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Twenty-seventh session
June 1980
Agenda item 13

DRAFT REPORT OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL
OF THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME TO THE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION, 1980, OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Chapter XI: Decisions of the Governing Council
adopted at its twenty-seventh session

Rapporteur: Dr. Mohammed FARASHUDDIN (Bangladesh)

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80/45. Implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification in the Sudano-Sahelian region
(Agenda item 7 (f) (i)(b))

I

The Governing Council,

Recalling the relevant resolution of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, particularly General Assembly resolutions 33/88 of 15 December 1978, and 34/187 of 18 December 1979 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1978/37 of 21 July 1978,

Recalling also its decisions 25/10 of 27 June 1978, and 79/20 of 28 June 1979 and decisions 6/11 of 24 May 1978, and 7/13 B of 3 May 1979 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme;

Conscious of the need for the immediate implementation in the region of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification as an integral part of the general efforts to promote the economic and social development of the Sudano-Sahelian region,

Having considered decision 8/17 adopted on 29 April 1980 by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification with special reference to the Sudano-Sahelian region,

Having also considered the report of the Administrator on the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification in the Sudano-Sahelian region (DP/455),

1. Takes note with satisfaction of the report of the Administrator (DP/455) on the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification in the Sudan-Sahelian region;

2. Commends the Administrator for the results achieved by UNSO within the terms of its mandate to assist the countries of the Sudano-Sahelian region in implementing the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification;

3. 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 the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office 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 a UNEP increase, the UNDP share of the costs of the UNDP/UNEP joint venture;

4. Requests the Administrator to continue to examine the specific needs of the countries of the Sudano-Sahelian region and to grant to them, within the available resources of the Programme, additional assistance through UNSO, with a view to ensuring the timely and effective implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification in the region;

5. Urges governments, United Nations system agencies, intergovernmental organizations, private organizations and individuals to intensify their assistance, either bilaterally or through the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office or any other intermediary, in response to the priority requirements of the countries of the Sudano-Sahelian region;

6. Further requests the Administrator to continue to report annually to the Governing Council on the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification in the Sudano-Sahelian region.

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II

The Governing Council,

Recalling the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO) responsibility to assist, on behalf of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the countries of the Sudano-Sahelian region in the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, that the work is carried out as a UNDP/UNEP joint venture, and that both programmes contribute equal shares of administrative (institutional) support and programme (operational) support,

Understanding that UNEP has agreed to pay its share of the previously approved costs for the joint venture, but as yet has not had the opportunity to review the presently proposed budgetary increase,

1. Takes note with satisfaction of the Report of the Administrator on the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification in the Sudano-Sahelian Region: Financing of Administrative Cost (DP/494) and of the views and comments of members thereon;

2. Endorses the proposal of the Administrator for the establishment of a new budget programme "United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO) - UNDP/UNEP joint venture administrative (institutional) support";

3. Authorizes the expenditure not to exceed \$816,000 (net) in 1980-1981, to be allocated from UNDP resources under a separate budget item [in the Main Field Programme Costs] similar to the line item for sectoral support;

4. Takes the above decision on the understanding that UNEP will decide to pay its equal share of the increased costs for 1980-1981 and that, in any event, UNDP will not pay more than one-half of the total costs.

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80/46. Technical Co-operation Among Developing Countries
(Agenda item 8)

The Governing Council,

Recalling the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, General Assembly resolution 33/134 endorsing the recommendations contained in the Plan of Action, and the Council's own decision 79/29 on TCDC;

Having examined the report of the first High-level Meeting on the Review of Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries,

Noting that the Administrator has indicated that the amount of \$1.0 million allocated from the Programme Reserve by decision 79/29 of the Governing Council at its twenty-sixth session is almost depleted;

Noting also that the maximum amount estimated by the Administrator in DP/GC/XXVII/BFC/CRP.17 for the studies recommended in TCDC/13 and other consequential costs is, as a first estimate, \$590,000;

Noting further the recommendation contained in paragraph 8(a) of Decision I/80/7 in document TCDC/13;

1. Takes note of the report of the first High-level Meeting on the Review of TCDC contained in document TCDC/13 and Corr.1 and 2;

2. Decides as an exceptional measure to increase the ceiling of \$1.0 million referred to above to \$1.5 million, the amount to be allocated from the Programme Reserve for TCDC promotional purposes for the remainder of the second IPF cycle 1977-1981;

3. Requests the Administrator to review thoroughly the amount of funds required to carry out the recommended studies and tasks with a view to minimizing the impact on the Programme Reserve, and to determine whether some of the proposed studies and reports cannot be carried out as a by-product, or otherwise, of other activities in the United Nations system and thereby from other sources of funds;

4. Endorses the proposal of the High-level Meeting for the flexible use of country IPFs for TCDC purposes on the basis of the following principles:

(a) Bearing in mind that the financing of TCDC activities is the primary responsibility of the developing countries themselves, the country IPF should be considered as a catalyst and a supplementary contribution only;

(b) A country's IPF can be used for financing its own inputs in TCDC projects or for inputs of other developing countries;

(c) The reimbursement of local currency costs from the IPF of one country for the financing of TCDC components in technical co-operation projects undertaken in another country, shall be restricted to those projects which have been notified to the Administrator as at the beginning of the first High-level Meeting.

- (d) UNDP's procedures related to approval of its assisted projects, compensation, hiring of national experts, procurement of equipment and services, subcontracting and related matters should be used, and in this connexion, the Administrator is requested to expedite the preparation of the modifications in the policies, rules and procedures of UNDP in accordance with Recommendation 34 (paragraph 59 (g)) of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action to accommodate and encourage TCDC initiatives;

5. Invites the Administrator to consider all aspects of the question of the reimbursement from IPFs of local currency costs drawing on such expert advice and comprehensive data and information as he considers appropriate; and

6. Further invites the Administrator to proceed with the preparation of proposals for the modification of policies, rules and procedures of UNDP, and to submit his findings and proposals on this matter and on paragraph 4 above to the next High-level Meeting and subsequently to the Governing Council.

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80/47. Future Financing of the Programme
(Agenda item 10(a))

The Governing Council,

Recalling the decision 79/11 at its twenty-sixth session;

(a) Takes note of the report of the Intergovernmental Study Group on Future Financing of the Programme (DP/451 and Corr.1);

(b) Requests the Administrator to consult with Governments on the modalities for improved resources planning and, in the light of his consultations, to inform the Council at its twenty-eighth session of the result of these consultations; and

(c) Decides to consider at its twenty-eighth session the need to reconvene the Intergovernmental Study Group.

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80/48. Annual review of the financial situation :1979
(Agenda item 10(b))

The Governing Council,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Administrator (DP/490) on the review of the 1979 financial situation and related matters and the views and comments of the members thereon;
2. Expresses satisfaction with the level of programme delivery achieved in 1979, including that for the Special Measures Fund for the Least Developed Countries;
3. Calls upon Governments to take measures to increase their voluntary contributions to UNDP to meet the level approved for planning purposes for the Second Cycle, on which basis the Indicative Planning Figures were established;
4. Reiterates the decisions taken at its twenty-second, twenty-third and twenty-fourth sessions regarding the utilization of accumulating non-convertible currencies and requests the Administrator to pursue further with the Executing Agencies the supplying to the twenty-eighth session of the Governing Council of additional information on the use of convertible currencies related to non-convertible currency utilization;
5. Appeals to Governments contributing in accumulated national currencies to make their pledges in readily usable currencies or, to the extent possible, in convertible currencies;
6. Requests Member Governments to pay outstanding amounts due to UNDP promptly and authorizes the Administrator, in order to clear UNDP accounts, to charge any balances of assessed programme costs which remain unpaid at the end of 1980 to the Indicative Planning Figure of the respective countries.
7. Authorizes the use of the Programme Reserve during the third IPF cycle 1982-1986 for the following purposes:
 - (i) Financing emergency assistance in cases of natural disaster and to assist in the rehabilitation and reconstruction of stricken areas, in accordance with the decision of the Governing Council at its twenty-seventh session;
 - (ii) Financing activities related to programme development;
 - (iii) Financing of contingencies; and
 - (iv) Financing promotional activities of technical co-operation among developing countries, and subject to the specific amounts to be authorized by the Governing Council.

80/49. Supplementary budget estimates for 1979
(Agenda item 10 (b))

The Governing Council,

Having considered the 1979 supplementary budget estimates for programme support services costs and administrative services costs of the United Nations Development Programme (DP/495), notes with appreciation the comments by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (DP/503) and the views and comments of the members thereon,

1. Notes that the \$485,000 in additional resources for the Integrated Systems Improvement Project (ISIP) from additional voluntary contributions or from savings, as set out in paragraphs 4(ii) and 4(iii) of decision 79/42, did not become available to the Administrator, and further noting that paragraph 4 (iv) of that decision authorized a conditionally approved appropriation in the amount of \$485,000;

2. Removes the conditions contained in decision 79/42 with respect to the conditionally approved appropriation for ISIP for 1979 and allocates from the resources of UNDP \$623,700 (on a gross basis) which after deducting income of \$138,700, is \$485,000 (on a net basis), thereby increasing the amount appropriated for 1979 to \$95,850,666 (on a gross basis) and \$74,135,861 (on a net basis);

3. Approves additional appropriations to be allocated from the resources of UNDP in an amount of \$1,867,880 (on a gross basis) to finance the 1979 supplementary budget estimates, as follows;

<u>Programme</u>	<u>\$US</u>
Programme management and support	602 800
Administrative and common services	<u>1 265 080</u>
Total	<u>1 867 880</u>

4. Resolves that the 1979 income estimates be reduced by \$80,151 (from \$21,714,805 to \$21,634,654), resulting in a net supplementary appropriation for 1979 of \$1,948,031:

5. Further notes that the actions in paragraphs 3 and 4 above result in total appropriations for 1979 of \$97,718,546 (on a gross basis) and \$76,083,892 (on a net basis).

6. Expresses confidence that the Integrated Systems Improvement Project (ISIP) will provide the systems and procedures needed for excluding or reducing to the minimum future additional allocations offunds from UNDP resources to cover budget deficits for programme support costs and administrative services costs.

80/50. Operational Reserve (Agenda item 10(c))

The Governing Council,

1. Takes note of the report of the Administrator on the Operational Reserve (DP/469 and Corr.1 and DP/469/Add.1) and the views and comments of the members thereon;
2. Reconfirms that the purpose of the Operational Reserve is to guarantee the financial viability and integrity of the Programme;
3. Decides that the elements to be compensated for and covered by it be limited to:
 - (a) Downward fluctuations or shortfalls in resources;
 - (b) Uneven cash flows;
 - (c) Increases in actual costs as compared to planning estimates or fluctuations in delivery;
 - (d) Other contingencies which result in a loss of resources for which UNDP has made commitments for programming;
4. Further decides that the level of the Operational Reserve for each year of the Third IPF Cycle 1982-1986 shall be established at 25 per cent of the estimated contributions or expenditures for that year, whichever may be the higher. The level shall be rounded off to the nearest \$10 million;
5. Further decides to review the level of the Operational Reserve at its 29th session;
6. Decides that, with respect to drawdowns from the Operational Reserve, the Administrator shall report to the Members of the Governing Council between sessions on the status of the Reserve whenever the situation in his opinion so merits, but he shall in any event so report if drawdowns from the reserve should amount to 25 per cent of the level of the established reserve; and
7. Reconfirms that the Operational Reserve should be fully funded at all times and held in liquid assets which are irrevocably and promptly available for UNDP disbursements;
8. Further decides that the decision to make a drawdown from the Operational Reserve shall rest solely with the Administrator, who will report all drawdowns to the Governing Council at its next regular session, and
9. Requests the Administrator to report to the Council each year as to the status of the Operational Reserve.

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80/51. Review of the Integrated Systems Improvement Project (ISIP)
(Agenda item 10(d))

The Governing Council,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the progress of the Integrated Systems Improvement Project (ISIP), the arrangements for the transfer of the functions of the ISIP Group to the Division of Management Information Systems (DMIS), and the status of the funds appropriated for 1979 and 1980, as contained in the Administrator's Report (DP/471), and the views and comments of the members thereon;

2. Expresses its satisfaction with the implementation of Phase II of ISIP, particularly the fact that most of the systems will be operational by the end of 1980;

3. Further notes the intention of the Administrator to review, in the near future, the role and functions of DMIS, including the level of staff and other resources that may be required to ensure the successful completion, maintenance, operation and enhancement of UNDP's information systems, and requests the Administrator to bring the results of this review to the attention of the Council in June 1981.

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80/52. Headquarters Staffing Review (Agenda item 10(e))

The Governing Council,

1. Takes note of the report of the Administrator contained in DP/476, with respect to the Headquarters Staffing Survey and of the survey of the Field establishment, and of the views and comments of members thereon;

2. Further notes that the conclusions and recommendations of the Administrator with respect to those surveys cannot be ready for submission to the Council until its twenty-ninth session; and

3. Decides that the programme support costs and administrative services costs budgets be submitted to the twenty-eight session of the Council for the biennium 1982/1983 in accordance with the recommendations made by the Administrator (in the statement presented by the Deputy Administrator) and that amendments or revisions, in simplified form, should be submitted to the Council at its twenty-ninth session, together with the conclusions and recommendations of the Administrator with respect to the Headquarters Staffing Survey and of the survey of the Field establishment.

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80/53. Interagency Procurement Services Unit (IAPSU)
(Agenda item 10(g))

The Governing Council,

1. Takes note with satisfaction of the report of the Administrator on the activities of the Interagency Procurement Services Unit (IAPSU) outlined in DP/492 and the views and comments of the members expressed thereon; and

2. Approves the continued movement of IAPSU towards the achievement of the objectives outlined in Governing Council decision 79/45, as well as the strengthening of IAPSU for work related to developing countries as set forth in paragraph 8(f) of decision I/80/6 of the High-level Meeting on Technical Co-operation among Developing countries (TCDC).

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80/54. Support costs and related matters (Agenda item 10(1))

The Governing Council,

1. Takes note of the reports of the Administrator on support costs and related questions (DP/473 and DP/502) and the views and comments of members and representatives of Agencies thereon; and

2. Authorizes the Administrator to reimburse to the International Telecommunication Union up to an amount of \$629,637, subject to such exchange adjustments as may be determined by the Administrator, representing a special support cost reimbursement in respect of 1979, as an exceptional measure and without setting a precedent for Agency support cost payments in the future.

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80/55. Provisional Agenda of the Twenty-eighth Session
and Organization of future sessions of the Governing Council (Agenda item 12)

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-eight 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;

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(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 indepth 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-eight session;

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

Provisional agenda of the twenty-eight 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 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;

^{1/} Two to three days will be earmarked for this item.

(h) Assistance to drought-stricken countries in Africa and follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Desertification;

The Council will have under this item: 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.

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