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OTHER MATTERS

RELATIONS BETWEEN UNDP AND EXTERNAL INSTITUTIONS

Report of the Administrator

SUMMARY

This report is submitted in compliance with Governing Council decision 79/19 and describes the actions taken to implement that decision as well as the results achieved during 1979.

Introduction

1. At its twenty-sixth session, the Governing Council approved "Guidelines Concerning the Relationship between the United Nations Development Programme and External Institutions"(DP/414), with amendments reflecting the comments made by members of the Council, and on the understanding that the Guidelines would be operative for a trial period of three years. The Council also requested the Administrator to report annually on implementation of the Guidelines (decision 79/19).

2. The Bureau for Special Activities has been assigned responsibility for implementation of this programme. As a first step, the text of the "Guidelines", as amended by the Council, and an explanatory note on this additional input into development activities was circulated to all UNDP field offices and headquarters staff.

Implementation

3. At the time of the twenty-sixth session of the Council, a number of institutions had been tentatively identified as potential co-operating organizations. In the ensuing months, a much more detailed survey has taken place to identify organizations which meet the criteria for association with UNDP and which have expressed interest in such an arrangement. To date 15 organizations, representing a cross-section of industry, co-operative movements, voluntary organizations, labour and academic groups have shown interest. Of these, five have formally confirmed their interest in association with UNDP, through which they can offer additional assistance for development. In inviting external organizations to associate themselves with this programme, the Administrator has exercised due caution, sharing the Council's concern over safeguarding the integrity of the United Nations system against external influences.

4. Direct inputs by co-operating organizations into UNDP-related development activities have commenced in five areas. In connection with a request for a United Nations Capital Development Fund grant for expansion of an agro-industrial processing facility, the Government of Lesotho requested one co-operating organization to assess the economic feasibility, general management, primary product and marketing potential of the plant in question. This resulted in a favourable analysis of the project, with recommendations on future operations, and greatly facilitated the approval of a UNCDF grant, as well as providing the basis for the continuation of UNDP, and bilateral, assistance to the project.

5. UNDP's involvement in a Regional Network for Agricultural Machinery, in Asia, has also been supplemented through participation by a co-operating organization, which will join in this important effort on a continuing basis, with the concurrence of the Governments concerned. A co-operating organization is involved in a programme to increase agricultural production through assistance to national seed enterprises, financed by the United States Agency for International Development. Through the vehicle of United Nations-system contacts, this work is being linked to seed production efforts in the Latin American region, and it is expected that a broader series of actions will be taken by the co-operating organization and the Governments concerned.

6. Other activities arising out of the scheme of co-operation with external institutions involve a symposium on creation of new industries in developing countries, as well as contributions to technical papers and meetings, in collaboration with UNIDO. The potential for the use of such organizations in project identification and evaluation missions, through the vehicle of country programmes and projects, is being explored in consultation with Governments.

Future Activities

7. The initial experience in implementing this programme indicates that additional resources for the development process can be harnessed to the benefit of the recipients of UNDP assistance, using the principles of the Guidelines, and that the activity is open to expansion. In the next two years, the range of activities, and the number of organizations participating, is expected to increase further. In 1980, there will be a continued effort to identify new co-operating organizations who are in a position to associate their work with that of UNDP through the Guidelines. Stress will be laid upon the association of more organizations from the developing world, and on increasing, through this programme, interaction of experience and expertise in the spirit of TCDC. A steadily growing number of requests for such assistance may be expected as familiarity with the potential for its use becomes more widespread.

Annex

Co-operating organizations
and potential participants^{1/}

Participation confirmed:

- International Co-operative Alliance (London)
- Industry Council for Development (New York)
- International Council of Scientific Unions (Paris)
- International Federation of Institutes of Advanced Studies (Stockholm)
- Young Presidents Organization (New York)

Potential participants

- Aga Khan Foundation (Geneva)
- International Council of Voluntary Organizations (Geneva)
- International Development Research Centre (Ottawa)
- International Federation of Consulting Engineers (The Hague)
- International Institute of Administrative Sciences (Brussels)
- The University of the South Pacific (Suva)

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^{1/} Confirmed participation identifies those organizations with which agreement has been reached on co-operation under the terms of the Guidelines; potential participants are organizations which have exchanged correspondence with UNDP on such co-operation, but active participation has not yet been agreed upon.