of an information, education and communications project to support family planning activities.

D. Expectations For The Future

1. "As If" LDC Status Issue

In January 1993, the Albanian Government sent a communication to UNDP, requesting "As If" LDC status. While recognizing that the country does not meet normal LDC criteria, the Government asked that Albania be treated as a special case in view of the profound difficulties it is facing in undergoing a radical transformation of society. This request was reviewed by the UNDP Governing Council in June 1993, but it was decided to defer action until additional information was forthcoming.

During the course of the field trip, this issue was raised several times by Albanian Government representatives, all of whom stressed that they were seeking LDC equivalent status only as a temporary measure. In each case, the Government was informed that the team had no mandate to assess or take action on this request. However, the team did promise to convey the Government's message to the Governing Council, as well as the importance which the Government attaches to this issue.

2. Other

The Government of Albania expressed confidence that with a combination of its own internal transformation, external investment and foreign aid, considerable progress could be made toward the achievement of sustainable development in the relatively near future. The Government's interpretation of sustainable development appears to be the achievement of European socio-economic standards.

While applauding the Government for its determination, the team is of the opinion that expectations should not be raised too high. High levels of external investment are by no means assured at this stage, particularly in view of the lack of an appropriate legal framework and detailed analyses of the viability of Albania's traditional industries. Many of these industries are uncompetitive.
and will have to be closed. Moreover, there is a prospect for some decline in foreign aid volumes during the humanitarian assistance phase - out period. In the team's view, these uncertainties, plus the inherent difficulties in effecting a radical transformation in the mentality of the population, could result in some uneven progress and delays in attaining the Government's development goals. That said, the most decisive factor in this process will, no doubt, be the creativity, perseverance and hard work of the Albanian people.

III. General Issues

A. Programming and Programme Focus

UNDP country programming is not a well-understood concept in Albania. On several occasions, government representatives informed the team that the fifth cycle country programme for Albania had been approved. What they were referring to is a priority list of projects which the Albanian Council of Ministers has agreed on as the basis of the fifth cycle country programme. They did not appear to appreciate the need for a country programme document to be submitted to the Governing Council. This document will, of course, be prepared, and is scheduled for completion by the end of September, 1993; however, team members were given the impression that it will be left to the UNDP office to assemble this assortment of projects into a thematic - based country programme.

The three themes of the new Albania Country Programme, i.e. national capacity building, the alleviation of the impact of structural economic reforms, and human development, appear quite appropriate to Albania's current development needs. Some of the projects which will be grouped under these themes will, in fact, be of critical importance in helping the Government move forward with its transformation agenda. Particularly noteworthy in this regard will be UNDP assistance for: the new Management Training Center for Public Administration and the Private Sector; the preparation of an education sector master plan; the restructuring of key institutions such as the Central Bank, the Ministry of Industry, Mineral Resources and Energy, and the Committee on Science and Technology; and the employment - generating rural infrastructure work of the Albanian Rural Development Foundation. Also notable is the training which UNDP has provided and will continue to provide for Albania's first market - oriented economists.

On the other hand, it also appears that too many diverse and scattered projects have been brought loosely under the fold of the three themes. In the team's view, it would be preferable to concentrate UNDP's resources in a few critical areas where UNDP has a comparative advantage. In this regard, the Albanian Government may wish to reconsider the process it uses in collaborating with UNDP in developing the country programme; in particular, greater
delegation of responsibility from the Council of Ministers to UNDP's government coordinating authority might be a more efficient way to proceed.

As will be noted from the foregoing, UNDP is not using the programme approach in Albania. It is, apparently, too early for the new Albanian Government to move forward from the project to the programme approach. At this time, however, UNDP should begin to conscientize the Government about the benefits of integrated programming and help develop their capacities in this direction, to facilitate the gradual adoption of the programme approach in the future.

B. Capacity Building and National Execution

The most pressing need of countries in transition, such as Albania, is for capacity building. UNDP's programme in Albania is correctly oriented in this direction. Over 50% of the projects in the fifth cycle country programme will be related to the theme of national capacity building. Moreover, education, training and restructuring initiatives are featured activities in all three of UNDP's thematic areas.

Albania does not yet appear ready for national execution. The team did not detect any current interest in this area on the part of the Government. However, UNDP's capacity building efforts should lead the Government to a position whereby national execution can be undertaken in the future.

C. Comparative Advantages

UNDP has utilized the traditional comparative advantages of its field structure and neutrality to good effect in Albania. Despite its low level of resources in comparison to other donors, it has a recognized leadership role in the external component of Albania's development process. This is clearly exemplified in the work UNDP has done in alleviating the social impact of structural economic reforms. This had not been a priority in the initial thinking of the new government. However, UNDP convinced the Government of the importance of addressing this issue, and as a result, it will become one of UNDP's three major themes in its new country programme. UNDP has also generated a strong interest in this theme on the part of other multilateral and bilateral donors.

One other comparative advantage of UNDP is its flexibility and versatility. This can be particularly helpful in situations of large scale transformation and structural adjustment, where national governments are called upon to undertake many new challenging initiatives with reduced internal resources. In this
regard, UNDP has demonstrated its versatility in many ways in Albania, including the organization of eight separate donor consultations and sectoral meetings, both in Tirana and Brussels. The Albanian Government has certainly benefited from these initiatives.

D. Coordination and Communications

Development coordination in Albania can be considered from a number of different perspectives. Within the UN family, it is evident that the UNDP Resident Representative is doing an excellent job of coordinating the work of UN agencies present in the country. Four UN organizations are housed in the same building, i.e., UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, and UNHCR, and the World Bank is located next door. This has, no doubt, contributed to the close working relationship which has been established among these organizations. However, considerable credit should also be given to the Resident Representative whose development experience and talent have the obvious respect of his local UN colleagues, including the World Bank representative.

There are, however, deficiencies in Albania in terms of overall donor coordination. The problem is two-fold. First, the Government of Albania has not yet designated a single ministry or department to serve as the center of all donor coordination activities. Instead, various donor organizations have been matched with different government counterpart organizations. Thus, the UNDP, UNICEF, the World Bank, EEC, bilateral donors, etc., generally have their own separate government partners. An Aid Coordination Unit will be established in the Ministry of Finance and Economy, but for the moment, it appears to be the intention of the government to limit its functions primarily to the maintenance of information on aid flows, rather than centralizing all donor coordination functions within its assigned area of responsibility.

Another problem exists within the full donor community. The EEC has been given responsibility for the coordination of all G-24 assistance to Albania. Yet this coordination has, for the most part, been headquarters-based rather than field-based. In these circumstances, it has proved difficult for the UN development system to be actively involved in overall donor coordination. In fact, UNDP has had to struggle against the opposition of some donors to maintain an active role in this process. Fortunately, the G-24 now appears to be reconsidering its approach, and has invited the UNDP and the World Bank to collaborate in the organization of the next donor consultation in Brussels later this year.

One positive development impacting on the coordination issue is the plan of the Government to establish a NATC\(^P\)'s section within the framework of the new Aid Coordination Unit in the
Ministry of Finance and Economy. This would certainly give the Unit the potential to assume responsibility for all technical assistance activities within the country. The SCPM team suggests that the government seriously consider this possibility, and perhaps extend this principle such that the Aid Coordination Unit could at some point take on full responsibility for all donor coordination in Albania.

On the donor side, the team would support the development of closer links between the G-24 and the UN/Bretton Woods institutions, and would recommend that more emphasis should be placed on field-level coordination than has been the case up to now. Field-level coordination will become all the more necessary and beneficial as external aid is transformed from emergency assistance to development assistance.

Communications within Albania and between the field and headquarters has been a problem. However, UNDP has developed an excellent interpretation service to assist with in-country communications. Very recently a satellite connection has been established between the local UNDP office and headquarters. This will make possible the rapid transmission of field-headquarters communications, and will facilitate the implementation of the new system of reporting established by UNDP's Division For Europe and the CIS, whereby field and headquarters reports are exchanged every month.

IV. Specific Issues

A. Poverty Alleviation

As noted previously, UNDP was the original advocate for programmes which would lessen the impact of economic structural adjustment on the poorest segments of the Albanian population. A concrete project which has arisen from this advocacy is the poverty alleviation programme with the Albanian Rural Development Foundation. Started by UNDP, this country-wide programme, which is now supported by the World Bank and other donors, is developing rural infrastructure in the form of roads, aqueducts, school and health center repair, etc, using local labour. Thus it generates employment while improving conditions in the countryside. This project, which was visited by the team, appears to be quite successful. UNDP is now exploring possibilities for extending the poverty alleviation concept to the urban areas.

Another area where UNDP has shown initiative in this area is through its support for NGO's, utilizing funding from the EEC under a Management Services Agreement. UNDP has also allowed Albanian and international NGO's to use its office for weekly coordination meetings. It is evident that there are some problems in developing
an NGO sector in a country with Albania's history; in particular, the entire idea of community-level participation/local initiative is a brand-new concept. Nevertheless, UNDP is making a concrete contribution in helping NGO's during the initial phase of their poverty alleviation work.

B. Technical Cooperation Among Developing Countries (TCDC)

During the visit to Albania, the team identified several possibilities for TCDC activities, involving both the Eastern European region and developing countries at large. The Albanian Government was aware of the Poland-Hungary Assistance For Economic Reform (PHARE) programme, and considered Eastern European regional cooperation to be a top priority. However, they had no information on TCDC modalities, and no understanding of the procedures or benefits to be gained through this broader forum of cooperation. In view of this knowledge gap, the team recommends that UNDP should provide the government with detailed information on TCDC, and give it every opportunity to make use of this modality for sharing of development experiences and technological know-how among developing countries.

C. UNFPA Issues

The team identified four issues of particular importance to the UNFPA programme. First, there is the fact that the previous regime had no population policy or interest in population issues. The new government does recognize the importance of population issues, but with absolutely no experience in this field, is in critical need of outside population expertise. Thus, UNFPA is entering Albania at the country's very awakening to population questions.

Second, there is the problem of abortion. This was an illegal practice under the previous regime, but many women did have illegal abortions, often at the cost of their lives. The new government has legalized abortion, and it is now available at a very low price. In fact, the cost of an abortion (US $ 1.00) is approximately equal to five contraceptive cycles. As a result, the practice is now very widespread (in some areas, the number of abortions equals the number of live births). Consequently one of the primary objectives of the UNFPA-supported family planning programme is to reduce the incidence of abortion as a means of birth control.

A related issue is the need for an extensive education, information and communications programme in Albania to promote and strengthen family planning activities. Without this, the family planning programme could well fail. In this regard, the SCPM team was told of incidents where women had made improper use of
contraceptives, and then, when they conceived, reverted to the abortion route. An information, education and communication programme is part of UNFPA’s country programme for Albania, but it has so far been impossible to launch this project, due to difficulties in reaching agreement on the implementing partners to be involved. The SCPM team stresses that it will be important to complete negotiations on this question at the earliest possible time, so that this project can be implemented without further delay.

Finally, it will also be necessary to develop an appropriate understanding with the Government concerning the implementation of UNFPA’s standard policy of ensuring the non-profit distribution of all contraceptive supplies provided under their programme.

D. Office for Project Services (OPS)

OPS has played a significant role as an executing agency for UNDP in Albania. One of its most important activities in the post-communist period has been the provision of management teaching in economics for Albania’s first market-oriented economists. It is also managing UNDP’s Programme Development Support Project, which has been designed as a flexible instrument to assist the government in a wide range of development concerns.

Up until recently, the UNDP office in Albania has been sufficiently satisfied with OPS that they have viewed it as an important collaborating partner during the new country programme. Several fifth cycle projects have been designated for probable OPS involvement. In addition, OPS has been considered a possible alternative to ILO for important new initiatives such as the Management Training Center for Public Administration and the Private Sector.

However, the UNDP office in Albania is concerned that the imminent transfer of OPS to the UN secretariat may lessen its effectiveness. It is aware that many OPS personnel are trying to leave the organization, and has already observed a slow-down in OPS implementation activities. Consequently, the UNDP office in Albania now appears less certain about the extent to which OPS should be involved in the new country programme.

E. Privatization

Privatization is a major component in the Albanian Government’s restructuring programme. First priority has been given
to the agricultural sector. Through a process of sub-dividing state farms and cooperatives into one-hectare plots and distributing these to individual farmers, the Government has now made substantial progress in the privatization of agriculture. Progress has also been made in privatizing trading enterprises, transportation and services.

Some senior Government officials expressed their eagerness to privatize the industrial sector as soon as possible as a means to attract foreign investment. However, with their obsolete technologies, many of the country’s large industrial plants are hopelessly unprofitable and will not be attractive to investors. Consequently, it may be more productive to focus on establishing privately-owned small and medium enterprises, particularly in the food producing area.

UNDP’s major response to the Albania Government’s privatization programme has been to help initiate and plan the Management Training Center for Public Administration and the Private Sector. Several other training, promotion and restructuring projects in the fifth cycle country programme will also be supportive of private sector efforts.

During the course of the field mission, the Government requested documentation on privatization programmes in other countries. The team recommends that UNDP should act on this request by providing the government with appropriate information on privatization efforts, focusing particularly on countries with socio-economic parameters similar to those of Albania.

F. Health and Environment Issues

The health care sector has been one of the first to receive serious attention by the Albania Government during the transition period. A medium-term strategy on health care was established in 1991. Guided by such international frameworks as WHO’s "Health For All BY The Year 2000" strategy, the general principles of Albania’s new health policy entail a streamlining of health services, an emphasis on primary health care, the introduction of "market elements" in health care, a sustainable supply of drugs, and improvements in technology and skills. The intention is eventually to establish a medical insurance me.

The World Bank, EEC, Italy and France have assumed a major role in supporting health sector reform. Consequently, UNDP has not been particularly active in this sector. UNFPA has been more active; in fact, its family planning programme was initially introduced as a maternal and child health project. UNDP has provided some support for medical institutions through various NGO’s, and will assist in the training of hospital managers through the Management Training Center for Public Administration and the Private Sector.
The SCPM team had some exposure to the health care sector, visiting hospitals, a handicapped children's center, and the Ministry of Health and Environment. Two issues apparent to the team were the extremely poor conditions in up-country hospitals, and problems in the supply and affordability of drugs. The team was also struck by the absence of therapeutic treatment available for children, as well as the lack of training to hospital staff to provide such treatment.

During these early years of the transition period, drugs and medical equipment have been supplied largely through foreign aid, mostly from the EEC. In many cases, these have not corresponded to local needs. But with the imminent phase-out of EEC emergency assistance, the new challenge will be simply to ensure that drugs can continue to be available at affordable prices, and that medical equipment can be kept in working order. Traditionally in Albania, drugs have been subsidized at 90-95% of the world price. This practice runs counter to Albania's new price liberalization policies; however, it appears impossible for these subsidies to be eliminated totally in the near future.

There are only two confirmed cases of HIV infection in Albania, and no reported cases of AIDS. However hepatitis B is a serious problem in the country; this disease is often a pre-cursor of HIV/AIDS. This points to the importance of the early implementation of an AIDS education programme. The team notes that this programme has already begun with the assistance of WHO, and would encourage its expansion in order to stop HIV/AIDS in Albania before it gets started. Training should also be provided to health care personnel in the gathering and analysis of HIV/AIDS-related information and data.

With respect to the environment, there are pockets of pollution around the country's industrial and mining sites, but Albania's most serious environmental concerns are deforestation, land erosion, and problems with water resources. Consequently, natural resource management is the major component of a three-year $30 million Environment Programme which has been developed with the assistance of the World Bank. This is a particularly important area of focus, in view of the priority the Government attaches to the transformation of the agriculture sector. Although UNDP does not support any specific environmental initiatives through its regular programme, it has been asked to join in this new Environment Programme through Capacity 21. This fund would be used to help the government establish a new ministry focussing exclusively on environmental issues, instead of maintaining environment as part of the Health ministry.

V. Administrative Issues

On the personnel side, the SCPM team was favourably impressed
with the high quality staff who have been recruited for the UNDP/UNFPA office in Tirana. There has been some staff turnover resulting from UNDP's inability to offer fully competitive salaries. However, the UNDP office appears to be operating at the limit of the flexibility it is permitted under the comparator system, while losing some of its best staff to non-comparator entities. Little can be done about this problem unless local salary procedures are re-examined.

As regards office premises, the building used by UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and UNHCR has insufficient space to meet their collective needs. The Government was supposed to make a second building available to UNDP, but this has not materialized. Consequently, JCGP approval is being sought for the construction of a second floor containing six offices. These offices will be occupied by UNICEF, which will finance the cost of the addition.

Conclusion--Albania

The main observations on the field visit to Albania are as follows:

(a) In its current state of development, Albania needs help. Further donor support is to be encouraged. In this regard, UNDP's focus on resource mobilization is appropriate.

(b) With the country's abundant natural resources, the medium and long-term outlook for substantial developmental progress in Albania is positive.

(c) Transforming passive attitudes inculcated by the previous regime will be key to enhancing the country's absorptive capacity.

(d) There appears to be an aversion to the concept of government planning. This is a reaction to the previous regime. Although this may be understandable, some new, more appropriate process of planning and strategizing will have to emerge to guide Albania's recovery and future development.

(e) The priority attached to the agriculture sector and the
development of small and medium enterprises and light agro-based industry, appears well-founded.

(f) To obtain efficiencies of scale, the Government may wish to explore new possibilities for networking among individual farmers, their suppliers, their financiers and their markets.

(g) Community participation in the development process (other than as project implementors) still appears to be totally absent in Albania. This concept should be encouraged through the NGO sector and other means.

(h) UNDP, UNFPA and the Government of Albania should investigate seriously possibilities for utilizing TCDC modalities in development programmes and projects. TOKTEN is another modality which should be considered.

(i) In general, the responses of both UNDP and UNFPA to Albania's particular development situation appear appropriate and, in several fields of activity, the organizations are well-placed to make critically important contributions to Albania's transformation. However, for a more effective impact, the UNDP me should be more focussed.

(j) Industrialized countries should explore possibilities for relocating some production units of their environmentally-sound sunset industries to Albania.

PART TWO: UZBEKISTAN

I. Organizational Arrangements for the Mission

A comprehensive briefing kit on Uzbekistan was not available prior to departure. Communications deficiencies between UNDP Headquarters and the field office in Tashkent may have contributed to this.

The programme elaborated by the UN Representative was designed to focus on some of the major issues involving UNDP participation in the development process of Uzbekistan, i.e. privatization, environment, urgent human needs and health care. Meetings were held with the Deputy Prime Minister (Social Affairs), the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Chairmen of the Committees on Economic Reform, Environment and Privatization, and the Director for Aid Coordination. Meetings were also arranged with national and international NGO's, representatives of the World Bank, the EEC and bilateral donors; the Chairman of the Businessmen's Union; the University of World Economy and Diplomacy; and the National
Association for International Cultural and Humanitarian Relations. The scheduled meetings with the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister (Economic-Finance) were cancelled by the Government.

Visits were also arranged to the historic cities of Samarkand and Bukhara for meetings with municipal authorities to discuss cultural heritage and privatization.

Logistical arrangements for the meetings in Tashkent were somewhat complicated. During its stay in the capital, the team was graciously hosted by the government in a guest house situated approximately 30 minutes from the city center. Unfortunately the need to commute back and forth several times daily and to the venues, given the distance, presented a problem in terms of logistics.

The team felt that the itinerary for the visit, although most interesting, was too ambitious and included an excessive number of meetings, with too few visits organized to potential UN project sites. Limiting these might have allowed the team more time for reflection and exchange on the important issues being addressed. The team would have been well served by an initial briefing session by the UN Representative, prior to the meetings on the agenda. Although originally contemplated, such a meeting was indefinitely postponed due to reasons of force majeure resulting from logistical and health problems which beset the team in its transit from Albania to Uzbekistan.

At the request of the team, briefings were arranged with the UN Representative with a reduced number of members. Useful information was obtained that served as a basis for many of the findings appearing in the report.

The team was of the opinion that the UN office should have paid greater attention to detail in the organization and implementation of the team's programme. In addition, a greater effort should have been made by the UN Representative to attend more of the meetings as his input was important to better understanding the context of UNDP cooperation in the various issues being addressed. The Deputy UN Representative, who had just completed her first month in Tashkent, was present at some of the meetings. A satisfactory interpretation service was provided for the sessions.

In the light of experience with the indisposition of some mission members during previous missions, as well as a serious instance in the present mission, the team was of the opinion that UNDP administration should undertake the necessary steps to ensure access to effective basic medical care, or, if necessary, have the provision for medical evacuation to the closest available medical facility.
A. The Situation of Uzbekistan

Uzbekistan, the largest of the four Central Asian Republics of the former U.S.S.R., declared its independence on 31 August 1991 after nearly seventy years of attachment. It subsequently joined the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and elected Mr. Islam Karimov as its President, in December 1991. The new constitution was approved by Parliament one year later.

It aims at achieving a market economy albeit through a step by step process which will take into consideration a social-oriented policy. This is designed to soften the blows of transition, avoid affecting vulnerable groups and ward off possible unrest. The approach to change given by the current government seems to reflect a tendency to maintain a strong central authority.

The government has put in place a privatization process which for the moment encompasses only small and medium-sized enterprises. Many incentives and facilities have been offered, in order to promote a sense of ownership. However, the problem of building effective management capacity still remains.

Uzbekistan is one of the potentially wealthiest countries of the Central Asian Republics as it is endowed with substantial natural resources, i.e. gold, oil, coal, gas, copper and silver. It is estimated to produce approximately 65 tons of gold per year. In 1992, according to the World Bank, it produced 3.3 million tons of oil. The prospects for further developments in the petroleum industry are substantial as a result of newly discovered oil fields in the Namangan and Ferghana regions. Its exports are in the order of $1.5 billion and the World Bank projections for the year 2000 calculate a $6 billion export potential.

These economic resources notwithstanding, Uzbekistan faces problems of poverty, malnutrition and a high infant mortality rate. Furthermore, it now confronts some of the most serious man-made environmental disasters. Years of out-dated irrigation and fertilization processes for the cotton industry (its chief agricultural product) have produced an environmentally unsound situation. No less alarming has been the desertification and decline in the level of the Aral Sea which has generated a major health problem for its nearby inhabitants. Unsafe drinking water has produced one of the highest infant mortality rates in the world (120/1000). The consequences of the Aral Sea evaporation are felt as far as the Western Hemisphere.

B. Aid Flows

The EEC is the largest aid contributor to Uzbekistan; its 1991
aid commitment was ECU 19 million, that is roughly $24-25 million. The World Bank, another active member of the donor community, organized and chaired the Pre-Consultative Group meeting in Paris, held in December of 1992, to channel commitments more effectively to the technical assistance needs of Uzbekistan. Worth noting has been the humanitarian grant assistance from private and official resources. This has been mainly to address health and environmental problems.

The focus of foreign aid is concentrated on economic and aid management; privatization and private sector development; minimizing the effects of the transition on the vulnerable groups of society; and the environment. Efforts are underway to involve the TOKTEN, Unistar and UN Volunteers programmes in the fields of operations undertaken by the UNDP office.

Other areas of intended UNDP cooperation include tourism development and cultural heritage. Likewise, the EEC is moving forward with projects in the energy field as well as the agriculture and food production sector, among others.

From its conversations with the UNDP office, the major donors, the EEC and the World Bank, the team was able to conclude that Uzbekistan has an aid absorption problem. It would seem that the national counterpart lacks the necessary clout and ability to manage adequately both incoming and potential aid flows. It has yet to convene donor coordination meetings on a regular basis. Access to the Director of the Aid Coordination Department (the focal point) is difficult.

UNDP and UNFPA Programmes

Uzbekistan became a recipient country for UNDP in May 1992 through Governing Council decision 92/29. The IPF allocated to the country is approximately $11 million. However, for Uzbekistan and all other CIS countries, UNDP has been directed to focus more attention on resource mobilization from other donors than the utilization of its own scarce programme resources.

Operating out of an office established in Tashkent in February 1993, UNDP is still at the stage of programme preparation. One of the steps in this preparatory process has been the production of a proposed short-term country framework in May 1993. On the basis of this framework document and further consultations with the Government, UNDP has decided to focus on four themes in Uzbekistan, ie: economic and aid management, privatization and private sector development, the environment, and urgent human needs.

Since the Governing Council has not taken any decision on UNFPA involvement in the CIS countries, there is no UNFPA programme in Uzbekistan. However, UNFPA did participate in a UN inter-agency
mission to the country in February-March, 1993.

D. Expectations For The Future

During the course of the visit, the team was struck by many references made by government officials to the importance of the region's ancient history and culture. Emphasis was placed on the achievements of the people's forefathers in science, education, and mathematics, dating back as far as the 10th century. Various officials also stressed the strategic location of the region as the cross-roads of ancient trade routes, including the Great Silk Road, which linked Asia with the Middle East, Europe and Africa.

The team's impression is that one of the most significant aspects of the country's transition, from the Uzbek viewpoint, has been the attainment of independence from the former U.S.S.R. This has permitted Uzbeks to reflect on the possibilities of a modern renaissance for the region. The rebirth of the country as a center for world achievements in science, engineering, technology; and a Eurasian economic and cultural bridge similar to the Great Silk Road, may well be the Government's vision for the future.

Manifestations of this vision are the interest the country has shown in regional economic cooperation with the other central Asian republics and Kazakhstan. They also intend to find new outlets to the sea, pursuing prospects for close ties with countries ranging from Turkey to China, while at the same time maintaining harmonious relations with Russia. None of these diplomatic initiatives are likely to result in the formation of any new political blocs; the Uzbeks prize their new-found independence too much for this. However, it appears they are prepared to work closely with the other new countries in the central Asia region, to assist in the restoration of regional stability and the development of the region's potential.

This is a positive vision for the future which should be pursued, provided that the Government also directs more of its attention to the removal of impediments to domestic development and a concerted effort is made to stop and hopefully reverse the enormous environmental degradation which has been visited on the country by its former rulers. Uzbekistan will also have to develop a greater awareness and understanding of the negative consequences of its high population growth rate for sustainable development.

III. General Issues

A. Programming and Programme Focus

As UNDP does not yet have an operational programme in Uzbekistan, it is premature to comment on its content or focus.
However, the four themes which have been selected for UNDP concentration do correspond to the country's priority needs; and the limited number of specific development initiatives which are being planned (eg. strengthening the Committees on the Environment and Privatization, training in accounting, support for the Aral Sea secretariat) are generally consistent with the four themes.

The UNDP is using the programme approach in Uzbekistan. For two of its four themes, this approach is already well-developed; i.e., UNDP has prepared a comprehensive paper outlining the issues, the Government's response, and possible future courses of action in respect of the economic management and private sector development themes. A similar paper on urgent human needs will follow shortly. UNDP anticipates that the government will accept all four of its themes as national programmes, and that most of the development activity which UNDP generates, promotes and supports in the future will be within the framework of these programmes.

The Government has agreed that there should be a Country Strategy Note for Uzbekistan. In this regard, the UN Representative, as the head of what is intended to be an integrated UN office, is proposing a novel, unprecedented approach. He proposes to prepare a Country Strategy Note for consideration by the UNDP Governing Council, in lieu of a UNDP Country Programme document. In his view, a UNDP country programme document may not be necessary if the Strategy Note is well-prepared. It should be noted that the SCPM team has reservations about this approach.

His intention is to submit an initial draft of this Strategy Note, covering the activities of UN organizations already present or soon to establish themselves in the country (i.e., UNDP, UNIDO, UNHCR, UNICEF etc.) to the Special Session of the Governing Council in February, 1994. A final version of the Strategy Note would then be submitted later, after other UN organizations have joined the integrated office. If this plan materializes, it will mark the first time the UNDP Governing Council (or, for that matter, any other UN body) has seen and considered a Country Strategy Note.

B. Capacity Building and National Execution

The future UNDP programme in Uzbekistan will have a strong focus on capacity building. According to UNDP's paper on its first two themes (economic management and privatization/private sector development), its approach to capacity building will be to help Uzbekistan to: identify the issues involved; develop a strategic framework for resolving them; develop consensus in respect of specific measures; and implement them. This is a particularly appropriate approach to use in countries in transition such as Uzbekistan, which are in the process of instituting brand-new socio-economic development systems.
Neither UNDP nor the Government of Uzbekistan has any plans to introduce national execution at this early stage. This may be tried on an experimental basis in the future, but the Soviet-style accounting system which has been used in Uzbekistan for decades will have to be overhauled and upgraded to international standards before any start can be made on national execution.

C. **Comparative Advantages**

Three elements combine to place UNDP in an advantageous position to serve as a catalyst for aid flows to Uzbekistan:

- UNDP’s perceived neutrality places it in an excellent position to render policy advice to the Government;

- It is seen as a means of accessing world wide-experience, which is widely needed;

- It possesses an ability to take on a wide range of issues with a high level of expertise.

Given its status as a UN Integrated Office, which allows it to bring under one roof a gama of UN development agencies, it has the capacity to act as a focal-point for the government’s planning needs vis-a-vis the United Nations. This should be capitalized on.

Uzbekistan’s condition as a newly independent state has fostered an obvious desire for acceptance by and participation in the affairs of the world community. Its eagerness to join a wide-range of international bodies and treaties necessarily leads it to attach a particular importance to the work of the United Nations. This attitude was evidenced by the group in various discussions with government officials. Such a disposition undoubtedly gives leverage to the work being undertaken by UNDP in the country. This has been further emphasized by the access given to UNDP by the government, which has not been accorded to other agencies, embassies or NGO’s operating within Uzbekistan.

D. **Coordination and Communications**

Uzbekistan is one of the eight countries designated by the Secretary-General for the establishment of a UN integrated office. As such, it will presumably be one of the most closely coordinated UN operations in the world once it is completely functional.

At present, the international staff comprises representatives of UNDP, UN/DPI, UNIDO and the UN Drug Control Programme. However, UNICEF and UNHCR are expected to join the office soon. One of the
instruments for coordinating the work of these UN organizations will be the Country Strategy Note, which the Government and the UN Representative (who is from UNDP) intend to produce later this year.

The Uzbekistan Government has a single Aid Coordination Department, located within the Cabinet of Ministers. However, this department received its mandate for aid coordination only in May, 1993. Up until now, it has not been staffed adequately; moreover, very few of the staff can communicate in English. In the eyes of the donor community, this department is not yet viewed as exercising an effective aid coordination role.

While noting that Uzbekistan has been designated as a World Bank Consultative Group country, the SCPM team did hear suggestions that the UN office should do more to facilitate local coordination. In this regard, one of the initiatives UNDP is planning is the strengthening of the Government's Aid Coordination Department. However, there may also be other ways for the UN office to strengthen donor coordination. There is, for instance, a local informal technical assistance forum known as the Friends of Uzbekistan, which meets once a month to discuss issues of common concern to donors providing technical assistance to the country. Up until now, due to lack of staff, the UN has been unable to attend most of these meetings. But with the recent arrival of three additional international staff, it should be possible and would no doubt be very useful for the UN office to participate actively in these meetings.

Communications, both in-country and between headquarters and the field, is a major problem in Uzbekistan. This was illustrated by the inability of UNDP headquarters to get messages through to the Tashkent office, asking for changes in the team's programme. Within the country, the major communications difficulty is language. Very little English or French is spoken in Uzbekistan. This puts severe constraints on international staff who do not speak Russian, and places a heavy burden on the UN office's translation and interpretation service.

IV. Specific Issues

A. Technical Cooperation Among Developing Countries (TCDC)/ TOKTEN

TCDC

21
In Uzbekistan the first priority would appear to be technical and economic cooperation on a regional basis, particularly in what relates to the experiences being acquired in the transition processes. Of special concern seem to be human resource training, environmental management, and privatization. The government seemed opened to suggestions by the team to explore TCDC possibilities among other developing countries.

TOKTEN

The team was informed by the Aid Coordination Department that further information on Uzbek nationals living abroad was necessary. Apparently there are 3-4 million residing overseas who generate between $ 3-4 billion annually. Many have made their homes in the United States, Canada, Germany and Australia. In Saudi Arabia alone there are approximately 500,000. Efforts are being made to attract their remittances.

With such an important human resource to tap into, a keen interest has been sparked to promote the TOKTEN. Government officials were aware of highly qualified and experienced professionals of Uzbek origin residing in these countries but admitted the difficulty in encouraging them to provide their services to the new republic. Businessmen have visited Uzbekistan and a recent TOKTEN seminar was organized with the participation of several ministries.

B. Environment

The team members had the opportunity to meet with the Environment Committee, which reports to the Parliament; it was established in 1988. Although addressing a number of issues, the dialogue centered on the Aral Sea crisis which has attracted the attention and commitments of several multilateral and bilateral donors, among them UNDP and World Bank as well as the governments of Japan and the United States.

Decades of heavy dependence on the cotton industry coupled with excessive irrigation practices culminated in a vast desiccation of the Aral Sea. In some cases the shoreline recession extends to 100 miles. This body of water is one of the largest interior seas in the world.

In light of the immediate ecological consequences to the countries of the region, a Presidential Summit of the Central Asian Republics was convened in March of 1993 to deal exclusively with this issue. An agreement was signed and a special fund was established along with a Commission for the protection of the Aral Sea. UNDP intends to lend its support to the work of the Secretariat of the Commission.

The team members regretted that arrangements were not made to
visit the Aral Sea area. This would have allowed for first hand exposure to one of the most salient environmental and health related problems confronting Uzbekistan today.

The immediate effects of the crisis are the contaminated water supplies of the surrounding areas. Infant mortality rates are among the world's highest. On a broader scale, changed weather patterns, resulting from the vanishing water body, have been experienced as far away as the west coast of the United States.

Other issues being addressed by the Committee referred to air pollution, waste disposal as well as land and water resources. Subcommittees operate in each of Uzbekistan's 13 territorial divisions and there are inspectors in each city to monitor the environmental situation.

The team was encouraged to hear that a smaller percentage of the land is being devoted to cotton production nowadays. Modern agricultural methods can assure more efficient land use, on a smaller scale, with greater output and quality.

C. Privatization

Privatization in Uzbekistan is a very limited exercise. Although some 13,000 enterprises have been privatized so far and this figure is expected to reach 35,000 by the end of this year, this process has been limited mainly to small and medium enterprises in the fields of retail trade, consumer services and light industries. The policy of "priority to the workforce" means that most of these state enterprises have been transformed into worker-owned collectives. Although these collectives now have more responsibility, their general mode of operation may, in many respects, be much the same as before.

Privatization of agriculture has entailed the provision of life-term leases for an additional one-quarter hectare of land to members of agricultural collectives. The State still owns all the land in the country. It is interesting to note, however, that production levels have increased dramatically in these newly-allocated parcels of land.

Very little has been done so far to privatize large-scale state enterprises. It will be difficult to do this without direct foreign investment. The Government is attempting to attract this investment, but there are some significant constraints, including frequent difficulties in converting roubles to dollars, due to foreign exchange shortages.

Privatization is one of the major themes which will be addressed in UNDP's programme in Uzbekistan. The UN Representative organized an international workshop on privatization immediately
after his arrival in Tashkent in February, 1993. Two specific initiatives are now in the planning stage, involving the strengthening of the Government's Committee on State Property and Privatization, and the introduction of an Investment-Promotion Service. UNIDO will execute both of these projects. These activities will no doubt yield benefits in terms of training, database development, international exposure for Uzbek entrepreneurs etc., but the extent of their impact on private sector development will likely be determined largely by the directions in which the Government's privatization programme evolves.

D. Education and Culture

In meetings with the Deputy Prime Minister, the Minister of Culture and other senior government officials, the team was informed of the emphasis being placed on education and cultural development. Out of a total population of over 22 million people, over 50% are youths below 18 years of age. Five million children are in 10,000 schools. The country has 55 institutions of higher education and a total of 1 million employees in the education system. The Government aims at keeping the curricula under constant review, and upgrading the quality and standards of education wherever necessary to meet the country's growing developmental needs. Towards this goal it would welcome international technical cooperation from both bilateral and multilateral sources.

The team visited one recently established institution of specialized learning - the University of World Economy and Diplomacy in Tashkent. Enjoying both academic and administrative autonomy, this university is responsible directly to the Cabinet of Ministers. It has started courses in international economics, law and diplomacy. With its three faculties in foreign economic relations, international relations, and international journalism, it is training young persons for careers in diplomacy and international economic relations. The team was informed that UNDP's assistance will be provided in designing a major programme to establish a policy analysis group in the university.

Uzbekistan is endowed with a rich historical and cultural heritage, which should go a long way towards rebuilding a creative and self-confident nation, while providing avenues for much income generating tourism. The team was informed that the country possesses over 10,000 unmoveable monuments and relics over a 450,000 square kilometer territory belonging to the Islamic, Christian, Judaic and Zoroastrian eras of its history. The majority of these are on the Great Silk Road which has considerable tourism potential. Lack of infrastructure, communications and hotel facilities limit the amount of tourism at this time. It was stated, for instance, that the city of Bukhara with a potential capacity for about 500,000 tourists, was visited by only 8,000 tourists last year.
An associated issue concerns the country's cultural and economic links with an estimated 4 million co-patriates living abroad. Both the Government and the National Association for International Cultural and Humanitarian Relations are considering plans for strengthening bonds with these co-patriates.

E. Health Issues

The group met with the Deputy Minister of Health who expressed that one of the main health problems facing Uzbekistan is hepatitis, while there has also been a slight increase in the infant mortality rate (43/1000) as a result of parasitic and infectious diseases. However, the shortage of pharmaceuticals was identified as the most serious health issue in the country. To try to address this, joint ventures with India, Turkey and Germany are in progress or being developed to establish a local pharmaceutical industry. The lack of doctors or para-medicals in rural areas also constitutes a major concern for the Government. Health care is still provided free by the State, even though changes in this policy appear to have taken place.

The Government has requested bilateral and multilateral donors to assist in vaccination efforts. UNICEF is contributing in this regard. WHO organized a workshop on vaccination and immunization policies. Another workshop was organized recently on the UNISTAR modality.

The group considered that foremost among health care issues should be proper training in modern hospital management, for which bilateral and multilateral aid should be secured.

Family Planning

The first attempts to implement a family planning policy, in 1988, met with failure since it was perceived by the population as a means of limiting the number of children they could have. As a result, the Government has tried using other expressions or terms to avoid the negative reactions the words "family planning" have invoked.

F. NGO Sector

In meeting with international and local NGO’s, the team learned that there is a limited NGO presence in the country. In fact, some international NGOs, including such reputable organizations as CARE, have left the country due to the many constraints the Government has placed on their work and mobility. NGO representatives also remarked on the continuing tendency towards centralized control, inhibiting the development of local initiative and community participation which is vital to their
programmes.

In the view of the NGO’s, the country’s main development problems are in the fields of the environment, health and infrastructure. While the Government does recognize some of the dimensions of its environmental crisis, it perhaps lacks a similar appreciation of health, sanitation and infrastructure problems.

Up until now, there has not been much contact between NGO’s and the UN office. However this should change with the launching of UNDP’s Urgent Human Needs Programme. Since this will have an NGO window, it is imperative that the UN office fully involve NGO’s in the planning and design process. One way to accomplish this might be through an NGO seminar, in which NGO representatives would have the opportunity to share their experiences and present their views on the most appropriate framework for addressing urgent human needs.

V. Administrative Issues

After the arrival of the UN Representative in February of this year, there has been gradual progress in establishing a full operational office in Tashkent.

Physical Plant

While the U.N. office became operational in February, 1993, the agencies present in Tashkent, as of August, operate from a brand new building provided at no cost, by the Government of Uzbekistan. The spacious facilities will facilitate an effective and efficient implementation of the U.N. integrated office concept which to date involves UNDP, UNIDO, UNDCP and DPI. Future space needs are well provided for.

Personnel

The office in Tashkent is staffed by four internationals while most local professional and support staff are still under temporary arrangements. Cross training in office management systems and English language is underway, aimed at balancing the capacity of local staff in language and administrative skills.

Equipment

The capacity of the office to communicate internationally, to deploy in the field or even in the city, and to support fully the administrative component of its programmes is heavily curtailed by its lack of communication, transportation and office equipment.

General
The UN office is operating under severe constraints due to its apparent lower than normal administrative budget and staff complement, in relation to its IPF. This stems from UNDP's decision to proceed with the establishment of offices in all CIS countries, despite the fact that the Governing Council had approved sufficient administrative funding for no more than six offices. Thus, UNDP headquarters has created the problem of inserting itself, with very limited administrative resources, into countries with extremely complex administrative problems. Recognizing this, UNDP has decided to allocate a second deputy representative for the Tashkent office. In the view of the SCPM team, it would be advisable for this second deputy to be an administrative expert.

Conclusion--Uzbekistan

The main observations of the field visit to Uzbekistan are as follows:

(a) Uzbekistan has not undergone a major transition from the command economy and centralized control which characterized the U.S.S.R. regime. The main difference is that the future destiny of the country is now in the hands of Uzbeks themselves, and no longer Moscow. That said, there is a continuing resistance to change in the country.

(b) The slow implementation rate of foreign assistance programmes points to an aid absorptive capacity problem in the country.

(c) The Government of Uzbekistan has very little understanding of the nature of technical assistance for development, confusing it with financial and capital assistance.

(d) The Governments of the four Central Asian republics and Kazakhstan are to be commended for their regional cooperation efforts, particularly in respect of the Aral Sea crisis, which apparently represents one of the world’s worst environmental disasters.

(e) Considering Uzbekistan’s lack of knowledge and information of the UN system, the team is of the opinion that the establishment of a UN integrated office in this country, as a central reference point, is appropriate.

(f) While the intention of the Government and the UN office to prepare a Country Strategy Note is welcome, this should not be viewed as a substitute for the preparation of a UNDP country programme.

(g) The focus of the UNDP programme on economic management, private sector development, environment, and urgent human needs, is appropriate in light of Uzbekistan’s current development circumstances and global priorities.
(h) In view of the high population growth rate, there is a need for the Government to give renewed attention to population issues.

(i) The NGO presence in Uzbekistan should be encouraged. In this regard, UNDP's intention of including a significant "NGO window" in its Urgent Human Needs programme, is entirely appropriate.
# ANNEX A

## FIELD VISITS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME MATTERS

### LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Countries to be visited</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Designation</th>
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<td>Albania 9-13 August 1993</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Uzbekistan 17-21 August 1993</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Algeria</td>
<td>Mr. Noureddine Bardad-Daidj</td>
<td>Deputy Director Foreign Ministry, Algeria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Benin</td>
<td>H.E. M. Ayité Jean-Claude Kpakpo</td>
<td>Ambassador, Deputy Representative to the United Nations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>Mr. Resi Gunarto Prasodjo</td>
<td>First Secretary Permanent Mission of the Republic of Indonesia to the United Nations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Slovakia</td>
<td>Mr. Július Hausner</td>
<td>Director, Section of Multilateral Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Slovak Republic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>Mr. Wojciech Jasinski</td>
<td>Counsellor to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Poland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Nicaragua</td>
<td>Mr. Max Stadthagen</td>
<td>Counsellor Permanent Mission of Nicaragua to the United Nations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Ecuador</td>
<td>Mr. José Rosenberg</td>
<td>Second Secretary Permanent Mission of Ecuador to the United Nations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No.</td>
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<td>Western Europe and Other States</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>Mr. Jim Carmichael</td>
<td>Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>UNDP HQ</td>
<td>S. Shahid Husain</td>
<td>Special Adviser</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Division of External Relations</td>
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ANNEX B-I

AGENDA FOR

UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL DELEGATION VISIT

TO ALBANIA 8-14 AUGUST 1993

SUNDAY, 8 AUGUST

12.45 Arrival at Rinas Airport (Flight AZ.500 from Rome)
Welcomed by Committee of Science and Technology representative and UNDP Resident Representative.

18.00 Visit of Tirana Centre accompanied by UNDP/UNFPA staff.

MONDAY, 9 AUGUST

8.00 - 9.15 Briefing by Mr. Jean-Nicolas Marchal UNDP/UNFPA Resident Representative and UNDP/UNFPA staff.

9.30 - 10.30 Meeting with Mr. Maksim Konomi Chairman of the Committee of Science and Technology and Government Counterpart.


14.30 - 15.45 Meeting with EEC and EBRD Representatives

16.00 Courtesy call on Mr. Alfred Sereqi, Minister of Foreign Affairs.

16.45 Courtesy call on Prof. Dr. Sali Berisha, President of the Republic of Albania.

17.15 Courtesy call on Mr. Aleksander Meksi, Prime Minister of the Republic of Albania

18.15 Courtesy call on Mr. Pjeter Arbnori, Chairman of the People's Assembly of the Republic of Albania
TUESDAY, 10 AUGUST 1993

7.30        Departure from Tirana
8.45 - 9.45 Visit of the Metalurgical Combine in Elbasan
10.00 - 11.00 Visit of the Poverty Alleviation Project cofinanced by UNDP, WB and other bilateral partners.
11.15 - 12.15 Visit of Elbasan UNFPA supported Family Planning Center.
13.00       Departure from Elbasan for Berat and visit of villages
17.00       Visit of Berat Handicapped Children’s Center
17.30       Departure from Berat
20.00       Arrival in Tirana.

WEDNESDAY, 11 AUGUST

8.30 - 9.30 Visit to the Central Bank (UNDP/IMF project).
9.45 - 11.00 Visit of Tirana Textile Combine
11.15 - 12.30 Visit of Tirana General Hospital
15.15 - 16.30 Visit of Tirana University (UNFPA Project).
16.45 - 18.00 Visit of Statistical Institute (UNFPA Project)
18.15 - 19.00 Meeting with NGOs representatives
19.00       Cocktail dinner offered by Government
THURSDAY, 12 AUGUST

07.30
Departure from Tirana

09.30 - 10.30
Visit of Burrel City Hospital (joint UNDP/EEC NGO project).

10.30
Departure from Burrel and visit of mountain villages.

11.30
Visit of the Chromium Mine in Bulqiza

12.45
Departure from Bulqiza to Burrel

16.00
Departure from Burrel and village visits

19.00
Arrival in Tirana

FRIDAY, 13 AUGUST

08.30 - 10.30
Working session with Senior Government Officials chaired by Deputy Prime Minister B. Kopliku with the participation of: Mr. Maksim Konomi - Chairman of CST, Mr. Genc Ruli - Minister of Finance and Economy, Mr. Abdyl Xhaja - Minister of Industry and Mineral Resources, Mr. Xhezair Teliti - Minister of Education and Mr. Tritan Shehu - Minister of Health and Environment.

11.00 - 13.00
Meeting with Heads of Missions of main donor countries: Mr. Paolo Foresti - Ambassador of Italy, Mr. William E. Ryerson - Ambassador of the United States of America, Mr. Metin Ornekol - Ambassador of Turkey, Mr. Christodoulos Thalikis - Ambassador of Greece, Mr. Jacques Faure - Ambassador of France, Mr. Claus Vollers - Ambassador of Germany, Mr. Kristian Hauswirth - Chargé d'Affaires of Switzerland, Mr. Stephen Nash - British Chargé d'Affaires, Mr. Jerzy Zawalonka - Chargé d'Affaires of Polish Embassy.
15.30 Departure for Durres Port
16.00 - 17.30 Visit of Durres Port
17.45 - 18.30 Visit of Durres Archeological Museum
19.00 Cocktail dinner at UNDP/UNFPA Resident Representative Residence (Durres).

SATURDAY, 14 AUGUST
08.30 - 09.30 Debriefing with UNDP/UNFPA Resident Representative and his staff.
09.30 - 12.00 Report discussions/preparation.
12.30 Departure for Rinas Airport
13.45 Seeing off by CST Chairman and UNDP/UNFPA Resident Representative (Flight AZ.500 to Rome).
ANNEX B-II

Itinerary for UNDP Governing Council Delegation Visit to UZBEKISTAN, 16-23 August 1993

Monday, 16 August

2.00 pm Arrival in Tashkent

Tuesday, 17 August

10.00 am - 11.20 am Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Saidkasimov
A courtesy call and to brief the Minister on the role of the UNDP Governing Council

11.30 am - 12.30 pm Director Aid Coordination Department Cabinet of Ministers Mr. Shaikhov
It is the focal point for all aid flows to Uzbekistan. UNDP is working closely with the department, incl. a programme of assistance to strengthen it.

1.00 pm - 2.00 pm Lunch at Guest House
2.30 pm - 4.00 pm
Privatization Committee

UNDP is in the final stages of designing a major technical assistance programme, which is expected to be co-financed with other donors.

4.30 pm - 5.30 pm
Environment Committee

This is an important area for UNDP. There is a joint initiative with the World Bank, UNEP, and the UNDP currently under way on the Aral Sea crisis and there is a proposed international conference towards the end of this year.

Wednesday, 18 August

9:30 am - 10:30 am
Continued meeting with the President of National Ecology & Health Fund and the Deputy Minister, Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations & Trade.

There is an inter-agency UN initiative to help the Government design a programme to meet urgent human needs, followed by an international meeting.

11.00 am - 12.00 pm
EEC

Office for Technical Assistance
Mr. O. Allais
3:00 pm - 4:30 pm  World Bank
   Mr. T. Daves,
   Officer-in-Charge,
   Regional Mission

5:00 pm - 6:00 pm  Red Crescent
   An "official" NGO, especially relevant in light of the urgent human needs programme.

6:30 pm - 8:00 pm  Reception, hosted by the UN Representative at Hotel Uzbekistan

Thursday, 19 August

10:00 am - 11:00 am  Continued meeting with the Deputy Prime Minister, the Minister of Health, the Minister of Culture, the Chairman, National Cultural Society, and the Chairman, National Association for International Cultural and Humanitarian Relations.

11:30 am - 12:30 pm  Businessmen Union of Uzbekistan and Council of Entrepreneurs of the Central Asian States
   Mr. Djuraev, Chairman
2.00 pm - 3.00 pm
University of World Economy and Diplomacy

Mr. Rakhmonkulov,
First Deputy-Rector

UNDP is designing a major programme to help establish a policy analysis group based in the University but responding to Government needs for policy analysis and advice.

3.30 pm - 4.30 pm
National Association for International Cultural and Humanitarian Relations of the Republik of Uzbekistan

Mr. N. Gaibov, Chairman

This is an "official" NGO, especially relevant in light of the TOKTEN programme.

4.30 pm - 6.30 pm
International NGOs

Cafe,
Mr. D. Weston, Chairman

Crosslink,
Ms. C. Morse Chairman

Humanitarian Aid,
JDA International,
Mr. Hedlund, Chairman

Vision International,
Mr. Henderson, Chairman
Friday, 20 August

9.30 am - 10.30 am  Ministry of Health
Useful to have an overall picture of the "health" of the nation. Especially relevant in the light of the urgent human needs programme.

11.00 am - 12.00 pm  Ministry of Culture
Together with UNESCO, the UN-Office is promoting a major cultural heritage programme.

3.30 pm - 4.30 pm  Bilateral Donors

4.30 pm - Final Review and Discussion at UN Office
Saturday, 21 August

Trip to Samarkand

8.00 am - 11.00 am (appr.) By Mini-Bus to Samarkand

11.00 am - 1.00 pm Meeting with Hokim (regional Governor) Culture Heritage, Privatization

1.00 pm - 2.30 pm Lunch (hosted by the Hokim)

2.30 pm - 6.00 pm City tour

Sunday, 22 August

Trip to Bukhara

8.00 am - 11.00 pm (appr.) By Mini-Bus to Bukhara
1.00 pm - 2.00 pm  Working lunch with Deputy Hokim.

2.00 pm - 4.00 pm  City tour

6:00 pm  Flight to Tashkent

Monday,
23 August

11:00 am - 1:30 pm  Tashkent City tour

3.15 pm  Airport/Departure

Departure