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PROGRAMME



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GOVERNING COUNCIL
Twenty-seventh session
June 1980
Agenda item 12

Report of the Working Group on the organization of the sessions
of the Governing Council

The Working Group recommends to the Governing Council for adoption the following decision:

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decisions 25/30 and 79/33 on the control and limitation of the documentation,

Taking into account the comments and suggestions made during the twenty-seventh session regarding the organization of the Council's work and the documentation,

Convinced that it would be desirable if the Governing Council could examine the possibility of shortening the duration of its session to the maximum extent possible without prejudice to the necessity of being fully informed as in the past on the matters normally reported to it and to the full exercise of the policy and supervisory role of the Governing Council,

Believing that specific measures can be taken immediately to achieve this objective, but that other steps would require further consideration;

1. Decides that, on an experimental basis, and for the twenty-eighth session the following arrangements should apply:

(a) The Council should meet in New York as follows:

Governing Council: Tuesday, 9 June - Monday, 29 June

Budgetary and Finance Committee: Monday, 8 June - Friday, 26 June

(The TCDC High-level Meeting would meet from 1 to 5 June, with an additional meeting if required on 8 June).

(b) The general debate should take place in the first week and cover items 4 and 5, and the policy issues of item 6 of the attached provisional agenda in order that the time allocated for the deliberations is used more efficiently;

(c) The Administrator should ascertain at the informal meeting of the members of the Council, usually held at the end of April, and on the basis of the documentation

submitted, what items are expected to be considered in depth or which could be grouped for discussion so as to propose an organization of the work of the Council for approval at the opening of the session;

(d) Delegations should be invited to inscribe their names on the speakers' list for the general debate prior to the session;

(e) The presentation by the Administration of the items for discussion should be brief, albeit comprehensive, and focus on the action expected from the Council, except when additional oral information is required, taking into account the subject matter and the date of submission of the report for reproduction;

(f) Documents presented to the Council for its information and which have not led to comments or suggestions affecting their contents should be simply listed as noted, so that the decisions taken during the Council's session relate clearly to action-oriented matters;

(g) Decisions of the Council which endorse specific proposals contained in a report should normally be brief and refer to the paragraphs of the report which are endorsed;

2. Note that in deciding the duration of future meetings the Council may wish to take into account the desirability of allowing additional time for the in depth consideration of certain items;

3. Decides further that with respect to the documentation the following should apply:

(a) The provisions contained in decision 79/33 should be strictly implemented;

(b) Each document should indicate on its covering page whether specific action is recommended to be taken by the Council or whether it is for information;

(c) A single document should be issued whenever information on several related questions can be consolidated without affecting the quantity and quality of information provided;

(d) The Administrator should pursue his consultations with the United Nations documentation services with a view to achieving significant improvement in the timely issuance of the documentation in all working languages, in accordance with paragraph 4 (d) of decision 79/33;

4. Requests the Administrator to consult with the United Nations secretariat with a view to scheduling the twenty-ninth session as early as compatible with the likely availability of the documentation and taking into account the fact that the TCDC High-level Meeting is not scheduled for 1982;

5. Requests the Administrator to consider the various comments and suggestions made during the discussions and to present his views and suggestions to the Council at its twenty-eighth session;

6. Approves the following provisional agenda for its twenty-eighth session:

Provisional agenda of the twenty-eighth session

1. Opening of the session
2. Election of officers
3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
4. Programme of implementation

The Council will have under this item the Annual Report of the Administrator and its annexes, a report on assistance to national liberation movements recognized by OAU, a report on Assistance to the Palestinian people, and a progress report on action taken in response to the decisions adopted by the Council at its twenty-seventh session

5. Programme Planning and preparation for the third programming cycle

- (a) report by the Administrator;
- (b) consideration of matters arising from its decision 80/30;
- (c) assistance to specific countries (Nicaragua, Uganda); and
- (d) report on pre-investment activities

6. Country and intercountry programmes and projects

The Council will have before it under this item a report on the relevant trends and problems in the country programmes as well as country and intercountry programmes and projects submitted to the Council for approval

7. Other funds and programmes

- (a) United Nations Fund for Population Activities 1/
- (b) United Nations Volunteers
- (c) United Nations Capital Development Fund
- (d) United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration;
- (e) Interim Fund for Science and Technology for Development;
- (f) Interim arrangements for energy exploration and preinvestment surveys;
- (g) United Nations Special Fund for Land-locked Developing Countries;
- (h) Assistance to drought-stricken countries in Africa and follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Desertification.

The Council will have the reports on the activities of the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office and the report on assistance to the drought-stricken countries in Africa and adjacent areas.

- (i) United Nations technical co-operation activities;
- (j) Information on Agency regular and extrabudgetary technical co-operation expenditures financed from sources other than UNDP.

8. Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries

9. Financial, budgetary and administrative matters

The questions to be considered by the Budgetary and Finance Committee will include:

Annual review of the financial situation: 1980, including the operational reserve; 1982-1983 budget estimates and 1981 supplementary estimates; UNDP financial regulations; ISIP; Sectoral support; Support costs and flexibility measures; audit reports and other matters

10. Other matters

- (a) Matters arising out of action taken by other organs of the United Nations system
- (b) Information on the relations between UNDP and external institutions
- (c) Further consideration of the organization of the sessions of the Council

11. Date and provisional agenda for the twenty-ninth session of the Governing Council

12. Draft report of the Governing Council to the second regular session, 1981, of the Economic and Social Council
