

UNITED NATIONS  
DEVELOPMENT  
PROGRAMME



UNDP

Distr.  
GENERAL  
DP/SR.692  
13 June 1980

ENGLISH  
Original: FRENCH

GOVERNING COUNCIL

Twenty-seventh session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 692nd MEETING

held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,  
on Friday, 13 June 1980, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. POPESCU (Romania)  
later: Mr. JASIBE (Sierra Leone)

CONTENTS

Country and intercountry programmes and projects (continued)

(a) Relevant trends and problems in the country programmes

(b) Country and intercountry programmes and projects

Other funds and programmes (continued)

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

(ii) Assistance to the drought-stricken countries in Africa

This record is subject to correction.

Participants wishing to make corrections should submit them in writing to the Official Records Editing Section, room E.6108, Palais des Nations, Geneva, within one week of receiving the record in their working language.

Corrections to the records of the meetings of the Governing Council at this session will be consolidated in a single corrigendum to be issued shortly after the end of the session.

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

COUNTRY AND INTERCOUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS (agenda item 6) (continued)

- (a) RELEVANT TRENDS AND PROBLEMS IN THE COUNTRY PROGRAMMES (DP/454, 478)
- (b) COUNTRY AND INTERCOUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS (DP/GC/COI/R.1, DP/GC/COI/R.1/RECOMMENDATION; DP/GC/ETH/R.2; DP/GC/ETH/R.2/RECOMMENDATION; DP/GC/GUA/R.3, DP/GC/GUA/R.3/RECOMMENDATION; DP/GC/LAO/R.3, DP/GC/LAO/R.3/RECOMMENDATION; DP/GC/MLW/R.2 and Corr.1, DP/GC/MLW/R.2/RECOMMENDATION; DP/GC/NIU/R.1, DP/GC/NIU/R.1/RECOMMENDATION; DP/GC/SEY/R.1, DP/GC/SEY/R.1/RECOMMENDATION; DP/GC/SIL/R.2, DP/GC/SIL/R.2/RECOMMENDATION; DP/GC/SOM/R.2, DP/GC/SOM/R.2/RECOMMENDATION; DP/GC/SRL/R.2, DP/GC/SRL/R.2/RECOMMENDATION; DP/GC/VIE/R.1 and Corr.1, DP/GC/VIE/R.1/RECOMMENDATION; DP/PROJECTS/R.13/Add.1-7)

1. Mr. DOO KINGUE (Assistant Administrator and Director of the Regional Bureau for Africa) said he wished to give further details of the three important meetings held in Africa since the Governing Council's twenty-sixth session. First, the OAU Conference of Heads of State and Government held in Monrovia in July 1979 had adopted a declaration of intent on the guidelines to be observed and measures to be taken to promote national and collective self-sufficiency in economic and social development with a view to the establishment of a new international economic order. It had also decided to convene at Lagos a special OAU summit meeting on the economic problems of the African continent. That summit meeting, which had been held on 28 and 29 April 1980, had, inter alia, adopted an action plan known as the "Lagos Plan", which listed the priority measures to be taken, in the spirit of the Monrovia declaration, with a view to speeding up the development of the continent. A possible contribution by UNDP to its implementation would be examined in the UNDP/OAU joint commission.
2. The second meeting, a conference of Ministers of Planning and Economic Affairs of the African countries, had been held in April under the auspices of ECA. It had provided an opportunity for the UNDP's Regional Bureau for Africa to consult African Governments collectively in order to define priority objectives for the UNDP regional programme for Africa for 1982-1986. The conference had had before it a document reflecting UNDP's initial ideas on strategy and on the priority measures to be taken in order to execute the 1982-1986 regional programme. It had approved the suggestions in that document, but had specifically added two quite distinct priority areas - industrialization and energy - to the priority area already proposed, namely the application of science and technology to development. The consultations undertaken at that conference should therefore meet the expectations of the members of the Council and would continue throughout the preparation of the regional programme.
3. The conference on technological co-operation among African countries held in Nairobi from 12 to 20 May had adopted recommendations which had been placed before the High-level Meeting on the Review of Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries (TCDC) held in Geneva shortly before the Council's current session. The conference had provided an opportunity to consider measures to be adopted in order to strengthen and improve technical co-operation among African countries, especially

in the three priority areas of rural development, food production, processing and marketing, and the application of science and technology to development. It was generally thought that the conference had been highly successful, and UNDP had been encouraged to organize a further conference in 1982 on the development and use of human resources in Africa through education and training, employment promotion and the improvement of medical services.

4. Introducing the programmes of the six African countries which were submitted for the Council's approval, he pointed out that the highest priority had been given to food production, which was still the most serious concern of the African countries in general. In most of the programmes, about one third of the allotted resources was to be devoted to the development of agriculture and rural areas. The main feature of the six programmes was that in each case a very substantial proportion of resources would be devoted to financing work in a limited number of areas.

5. In conclusion, he drew attention to the special needs of the countries in question. Three of them - Ethiopia, Malawi and Somalia - had been severely affected by drought, the impact of which had become even more serious since the programmes had been drawn up and would probably affect the orientation and execution of those countries' programmes during the coming years.

6. Mr. VALDES (Assistant Administrator and Director of the Regional Bureau for Latin America) introduced Guatemala's third country programme, which covered the period 1980-1983 and had been prepared with due regard to the priorities laid down in the national development plan for 1979-1982. The programme represented a bridging stage between the second and third planning cycles.

7. During the period of execution of the previous programme (1976-1979), many unforeseen needs had arisen as a result of the 1976 earthquake. To finance reconstruction work, the Council had authorized the Administrator to use \$3 million from the Programme Reserve and that amount had been added to the IPF. The third programme comprised a number of projects in the production sector which had had to be postponed and measures to strengthen the country's administrative capacity. More than half the resources would be used in areas related to development policies, planning and public administration, and in sectors such as agriculture, industry, communications, health and education. Twenty-five per cent would be applied to financing consultancy services designed to strengthen national capacity for administration and planning in the energy sector, in particular in the petroleum industry.

8. The programme for Guatemala complemented various activities undertaken within the United Nations system such as regional projects, ECLA studies, regular agency programmes and projects financed by special funds. It should be noted that the Government's participation in expenditure was very high, accounting for about 25 per cent of the total resources committed. That fact reflected the importance attached by the Government of Guatemala to co-operation with UNDP, and it was to be hoped that that example would be followed by several other countries of the region during the third cycle.

9. Turning to the question of technical assistance and the dynamics of development, he observed that beyond a certain stage in development the increase in per capita income and the growth of the share of industry in total production were accompanied by other social changes whose effects on collective well-being, the stability of basic social institutions and the economic infrastructure were not well known or gave rise to some concern. Experience showed that the social consequences of many measures and activities which appeared to be of a purely technical or economic nature required deeper study. Technical assistance was still essential, but the needs which it had to meet evolved and changed. Consequently, while recognizing the need to focus technical assistance on areas such as energy, science, technology, rural development, rural integration and food production, one must never lose sight of the social aspect of the problems which arose. Emphasis should be placed on programme quality, programmes should be designed in a multidisciplinary context with special attention to the global impact of the activities initiated, and there should be an awareness of the increasing difficulties resulting from the constant decline in the real value of resources of multinational origin at a time when countries' needs were greatest. A policy of careful and stringent selection must therefore be followed in the preparation of third-cycle country programmes.

10. It could be noted with satisfaction, with regard to the outcome of the second cycle and preparations for the following cycle, that by the end of 1981 the total amount of revised IPFs for 1977-1981, i.e. \$376,458,000, would undoubtedly have been used. Of that total \$66,126,000 would have been devoted to regional activities and \$310,332,000 to country programmes. Furthermore, Government participation in expenditure amounted to \$8 million, or 8 per cent of total annual spending. The demand for technical assistance was constantly increasing in Latin America, in particular as a result of the region's increasing capacity to absorb technical co-operation from the United Nations agencies in general and UNDP in particular. Despite inflation, the real growth of the programme in 1979 had been substantial, and what was more, the delivery rate had reached 86 per cent, almost 10 per cent more than the average laid down by UNDP for that year. The transfer of expertise had again been the predominant feature in the 1979 programme.

11. With regard to the regional programme, efforts had been made to respond as fairly as possible to the various requests submitted by Governments, particular consideration being given to the major priority objectives shared by all countries. Those objectives included support for the Latin American Planning Institute, the regional employment programme, the research programmes in the areas of education and development, and other programmes of concern to all or most of the countries of the region. The Regional Bureau for Latin America had actively co-operated in the process of subregional integration, in the establishment of producers' organizations and marketing agencies, and in activities arising from decisions of the General Assembly and international conferences held under United Nations auspices. Resources had been shared so that the least-developed countries and those in greatest need of subregional co-operation, such as the Caribbean and Central American countries, were the principal beneficiaries. The Bureau had continued its close and fruitful co-operation with ECLA, which had been entrusted with the execution of an increasing number of important regional projects. In order that Governments might participate jointly in the determination of priorities in co-operation with ECLA, the programme would be submitted for examination by the Ministers of Planning of the Latin American countries, who were to meet late in the year. As that was an annual meeting, there would be no financial implications for UNDP.

12. During the 1980s, the Caribbean countries and territories would have great difficulty in achieving economic results comparable with or better than those obtained so far. Towards the end of the 1970s economic growth had been falling off in most of those countries, while unemployment had been increasing, the exodus of skilled manpower accelerating and organizations and institutions in the public and private sectors weakening. UNDP had therefore taken a special interest in the Caribbean region and was ready to play a leading part in technical co-operation. It intended to open a new office in Barbados so as to be better able to serve the interests of that country and others of the eastern Caribbean, many of which faced the difficult problems generally encountered by new States. The office would also enable UNDP to fulfil more effectively its co-ordination role at the regional level and to co-operate more closely with the Caribbean Development Bank. The technical co-operation activities to be undertaken in the Caribbean in the 1980s should help the countries concerned to solve their grave problems in many fields such as the production of energy and foodstuffs, exports of manufactures - especially to markets outside the region, the creation of more productive employment and development of the region's human resources through training schemes.

13. UNDP was already contributing actively to such development efforts at the country and subregional level, in close co-operation with regional bodies, bilateral aid organizations and international financial institutions. It was also helping the Caribbean Committee for Development and Co-operation to achieve the targets it had set.

14. Reminding participants of the decision adopted by the Council at its twenty-second session to make a special grant to countries which had recently acceded to independence, he suggested that such a grant might be made to St. Vincent.

15. The country and regional programmes had helped to promote development in general and to eliminate the obstacles which the Latin American countries were encountering in connexion with production, technology, trade, education and environmental problems, and in the social and educational fields. Among the new projects undertaken were some intended to facilitate social development and, in particular, to make education a tool for development, to promote integrated rural development, to formulate policies aimed at combating poverty and to preserve each country's cultural heritage.

16. In the energy sector, the current aim of the regional programme for Latin America was to provide the region with the means to develop its energy resources, especially non-conventional and renewable resources, and to make better use of energy in the production and services sectors. To that end, the Regional Bureau for Latin America was co-operating more and more closely with the United Nations Secretariat and with the Latin American Energy Organization.

17. High priority was accorded to projects aimed at increasing agricultural productivity, but UNDP was also trying to help countries to diversify their production by associating themselves with applied research. Technical co-operation in the sphere of agriculture, which also covered extension services, the organization of agricultural markets, etc., tended to slow down the rural exodus which had resulted in accelerated growth of the urban population and had seriously disrupted the economic and social life of the countries of the region.

18. With respect to industry, emphasis was placed mainly on the diversification of products and the production of capital goods, but increasing attention was being paid to the planning and management of industrial enterprises.

19. In order to protect the environment and combat the pollution caused by the uncontrolled growth of urban areas and by the development of industrial activity in general, large-scale projects had been undertaken in Mexico, Brazil, Venezuela and Cuba and a project was being worked out for Chile.

20. Thanks to the high quality of the experts whom UNDP and the agencies had succeeded in recruiting, it had been possible to execute, in particular in Brazil, Cuba, Mexico and Colombia, projects using advanced technology and calling for extensive engineering knowledge. Those projects had enabled the countries concerned to make a real leap forward in sectors vital to their development.

21. Most of the programmes and projects executed in Latin America already included a significant proportion of scientific and technical activities, but the countries of the region were making increasingly insistent requests for help in developing their scientific and technological sectors and engineering capacities. In response to that demand, the Regional Bureau for Latin America had undertaken technical co-operation activities in the sector of basic sciences and intended to continue to support the efforts of the countries of the region to ensure better liaison between their universities, research institutes and enterprises.

22. Under the programme, technical assistance had been and would continue to be provided in order to encourage regional and subregional integration, promote the development of public and private enterprises, and help the countries to strengthen their decision-making capacity in economic, financial, monetary and technological matters and their negotiating capacity at the international level. Many Latin American countries which, in order to pay off considerable external debts, were obliged to increase the volume and improve the quality of their exports were calling for increased technical assistance, especially in order to gain a foothold in new markets.

23. The Latin American countries had long been co-operating among themselves on technical and financial matters but that co-operation, which had been institutionalized through the establishment of the Latin American Economic System (SELA), had acquired new dimensions ever since UNDP had implemented the recommendations of the Buenos Aires conference on TCDC. Simultaneously with the development of regional co-operation, progress was being made in interregional co-operation, thanks to the efforts of the various countries, ECLA, SELA and public and professional bodies.

24. In conclusion, he expressed the hope that the IPF resources allocated by the Council and the additional contributions of Governments, together with arrangements such as cost-sharing and multilateral and bilateral agreements, would make it possible to organize a programme that was more extensive and of better quality.

Mr. Jasabe (Sierra Leone) took the Chair

25. Mr. TSIEN (Deputy Assistant Administrator, Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific) reminded the Council that in May 1980 some \$717 million (or 86 per cent of the \$828 million second-cycle resources allocated to the region) had been committed for approved projects. Taking into account the new projects which would be approved, the total IPF resources for 1977-1981 should be fully committed by the end of the year. At the present rate of disbursement, some \$800 million out of the \$828 million would probably be spent by the end of the cycle.

26. Of the \$20.7 million special-measure funds allocated to the least developed countries of Asia and the Pacific, \$13 million had already been spent and the rest had been committed. To those \$20.7 million should be added the \$15 million allocated from the regional IPF to finance the special intercountry programme for the least developed countries of the region.

27. The consultations held between the Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific and the Governments of the countries of the region had contributed to an impressive development of the intercountry programme. Commitments for the second cycle had grown from \$9 million in 1977 to nearly \$35 million at the end of 1978. Following intensified programming efforts in 1979, the total cost of approved projects (\$90 million) had in May 1980 been almost equal to the regional IPF (\$93 million). Additional expenditure should permit smooth transition to the much larger third-cycle programme.

28. The Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific was currently preparing the regional programme for 1982-1986. That preparation was being done in several stages: stock-taking of the ongoing regional programme, consultations with the executing agencies and the countries of the region, and lastly preparation of a draft programme to be studied by the heads of the national planning or co-ordinating authorities in February 1981. ESCAP, which was closely associated with the preparation of the regional programme, had become the leading executing agency for UNDP intercountry projects. One of the most encouraging developments of that co-operation between UNDP and ESCAP had been the establishment of the Asian and Pacific Development Centre. That Centre, which would be supported by UNDP, was to replace four of the existing regional research and training institutions.

29. Following the decision taken by the Council at its June 1979 session to establish and IPF of \$8.85 million for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for the period up to December 1981, the Director of the Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific had visited Pyongyang in September 1979 in order to study with the Korean authorities the basic agreement, the outline of a country programme and the establishment of a UNDP office. The basic agreement had been signed on 8 November 1979. Early in 1980, three technical missions had visited the country to discuss three project proposals concerning research and development for integrated circuits for the electronics industry, signalling and traffic scheduling on railways, and the automated loading of export commodities at ports; they had found the proposals sufficiently developed for draft project documents to be drawn up. The Administrator was currently examining those proposals in order to ascertain whether they conformed to the policies and guidelines established by the Council. Administrative arrangements for a UNDP office in Pyongyang were well advanced and it should open shortly.

30. At the current session, the Council was invited to consider and approve programmes for the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Niue, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam.

31. The programme of the Lao People's Democratic Republic had been oriented towards the Government's priority objective of achieving self-sufficiency in food. Thus, 40 per cent of the IPF resources would be devoted to agriculture and fisheries, and 25 per cent to irrigation and flood control. Moreover, the 10 per cent of the IPF allocated to industry was largely agro-based.

32. Because of its position as a least developed and land-locked country and the effects of many years of disturbances, the Lao People's Democratic Republic had special needs to which the international organizations had tried to respond, with the support of the UNDP office at Vientiane, which had helped to co-ordinate the programmes financed by different international organizations. UNDP was providing the country with a broad range of assistance in order to help it to make the most productive use of the limited resources available. Under the new programme submitted to the Council for approval, the execution of a number of carefully selected projects was to be entrusted to the Lao Government, in order to increase the self-reliance of the individual departments concerned and to make optimum use of resources.

33. In Niue, development was severely handicapped by a lack of natural resources and the Government recognized that its efforts to develop an adequate economic base in order to encourage people to remain in the country must be founded on careful planning and co-ordinated research. The Government had decided to devote 75 per cent of UNDP assistance to agriculture, fisheries and development planning; that integrated approach to the development of Niue's natural resources was the main characteristic of the programme, which he strongly recommended for approval.

34. The second country programme for Sri Lanka concentrated on the sectors in which the Government considered UNDP assistance most useful. Thus 90 per cent of the resources allocated under the programme were directed towards agriculture and the development of infrastructure, particularly social infrastructure (including education, employment and health), and 10 per cent towards the development of the industrial sector. The second programme covered fewer projects than the first, but they were large-scale high-impact projects. Moreover, it was not surprising that a high proportion of the resources of the new programme should be allocated to ongoing projects. Since the programme covered the period 1977-1983, it was perfectly normal that more than half the available resources should be ascribable to projects undertaken between 1977 and 1980. He therefore recommended that the Council should approve that programme, which, he felt, responded perfectly to the needs of the Sri Lankan Government and would enable it to make the best use of UNDP resources.

35. With regard to the first country programme for Viet Nam, covering the period up to the end of the second IPF cycle, he reminded members that, after opening an office in Hanoi in January 1978, UNDP had worked in close co-operation with the planning, co-ordinating and technical branches of the Government to ensure proper execution of the two projects approved at that time and to programme new activities. The programme submitted for approval by the Council contained 17 projects, of which 9 concerned agricultural production and the exploitation of renewable natural resources, and 2 related to the development of water resources.



36. Two further projects were aimed at helping national industries to establish a proper basis for their development. The first covered assistance to the Institute for Tropicalization Studies, whose role was to ensure that all machinery made in Viet Nam or imported into the country would have a reasonable working life in spite of the difficult climatic conditions. The second concerned the standardization of products and the establishment of quality control.

37. The programme for Viet Nam was particularly well-designed and was intended to enable that country to increase its food production and develop its natural resources. He therefore recommended it to the Council for approval.

38. The Administrator had recommended a project to assist the Government of Fiji in the implementation of a rehabilitation and reconstruction programme (DP/PROJECTS/R.13/Add.7) after a cyclone which had caused many casualties and extensive destruction on the main island of Viti Levu. The assistance totalling \$1 million which the Administrator proposed to grant Fiji from the Programme Reserve would help the Government to repair the damage caused by flooding, restore the income-earning capacity of the victims and facilitate the return of the affected population to a normal life.

39. Referring to the Kingdom of Tonga, he reminded the Council that the General Assembly had called on Member States to consider granting to Tonga for the remainder of the Second Development Decade the special assistance and benefits accorded to least developed countries and to give special consideration to the early inclusion of Tonga in their programmes of development assistance. In view of the very serious economic situation of that country, the Administrator was requesting the Council to decide whether it should grant Tonga, in accordance with the General Assembly's recommendation, the same benefits as a least developed country, namely an increase of 6.4 per cent in the IPF (\$128,000 in the case of Tonga), an allocation from the special measures fund for least developed countries, and access to assistance from the United Nations Capital Development Fund.

40. Mr. Al-SHAIKHLY (Assistant Administrator and Director of the Regional Bureau for Arab States) said that, in addition to the 14 programmes for Arab countries already presented to the Council, 4 country programmes had yet to be formulated for the second cycle, namely those of the Sudan, Qatar, Lebanon and Djibouti. The programme for the Sudan would be presented to the Council in 1981; it would then coincide with the new five-year development plan and would be more consistent with the plan's priorities.

41. The situation in Lebanon had so far precluded the necessary preparations for the country programme, but he hoped to be able to submit it to the Council at its session in June 1982.

42. Following Qatar's decision in January 1977 to relinquish its IPF, it had continued to receive international technical assistance under trust fund arrangements, and the Government had decided to formulate a new programme funded completely by Qatar in order to ensure a more co-ordinated approach to technical co-operation activities in that country. The programme would coincide with the third cycle (1982-1986) and would be submitted to the Council for approval in June 1982.

43. A preliminary programming mission had visited Djibouti in February 1980. Its report, which had suggested the organization of a sectoral review meeting in October 1980 and a donor conference in the autumn of 1981, had been accepted by the Government in April. The Regional Bureau for Arab States was organizing the meetings, which should provide all the necessary elements for the formulation of a country programme co-ordinated with the considerable inputs provided to Djibouti on a multilateral and bilateral basis.

44. In connexion with the country and regional programming exercise, a Symposium on the Arab World Year 2000 had been held in Tangiers in May 1980 under the auspices of the Regional Bureau for Arab States. The Symposium had been attended by a large number of Arab planners, economists and other specialists and by representatives of ECA, ECWA, the Arab League and the specialized agencies. Development problems in the Arab world had been considered in a long-term perspective: they had given rise to discussions at a high level and many innovative ideas and recommendations had been formulated. The report on the Symposium would be sent to ECWA and ECA as a first step in consultations for the third cycle regional programme. In addition, an Arab intergovernmental meeting on TCDC had been held in Geneva in May 1980. It had provided opportunities for discussion of a variety of development issues, particularly the outlook and processes of regional and subregional co-operation in Arab countries, and the promotion of co-operation with other regional groups. Those two meetings would facilitate the preparation of country and regional programmes during the third cycle, a process which would involve consultations with Governments, the executing agencies, the regional economic commissions, the Arab League secretariat and other intergovernmental organizations in the region.

45. Relations between the Regional Bureau for Arab States and the regional economic commissions had been intensified. The Bureau had thus transferred a number of regional projects to ECWA as the executing agency, and negotiations were under way with ECA for two regional projects in north Africa. Furthermore, the Bureau, in co-operation with UNDP, was formulating project proposals in the fields of non-conventional energy, olive production and mariculture. The regional and subregional projects under consideration for the Arab States would require resources in excess of those available in the anticipated third-cycle IPFs; for those projects it was essential that the Bureau should be provided with sufficient regional resources. It was in the unique situation of having to entertain requests from west Asia, north Africa and southern Europe.

46. The over-all rate of implementation of the programme of the Bureau had been close to 92 per cent in 1979, with a higher level of resources than in the previous year. For 1980 he expected that the rate of implementation would be even higher. However, results varied from country to country, since some bottlenecks persisted. For instance, in some countries the housing problem was hampering the arrival and operation of personnel, and in others counterpart and local staff were not available. Cost-sharing had continued to increase, from about \$5.5 million in 1978 to over \$24 million in 1979, and would undoubtedly increase even further in 1980. Moreover, projects financed by means of trust fund agreements in the Arab region represented some \$226 million for the period 1973-1981. The Bureau was providing services for a programme of nearly \$500 million with a staff budgeted for half that amount.

47. The rate of delivery was an encouraging sign of the amount of assistance provided, but quality was still the major criterion. In that connexion he mentioned examples of successful projects in the Sudan, Tunisia, Yemen, Egypt, Morocco and Syria.

48. After the Council's discussions, the Bureau might have to reassess its current plans in the light of diminishing direct UNDP funding. The countries of the Arab region were in great need of UNDP technical co-operation for they had to make immense efforts in the areas of infrastructure development, institution-building, the transfer of technology and manpower training.

49. Mr. MASHLER (Senior Director, Division for Global and Interregional Projects) introduced six global projects which were described in documents DP/PROJECTS/R.13/Add.1-6; the first three projects were new, but the other three were ongoing projects for which supplementary assistance was being requested.

50. The project on the testing and selection of rural water-supply hand-pumps (GLO/79/010, document DP/PROJECTS/R.13/Add.1) was designed to support the goals of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade (1981-1990). The purpose of the project was twofold: to develop objective and reliable information on the relative performance of different hand-pumps under various conditions; and to develop countries' own testing and evaluation capabilities. From comments received from several Governments and organizations it appeared that the documents circulated had not made it sufficiently clear that the laboratory-testing phase recommended for the Council's approval was only one element in a larger integrated programme comprising field-testing of hand-pumps selected under laboratory conditions. The misunderstanding probably stemmed from the fact that the field-testing phase required sources of financing other than the global IPF since it would involve substantial expenditure on equipment and technical support. The total testing programme enjoyed wide support among Governments, which had provided information on difficulties in using hand-pumps and had made suggestions for strengthening the project through co-ordination with local, national and international activities already under way. Those suggestions would be carefully considered, and the preparatory work would be carried out in consultation with UNICEF, WHO, the International Reference Centre in The Hague, the International Development Research Centre in Canada and other organizations.

51. The objective of the second project relating to the assessment and management of world renewable marine resources (GLO/79/011, document DP/PROJECTS/R.13/Add.4) was to assist coastal developing countries in the development and management of the marine fisheries resources available within their newly extended economic zones. Fisheries were sources of food, employment and foreign exchange, and if they were to be managed carefully, countries must have an adequate knowledge of the fish resources available in the respective areas, including the size and nature of stocks, migration patterns and likely potential yields. A series of surveys carried out in collaboration with interested coastal countries in various regions of the world would help to build up that body of knowledge. The project also aimed to improve existing survey methods, develop new approaches and train nationals of participating countries in survey techniques. Norway was to supply large-scale support for the project and nine developing countries had already signified their intention of taking part in it.

52. The main purpose of the third project relating to technology transfer on root and tuber crops (GLO/79/013, document DP/PROJECTS/R.13/Add.2) was to strengthen the research and extension capabilities of selected national programmes, and to promote the transfer of technology emerging from international research centres. In the past few years three international centres - the International Centre for Tropical Agriculture in Colombia, the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture in Nigeria and the International Potato Centre in Peru - had done much basic work on those crops. The proposed project was modest but could greatly assist in co-ordinating the efforts of the three centres and facilitate the transfer to developing countries of the technology which they were perfecting. If the project was successful, it was proposed to seek the Council's approval in 1982 for an expanded effort over a long duration.

53. Supplementary assistance was being requested for three other projects. The first, concerning low-cost water and sanitation techniques (GLO/78/006, document DP/PROJECTS/R.13/Add.5), was progressing in a highly satisfactory manner and had aroused deep interest in the participating countries. Its objective was to assist interested Governments in designing capital-saving, low-cost water supply and sanitation technologies. Thirteen Governments were taking part in it for the moment, and exploratory operations had been initiated in several others. The recommendation of the Administrator was that the Council should approve an additional \$933,250 to extend the project until mid-1981.

54. The second request for supplementary assistance related to a project on the testing and demonstration of small-scale solar-powered pumping systems (GLO/78/04, document DP/PROJECTS/R.13/Add.3). The objective of that project, which had been approved by the Council in June 1978, was to develop and test under field conditions several types of small-scale water-pumping systems which would be solar-powered, capable of being locally manufactured and easily maintained, and sufficiently low in cost to be within the reach of small farmers. Field-testing was being carried out in Mali, the Philippines and the Sudan. A supplementary allocation was being requested in order to extend the field-testing period and hold an international workshop to evaluate the technologies developed; additional funds would also be necessary to begin planning for a second phase of the project and extend it to additional countries.

55. Lastly, modest supplementary assistance was being requested for the integrated cotton research and development programme (GLO/76/001, document DP/PROJECTS/R.13/Add.6). Since the most recent session of the Council, two international meetings on the establishment of cotton development international had been organized under the project. Interested Governments had responded very positively to that initiative, but project implementation was a year behind schedule because it was connected with UNCTAD's work on the Common Fund and cotton. The previous allocation would cover most of the expenditure needed until June 1981, but supplementary funds would be needed to cover staffing and conference expenses.

56. With the approval of those six proposals the global IPF for the second cycle would be fully committed. Under the global programme several multi-donor consortia had been set up, with the assistance of the Division for Global and Interregional Projects, and activities supported under the global IPF had shown

measurable results in a number of research areas, including agriculture, fisheries, public health and water supply. But scientific research rarely produced miracles: research was more often a tedious and difficult process, but it would ultimately improve the lot of mankind. By strengthening research institutions and training scientists in the developing world, the Division for Global and Interregional Projects was trying to achieve that aim.

57. Referring, in conclusion, to an interregional project launched by UNDP with the collaboration of the Government of New Zealand and the University of Auckland for training personnel in the use of geothermal energy, he said that the developing countries concerned were very satisfied with the results; he wished to thank the New Zealand Government and the University of Auckland for their assistance.

58. Mr. BULAWA (Poland) agreed that country programming must be an integral part of the development plans and objectives of each country concerned. At the country level a central planning body should be set up to issue directives to ministries concerning the way in which UNDP resources should be distributed among the different sectors. There should also be permanent co-operation between UNDP, the specialized agencies and the planning authorities at the time of project implementation, periodic reviews and assessments; it would be for those bodies to decide upon priorities if programmes were changed or new activities introduced.

59. On the basis of its own experience, his delegation agreed that it was desirable for the country programme period to coincide with that of the national development plan, a roll-over planning system being applied where needed. In order to achieve long-term as well as short-term objectives, the full integration of all the mechanisms of co-operation was essential. Moreover UNDP project management should as far as possible be entrusted to high-ranking local officials responsible for making decisions.

60. Projects would have a greater effect if project descriptions were well prepared and if the objectives and measures taken to implement them were clearly defined. Moreover, each component of a project should be considered separately, and in periodic assessments special attention should be given to the three main components, namely experts and consultants, fellowships and equipment. All were of great importance, but the training element was the most essential factor in the success of a project since it represented an investment in human resources. In such assessments a number of questions should be asked. For instance, with regard to training, was it well adjusted to circumstances? How was the knowledge gained applied in practice? Were the publications and materials brought home by the fellow used as teaching aids in local training? Did the fellow give lectures or seminars to share the knowledge he had gained? Upon his return home was he employed in the field in which he had been trained? Did he maintain contact with the training institution?

61. With respect to the country programme reserve, his delegation was in favour of keeping a small amount, say up to 10 per cent, according to the size of the programme in question. That money would be very useful since inflation was constantly increasing the cost of each project component and making it difficult to meet the objectives set.

62. Special care must be taken to ensure that Governments met their counterpart commitments in good time, especially when buildings and other infrastructure had to be supplied, for any delay might jeopardize project implementation and country programme activities as a whole.
63. His delegation fully supported the proposals presented by the Administrator in his study on the experience with country programming (DP/454) and his report on relevant trends and problems in the country programmes proposed for approval in 1980 (DP/478).
64. Mr. WANG Zichuan (China) said that his delegation endorsed the country programmes submitted to the Council. It also fully supported the UNDP project for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, which was consistent with that country's development priorities. It confirmed the position which it had adopted at the January 1979 session and supported the projects submitted by the Director of the Division for Global and Interregional Projects. It hoped that the Administrator would draw lessons from such a wealth of experience and use that experience for the benefit of the greatest possible number of countries.
65. Mr. SOARES DE LIMA (Brazil) said that document DP/478 contained useful information which demonstrated that there had been a considerable improvement in the formulation of country and intercountry programmes and in their analysis by the Council. Brazil considered that every country must have the right to choose the areas in which it needed technical assistance from UNDP and to indicate the best way to use its IPF. UNDP's mission was to meet every country's needs without any preconditions. In that connexion, his delegation requested clarification of the meaning of paragraph 29 of document DP/478.
66. His delegation welcomed the quality of the country programmes, which reflected UNDP's response to the national priorities of the countries concerned. It was easy to understand why recipient countries did not use their country programmes for the promotion of UNDP's global priorities, which might be achieved through intercountry projects.
67. With regard to global projects, Brazil was participating in the project for the development of low-cost water and sanitation techniques (GLO/78/006), and was studying the possibility of participating in the projects concerning the testing and selection of rural water-supply hand-pumps (GLO/79/010) and technology transfer on root and tuber crops (GLO/79/013).
68. Mr. HODY (Belgium) stressed the Administrator's courage in drawing attention, in documents DP/454 and DP/478 to all the continuing shortcomings in the application, at the country programme level, of the programming principles laid down in the Consensus. The General Assembly had expressed the desire to rationalize the United Nations development system at the country level in order that the greatest possible benefit might be derived from the resources available for operational activities. That goal was still a long way off, but some progress had been made, albeit with some difficulty, since Governments retained responsibility for drawing up their development programmes and establishing procedures and rates of implementation. In that connexion, responsibility for promoting UNDP's broad principles lay with resident representatives, who must of course have the qualifications necessary to carry out successfully the increasingly important mission which the General Assembly had entrusted to them for the execution and co-ordination of the development programmes of the United Nations system.

69. It was encouraging to note that a growing number of Governments were supplementing UNDP's financial assistance, thus demonstrating their confidence in the Programme and its experts. UNDP may have been criticized for complexity and administrative heavy-handedness but it must not be forgotten that it was the fate of any administration to be criticized.

70. On the question of progress in implementing country programmes, his delegation emphasized the need for and usefulness of periodic reviews, which not only enabled the ongoing programme to be evaluated, but, more important, constituted a fundamental element in continuous programming, which represented the most suitable and beneficial system in the light of the constantly changing needs of the developing countries. Such periodic reviews, with which all the international organizations represented in the country should be associated, were a potent means of implementing resolution 32/197, in which the General Assembly had expressed the wish that country programming should be used as a benchmark for all the development activities of the United Nations system.

71. The country programmes submitted for the Council's approval were often very well designed, but that was not always the case. His delegation was aware of the many difficulties which must be overcome by the Governments of the developing countries in drawing up their national development plans and in defining the programmes to be submitted for UNDP financing. Such difficulties explained the lack of synchronization between IPF cycles and country programmes, the tendency for projects to be self-perpetuating at the expense of new activities, the excessively frequent lack of in-depth sectoral analyses to justify certain projects, the lack of information on future prospects, strategy and obstacles to development and the apparent failure to integrate a number of projects into the general programme. In making those critical comments, he simply wished to draw attention to certain shortcomings and to the heavy task of resident representatives. Bearing in mind the difficult background against which they had been prepared, his delegation considered that the country programmes submitted to the Council were satisfactory and supported their approval and financing.

72. He had listened with great interest to the statements of the Directors of the UNDP Regional Bureaux for Africa, Latin America, Asia and the Pacific, and the Arab States, and congratulated them warmly on their untiring efforts in the service of the countries of their regions. His delegation reserved the right to make a brief statement at a later stage or to submit its comments in writing on the projects and programmes submitted by the Director of the Division for Global and Interregional Projects.

73. Mr. BRODODININGRAT (Indonesia) said that the document analysing the country programmes (DP/478) and the more general analysis of country programming (DP/454) presented a comprehensive and instructive picture of the situation and made it possible to assess the quality and effectiveness of UNDP's technical co-operation. It was therefore encouraging to note that Governments by and large continued to give their support to the country programme approach as a means of helping them to meet their development needs. At the time when preparations were being made for the third programming cycle, it was appropriate to reflect on current trends and to consider where improvements could be made. On the question of the synchronization of country programmes with national development plans, over half of the country programmes which had been submitted for the Council's approval were consistent with the recommendation made in the Consensus but Governments had not always found it desirable to make their country programme coincide with their plan and in some

cases had chosen to link it to the IPF cycle. Although his country had managed to synchronize the country programme with its national plan, it could understand that other countries might have difficulties in that connexion. It was perhaps appropriate to recall that such synchronization was only a means to achieve effectiveness and not a goal in itself.

74. A further directive of the Consensus had been that Governments had a sovereign responsibility to take the lead in identifying programme inputs consistent with their development objectives. Most Governments had indeed taken the lead role in setting priorities and selecting projects, and in some cases they had actually undertaken the drafting of the programme document with minimum assistance from UNDP. Such a trend should grow once the concept of national self-reliance became increasingly integrated into development policies. However, as noted in document DP/454, the programming process was not yet sufficiently systematic. Countries were making only limited use of sectoral studies in the preparation of country programmes and the new programming approach adopted in 1975, which had advocated a shift in emphasis from programming of inputs to programming of objectives, was still giving rise to problems of application. The Administrator and Governments should make a concerted effort to solve such problems.

75. The tendency, which had been observed in the 1979 country programmes, to place increased emphasis on the agricultural sector was again evident since over one third of resources were earmarked for it. That trend was a function of the changing priorities of development policy, which was increasingly focusing on rural development as a means of increasing internal purchasing power, stimulating growth and promoting a more equitable and balanced development programme.

76. Indonesia's experience had shown that it was not always easy to design a country programme in full conformity with global priorities. As the Administrator had rightly concluded in document DP/478, that should not be seen as an indication that the countries concerned did not support global priorities; rather it meant that they did not use the country programmes as a vehicle for promoting those priorities.

77. His Government welcomed the increasingly close co-operation between UNDP, ESCAP and the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), and hoped that that co-operation would be further developed. It reiterated its support for the revised consultative process in intercountry programming at the regional and subregional levels.

78. Mr. GADEL HAK (Egypt) said that his country had always maintained excellent relations with UNDP and that their constructive co-operation had made it possible to implement country and intercountry programmes in a satisfactory manner. He particularly wished to mention the immense efforts made by UNDP to implement the projects relating to the Suez Canal area; those projects were essential for the development of his country. He thanked the Administrator and the Director of the Regional Bureau for Arab States for their tireless efforts to assist his Government.



79. Mrs. NEWBY (United Kingdom), commenting on the six global projects submitted for the Council's approval, said that her delegation had had reservations about the first, which concerned the testing and selection of rural water-supply hand-pumps. It had not objected to the laboratory-testing of a further 15 hand-pumps but had been unable to see any reason why those tests could not be carried out simultaneously with the field testing of the 12 pumps which had already been laboratory-tested. However, as the Director of the Division for Global and Interregional Projects had stated that that was to be the case, her delegation was able to support the project.

80. Her Government welcomed the project concerning technology transfer on root and tuber crops, as it considered that inadequate resources were currently being devoted to the development of such crops in comparison with cereals.

81. Her delegation had no doubt about the importance of the project on small-scale solar-powered pumping systems, especially for small farmers, but considered that there was a need to determine the viability of the project. As with all technologies having a high capital cost and low operating costs, an important element of testing was the assessment of the lifetime of the hardware and that process necessarily took time. The project might be the first instance in which a solar-powered system became competitive, but the extension of the project into 1981 would permit the elimination of only the least favourable designs. It would have been helpful if the report mentioned in paragraph 3 of the project document had been made available to the Council before approval of the extension had been sought; in future, such reports should be made available before decisions had to be taken. Her delegation welcomed the suggestion in paragraph 6 (b) that an international technical workshop should be held at the conclusion of the current field tests and hoped that the participating governments invited to attend would include those which supported that type of work through their bilateral aid programmes. Her delegation would like to know why proposals for design work were included in the list of objectives for the extension. The basic aim of the project should be to test and evaluate pumps, not to design and develop them, and neither time nor finances were available for that purpose. Her delegation therefore proposed that the objectives set forth in paragraph 6 (c) and (d) should be replaced by the following: "(c) The continued monitoring of the more promising designs from the present phase to assess lifetime, reliability and user reaction; and (d) the examination of the possibility and requirements for the transfer of technology to user countries."

82. The three remaining projects on the assessment and development of world renewable marine resources, on low-cost water and sanitation techniques, and on integrated cotton research and development had the full support of her delegation.

OTHER FUNDS AND PROGRAMMES (agenda item 7) (continued)

(f) ASSISTANCE TO DROUGHT-STRICKEN COUNTRIES IN AFRICA AND FOLLOW-UP TO THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON DESERTIFICATION

(ii) ASSISTANCE TO THE DROUGHT-STRICKEN COUNTRIES IN AFRICA (DP/450)

83. The PRESIDENT observed that the draft decisions on agenda item 7 (f) (ii) had financial implications; he therefore proposed that the Council should submit the question to the Budgetary and Finance Committee.

84. It was so decided.