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Agenda item 7 (f) (i)

OTHER FUNDS AND PROGRAMMES

UNITED NATIONS SUDANO-SAHELIAN OFFICE

Note by the secretariat

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 34/187 of 18 December 1979, inter alia, invited the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to examine at its next session the possibility of including Djibouti, Guinea and Guinea-Bissau in the list of countries which receive assistance through the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO), under a joint UNDP/UNEP venture, in implementing in the Sudano-Sahelian region the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification and to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session on this matter.
2. Djibouti is located physically in the Sudano-Sahelian belt, as defined by the relevant organization of the United Nations. It has an arid climate and is severely affected by desertification.
3. Guinea and Guinea-Bissau, although lying outside the Sudano-Sahelian bio-climate zone, border on Senegal and Mali, and are a major source of water in West Africa. The Foutah Djallon massif, located mainly in Guinea with sandstone outliers in Guinea-Bissau, is the primary source of the Gambia, Niger, Senegal and Mano rivers.
4. The Governing Council of UNEP, following its examination of the report of the Executive Director on the Implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification,^{1/} at its eighth session, adopted decision 8/17 of 29 April 1980, in which it decided to add inter alia Djibouti to the list of countries of the Sudano-Sahelian region and include Guinea and Guinea-Bissau among the countries eligible to receive assistance through UNSO in implementing the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification.

5. The Council, having considered the decision of the UNEP Governing Council, has taken under advisement a draft decision,^{2/} submitted by the Gambia, entitled Implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification in the Sudano-Sahelian region, which, inter alia, endorses the decision of the Governing Council of UNEP to add Djibouti to the list of countries of the Sudano-Sahelian region and to include Guinea and Guinea-Bissau among the countries eligible to receive assistance through UNSO, in implementing the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification and, to that effect, authorizes the Administrator, after consultation with the Executive Director of UNEP, to increase, in an amount equal to the UNEP increase, the UNDP share of the costs of UNDP/UNEP joint venture. The Council has referred the above cited draft decision to the Budget and Finance Committee for consideration of its financial implications and advice.

6. UNSO is ready to expand its desertification control activities to Djibouti, Guinea and Guinea-Bissau, assuming the availability of the additional administrative and programme resources required and the approval of the Governing Council.

7. UNDP, utilizing the knowledge available to UNSO, has prepared a proposed budget estimate for the additional programme and administrative resources required, if these three countries are to be included in its desertification control activities. This estimate calls for an increase, over the currently approved UNDP/UNEP joint venture budget for desertification control for 1980 and 1981, of \$140,000 (net) and \$214,000 (net) for 1980 and 1981, respectively, for programme support, and \$127,000 (net) and \$134,000 (net) for 1980 and 1981, respectively, for administrative support. Under the UNDP/UNEP joint venture agreement one half of programme support costs and one half also of the administrative costs are to be borne by UNDP. In the case of the increased costs of programme support the amounts of \$70,000 (net) and \$107,000 (net), for 1980 and 1981 respectively will, as previously, be provided from the regional IPFs of the two related regions (see para. 6 option (d) of DP/494).

Administrative costs

8. By paragraph 7 of DP/494 the Administrator seeks the Governing Council's guidance as to the specific source of financing to be used for budgeting the amounts already approved (para. 9 of decision 79/44) for the half share of the joint venture in respect of the 1980-1981 administrative (institutional) support costs. It follows therefore that the determination made regarding the coverage of those costs in the 1980-1981 budget should now be amended to also include the UNDP half share of the increased net administrative costs of \$63,500 and \$67,000 for 1980 and 1981,