This document is the result of a year-long programming exercise involving consultations at the country, subregional and regional levels, culminating with the discussion of the draft intercountry programme for 1982-1986 at the regionwide Intergovernmental Meeting of Development Assistance Coordinators, which took place in New Delhi during February 1981. The proposed intercountry programme for 1982-1986 is based on an examination of the development needs, areas of co-operation and priorities for the region of Asia and the Pacific; a review of the on-going 1977-1981 intercountry programme; and a detailed assessment of the appropriate modalities of programme implementation in the delivery of the intercountry programme. Full account has been taken of the recommendations of the New Delhi Meeting. Activities supported in 1982-1986 concentrate on the key programme areas of energy, natural resources and environment; transport and communications; human resources development (health, education and labour); agriculture, fisheries and forestry; planning and administration of development; technology and industry; and trade and economic co-operation. The intercountry programme is submitted to the Council for its consideration.
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INTRODUCTION

1. This is the first intercountry programme for Asia and the Pacific to be entirely conceived, formulated and submitted under the principles of enlarged Government participation, requested by the Governing Council in decision 79/10 of its twenty-sixth Session 1/, and of the consultative procedures as described in DP435 and mandated by the Council in decision 80/9 of its twenty-seventh session.

2. Within the current cycle itself, and in 1978-79 in particular, systematic consultations were initiated with the Governments concerned at subregional, programme and project levels in order to validate the present programme, and to improve its authenticity in terms of Government participation.

3. In planning the 1982-1986 intercountry programme in accordance with the aforementioned Governing Council directives, and the natural evolution of the UNDP/Government partnership, this consultative process was further expanded and deepened.

4. Thus, the third-cycle intercountry programming exercise evolved into a year-long effort which commenced early in 1980 and culminated with the Intergovernmental Meeting of Development Assistance Co-ordinators of Asia and the Pacific convened in New Delhi in February 1981. Besides this tripartite regionwide meeting attended by Governments, Executing Agencies and UNDP alike, the exercise also included three subregional meetings with the Pacific Island developing countries, with the LDCs of the region, and with the ASEAN Group of countries. Additionally, individual missions were assigned to 34 regional countries, entities and territories, to engage in direct consultations with these Governments on their interest in, and expectations from, the region's intercountry programme.

5. At the multi-sectoral level, regional and subregional intergovernmental organizations, and/or their secretariats, were consulted in the course of the exercise. At the sectoral level, missions were assigned to review - in consultation with Governments and United Nations Agencies organizations - selected fields of activity where past involvement had been extensive and some forward-looking critical assessment was necessary, or, where key areas of development had hitherto enjoyed only limited UNDP support at the regional level. At the programme/project level, account was taken of the views of intergovernmental management bodies and/or their secretariats. In addition, tripartite reviews of regional projects were conducted wherein the Governments concerned, the Executing Agencies, and UNDP discussed the present and future status of project planning and implementation. Programme priorities and areas highlighted at sectoral meetings at the regional and subregional intergovernmental levels were very much taken into account.

1/ Subsequent resolutions by the Economic and Social Council (1979/64) and the General Assembly (34/206) dwelt further on the role of the United Nations regional commissions in intercountry programmes' consultative process.
6. There was continuing collaboration with the secretariat of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) during all stages of the planning exercise. Full advantage was taken of the development knowledge, the technical capacity and the extensive programme and project experience of the Executing Agencies, which are reflected in the preparatory documentation received from them, as well as in the consultations carried out at their respective headquarters and/or their regional or subregional offices.

7. Organizations and bodies of the United Nations development system which are not Executing Agencies of UNDP were also consulted in the course of the exercise. Planned and future activities of other multilateral and bilateral donors were taken into account in order to promote co-ordination of effort and, in some cases, to foster associated or joint funding of specific projects. And finally, it must be recorded that from the outset the entire programming process was structured in consultation with the Resident Representatives concerned, and its successful conduct and conclusion has been possible only with their steadfast collaboration.

8. Based on all these multi-level consultations, a draft intercountry programme document was compiled for collective consideration by the Government Co-ordinators at the New Delhi Meeting of February 1981, as mandated by Governing Council decision 80/9.

9. The recent consultations confirmed the great demand for intercountry programmes and projects within the Asia and Pacific region, a demand far beyond the means available to UNDP. It was, therefore, necessary to establish priorities and to select programme areas and projects accordingly. Understandably, not all the requests and suggestions could be accommodated. The programme presented in this document tries to represent faithfully the collective wishes of the Governments of the developing countries of the region according to their priorities as noted in individual and group consultations. In addition to those programme areas and projects listed in this document, many worthwhile proposals have been noted which can be held in reserve in the hope that some of them can be recommended to, and taken up by, other donors, or for consideration in future programming. In this regard, an inventory of additional project proposals and ideas was established at the Intergovernmental Meeting in New Delhi.

10. An important part of the exercise that preceded the production of the present submission to the Governing Council was the careful evaluation of the on-going programme, which has gained remarkable momentum during the last three years of the present cycle. The programme for the third cycle, therefore, combines both on-going and new activities. Its presentation to the Governing Council should be regarded as part of a continuous programming exercise, requiring progressive dialogue with the Governments and thus subject to corrections and amendments as the programme advances. Also, among the more important recommendations of the New Delhi Intergovernmental Meeting was that a mid-term review be organized towards the end of 1983 for evaluating programme implementation at that time, and for further programming for the rest of the cycle.

Other general considerations.

11. In addition to programmes and projects relating to shared or common development problems of a regionwide character, UNDP has been asked to support the initial co-operation, or the advancement of existing arrangements, within subregions or
among neighbouring groups of countries. Specific emphasis has been given to the needs of the least developed, landlocked and island developing countries.

12. Many problems of development shared by countries or groups of countries can benefit from regional technical co-operation provided by UNDP or by other programmes. In some instances, regional technical co-operation can help to solve given aspects of a priority problem while, in other instances, solutions can be found only at the level of individual countries.

13. UNDP is not the only source of support for development co-operation, but one of many. Co-ordination is needed. Linkages with country programmes and global and interregional programmes of UNDP, as well as with bilateral and other multilateral donor inputs, need to be established and defined clearly. In many cases, a matching of funds will be the appropriate solution.


14. During the current programme cycle, the intercountry programme has seen considerable growth. Expenditure doubled in every second year. In 1977, $8.1 million was spent on 73 regional projects. In 1979, it was $16.6 million and 133 projects. The Status Report of the Regional Bureau for August 1980 lists 167 on-going projects. Present commitments indicate that delivery in 1981 will be more than twice the amount of 1979, thus lifting the size of the programme close to the level envisaged for the beginning of the third cycle. The programme has thus been able to pick up considerable momentum. It should be noted that the number of projects appears rather high (224 projects under active implementation in 1977 - 1980, not to mention the many pipeline projects and proposals). An effort to concentrate on certain programme areas and to combine related projects is planned in order to maximize programme impact and in view of the demands of programme management and efficiency.

15. Significant changes can be observed in the input component structure of the programme. In 1977, expenditures on experts amounted to 72.6 per cent of total expenditures. This figure had declined to 57.4 per cent in 1979. Training increased from 18 per cent in 1977 to 25 per cent in 1979, and equipment from 4 per cent in 1977 to 10.2 per cent in 1979. This tendency reflects a certain movement in the direction of the New Dimensions concept.

16. Another interesting aspect can be shown by looking at the programme structure by types of projects. A tally of the major groups of projects under implementation in 1977 - 1980 shows 25 projects in support of regional institutions and training centres using $23.6 million, or about 36 per cent of the resources; 72 projects of predominantly advisory services using $17.2 million, or about 26 per cent of the resources; 20 projects supporting networks of regional co-operation using $10.0 million, or about 15 per cent of resources; and 84 projects for seminars and study tours using $8.0 million, or about 12 per cent of programme resources. The consultations with Governments underscored the need for vigilance, in the future, with regard to the elements of advisory services and study tours.

17. In recent years, UNDP has put increasing emphasis on securing Government co-operation and responsibility as a primary pre-requisite for any genuine
intercountry project. Co-operation between national institutions in regional networks has been encouraged and supported. Four regional institutions have been merged into the Asian and Pacific Development Centre (APDC), which is to become an autonomous intergovernmental institution. Some regional institutions which had been established with UNDP assistance have been taken over by the participating Governments, and are now fully supported by them. In all cases, it is advisable that UNDP pursue joint Government management of institutions receiving initial institutional or continuing programme assistance. Support to the Mekong Secretariat is the first major intercountry project within the Asia and Pacific region to be implemented under Government execution.

18. During recent years, Governments of the region have generally shown a growing interest in hosting regional projects. While there is still a heavy concentration of project headquarters in a few countries, a tendency towards greater diversification of project sites can be perceived. Regional projects are now hosted by many countries of the region, including some of the least developed and smaller Pacific Island countries.

19. An eminent feature of the on-going programme has been the increasing importance of subregional co-operation. In addition to the already well-established programming dialogue with the ASEAN group, programming exercises were introduced in 1978 and 1979 with two other groups of countries within the region: the Pacific Island developing countries and the LDCs. These exercises have resulted in an increasing participation of these countries in the regional programme, and in the formulation and implementation of special programmes, collectively requested and endorsed by them in intergovernmental meetings. By 1979, programme expenditures for the three subgroups amounted to 21.5 per cent of total programme inputs.

20. Another interesting development since 1979 has been the active involvement of China in regional programme activities. In response to widespread interest in learning about development experiences and achievements in China - mainly in fields of rural development and health, but also in many others - a series of training courses, seminars and study tours were organized by the Chinese Government in co-operation with United Nations organizations and supported from intercountry programme funds. While these activities have been highly appreciated by participants from the region and from other developing countries, the initially large number of individual events should now be followed by an intensified programme approach, concentrating on major areas of concern. Agreement has been reached that China will make available the first group of seven training centres to be utilized within networks of regional co-operation.

21. Following the Buenos Aires Conference on TCDC, India, China and Indonesia decided to allocate a part of their country IPFs for intercountry co-operation through TCDC.

22. In accordance with United Nations policy, ESCAP has become a major partner as an Executing Agency for regional projects. The Commission, after assuming Executing Agency functions from the United Nations Department for Technical Cooperation in regional projects, is now implementing between 20 and 25 per cent of the total regional programme, mainly in the sectors of natural resources, shipping, economic development and planning, industry (with UNIDO) and trade and economic co-operation (with UNCTAD), as well as projects of a multi-sectoral character.
23. The agriculture sector (together with fisheries and forestry) in the UNDP regional programme has expanded significantly. FAO, implements between 10 and 15 per cent of the UNDP regional programme, representing the second largest component in terms of Executing Agency volume. This reflects the high priority of the sector and a significant programme concentration in such specific subsectors as fisheries, which are of a definite intercountry character.

24. Other sectors which show significant increases and, therefore, represent major shares in the regional programme are trade, civil aviation, telecommunications and meteorology. These are fields which, by their very nature, have intercountry implications and thus require international co-operation. Specialized training is often conducted on an international level because of the economies of scale involved.

25. Exchange of experience and dissemination of knowledge and methodology have been the major justification for regional projects in the areas of labour, health and education in which most UNDP-assisted programmes are usually implemented at the national level. Regional co-operation in these areas is also supported by the regular programmes of the relevant Specialized Agencies.

26. While all projects are designed to transfer know-how and skills, there has been only a relatively small part of the programme devoted to technology transfer as such. However, a recent first grant from the Interim Fund for Science and Technology provides support to the Regional Centre for Transfer of Technology in Bangladesh, India.

27. As of January 1981, project budgets covering 1977-81 show the following distribution by programme areas:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Ongoing projects</th>
<th>Completed projects</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No. Expenditures</td>
<td>No. Expenditures</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technology and industry</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 $2,323,193</td>
<td>15 $1,119,514</td>
<td>$3,442,707</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tourism</td>
<td>3 187,500</td>
<td>1 67,000</td>
<td>254,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture, forestry and fisheries</td>
<td>23 13,010,716</td>
<td>12 896,140</td>
<td>13,906,856</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade and economic co-operation</td>
<td>21 10,655,172</td>
<td>11 2,047,525</td>
<td>12,702,697</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport and communications</td>
<td>25 21,381,865</td>
<td>19 1,691,455</td>
<td>23,073,320</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planning and administration</td>
<td>23 8,162,810</td>
<td>15 9,236,900</td>
<td>17,399,710</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy, natural resources and environment</td>
<td>11 13,310,420</td>
<td>19 2,225,262</td>
<td>15,535,682</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social development</td>
<td>18 13,415,526</td>
<td>30 4,821,321</td>
<td>18,236,847</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>4 1,707,990</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,707,990</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

141 $84,155,192 122 $22,105,117 $106,260,309
28. Like any other programme of development co-operation, the regional programme has to be viewed not only in terms of quantitative delivery and sectoral distribution, but also in terms of achieved objectives and verified impact. In this regard, orientation criteria have to be derived from major development goals in economic growth, self-reliance and social justice. When examining to what extent a programme or project has contributed to progress towards these goals, such criteria have to be formulated into practical questions. Has the programme assisted in supporting and strengthening co-operation among Governments? Has it actually led to investment for development? Did it raise the level of know-how in important technical fields? Did it assist in bringing about innovative change that can lead to improving the life and work of the common man and woman in developing countries, and to increasing their participation in development? Or, from a negative point of view, does it produce reports for Government shelves, conduct seminars to preach to the converted, and offer advice to those who know anyway? When examining the intercountry programme, consideration must also be given to which activities are better performed regionally, and which activities are more suited for national implementation.

29. Facing such questions, UNDP has sought to learn from experience how to improve the programme, using mainly monitoring procedures, especially the tripartite review system managed by the Resident Representatives, sectoral reviews, and intensified consultations with Governments and agencies. Tripartite reviews are now held regularly for all large-scale projects, often in conjunction with intergovernmental meetings. Sector reviews and special consultancy missions, as well as direct consultations with the Governments of the region and with the agencies, have provided a wealth of feedback and information. However, as one of the lessons of the on-going programme, an additional element of evaluation can be recommended for the new cycle. Such evaluation should concentrate on issues of qualitative programme impact, including linkages between national and regional programmes.
II. DURATION, TIME-FRAME AND ANTICIPATED RESOURCES

30. The duration of the intercountry programme for the next programme cycle is 1982-1986, commencing 1 January 1982.

31. For the third cycle, the illustrative regional IPF stands at $296 million. The Administrator, however, for financial management reasons, recommends programming at a level of $236 million, which is equivalent to $296 million, less 20 per cent. This ceiling for programming purposes is further reduced to $226 million on account of the $10 million borrowed from the third cycle to meet urgent commitments in the second cycle. The programming volume is thus identified at $226 million and the following presentation is based on this figure as a planning framework.

32. The $226 million is planned to be made available in annual installments (expenditure ceilings), increasing from about $40 million for 1982 to about $50 million in 1986. In view of expected inflation, the increase does not mean that the actual programme will expand annually. However, the annual expenditure ceilings point to the need for careful balancing and phasing of the programme which cannot afford a heavily front-loaded pattern. In order to arrive at balanced implementation commensurate with the level of contributions to UNDP, it will be necessary to postpone the start of some of the new activities to 1983 or even later, allowing only for preparatory assistance to be provided in the early years of the cycle.

33. In preparing this programme, UNDP endeavoured to identify the appropriate mix between on-going and new activities, being aware that projects should support co-operation and transfer of skills without necessarily perpetuating themselves over long periods of time. Because the programme is an organic entity, however, many of the activities and projects established earlier or started recently during the second cycle, will need to continue for some time. Some of them will come to an end during the early years of the new programming period, others will move from preparatory assistance to full implementation. In many cases, allocations are proposed for a period of only three years (1982-1984), either because the activities are considered short-term or because a decision on the merits of extension and further funding should be postponed until the mid-term review in 1983, taking into account the inventory of additional project proposals and ideas established at the New Delhi Meeting. For the purpose of further continuing and reinforcing on-going project activities, provision has been made at an estimated level of $25 million.

34. Within the proposed programme, about 40 per cent of the allocations are estimated to be needed to meet the demands of on-going activities, while the remainder can be used for new projects. Foreseen allocations are provided in Annex I to this report.
35. In this draft programme, 159 projects have been identified of which 133 have been proposed with an estimated allocation. Project proposals or areas are costed whenever:

(a) Forward implications of on-going projects have been reviewed by missions in consultation with the countries and Agencies concerned;

(b) Their indicative funding levels have been established in intergovernmental subregional meetings; or

(c) Project identification activities are sufficiently advanced to permit costing.

Based on the foregoing, and in broad terms, the resource utilization within the programmable total of $226 million envisages $126 million for maintenance of the on-going programme and for costed new projects (Annex I, item B.1. (a) (b) (c) and (f), while $100 million remains available for continuous programming to be reported to the mid-term review of 1983. This amount of $100 million can be used to meet the requirements that may emerge for extension or expansion of costed new or on-going projects, for funding of uncosted proposals endorsed by the New Delhi Meeting, and for selected items from the inventory of new proposals presented by the Governments at that meeting (Annex I, item B.1. (d) and (e) and B.2.).

III. THE INTERCOUNTRY PROGRAMME FOR 1982-1986

A. Regional needs, areas of co-operation and priorities

Regional needs

36. There were three salient factors affecting the economies of the developing countries in the ESCAP region during the 1970s: the wide disparity in growth of GDPs attributable primarily to the varying degrees of success in stimulating agricultural output; the increase in numbers of people living in conditions of poverty and in numbers of unemployed; and the slowdown in world trade and the general decline in official aid flows. According to various studies and reports of ESCAP and of the World Bank, present external uncertainties and constraints relating to trade, energy and capital flows are likely to intensify as the oil-importing developing countries seek to adjust to these adverse external factors.

37. The consultations with countries of the region revealed an over-riding interest in energy. In Asian countries, especially South Asia, despite the availability of natural gas, dependence on imported oil is likely to continue. The World Bank estimates that the proportion of imports represented by petroleum is projected to rise by 30 per cent in 1985 as compared to 1976-1977. In East and Southeast Asia, it would be about 40 per cent higher over a similar period. In some Pacific Island countries, the increasing oil import costs represent a significant percentage in relation to agricultural exports. The problem of energy adjustment raises issues of energy development, energy efficiency (including energy conservation) and energy planning. Energy has significant implications in most sectors, notably for agriculture, industry, transport and urban development.
38. According to FAO figures, the annual rate of increase in food output for the ESCAP developing countries was 2.9 per cent which is less than the 4.0 per cent target established by the International Development Strategy for the 1970s. Based on previous trends, dramatic increases in the gap between supply and demand for food in the 1980s are likely. To reduce the gap between cereal production and demand, it is estimated that a doubling of annual gross investment and a trebling of annual agricultural inputs between 1980 and 2000 would be required. A wide variety of measures to deal with the projected shortfall will be necessary.

39. Low income, low levels of education, lack of basic amenities including safe drinking water and sanitation, together with a high prevalence of communicable diseases, are major problems. The available labour force in the region will grow rapidly in the 1980s. Merely to provide employment for new entrants between 1975 and 1985 would require that the developing market economies as a group grow minimally at over 6 per cent a year.

40. The region produces about 45 per cent of the world's fish catch. Direct consumption of fish provides some 35 per cent of annual protein intake in Asia as a whole, which is twice the world average. Fisheries employ two to five per cent of the economically active population.

41. Asia is the world's most important supplier of round wood, yet it has the lowest forest resources of all regions in per capita terms. Fuelwood is becoming more scarce. The depletion of forest resources has led to substantial decreases in wood supply in many areas and a resulting increased awareness of the need for better forest use and for control of shifting cultivation.

42. The land/person ratio in agriculture is already very low in the region and is continuously declining as the agricultural population increases. Expansion of productive acreage is possible in only a few countries of the region.

43. The decade of the 1970s did not witness any marked improvement in the rate of growth of manufacturing value added as compared to that in the previous decade. In most countries, however, the industrial sector expanded more rapidly than the GDP generally and has, in that sense, been a more dynamic contributor to overall economic progress. Yet, quality and patterns of industrialization need to be improved.

44. Air transport, because of its speed and flexibility, averaged an increase of 19.6 per cent annually during the period from 1968 to 1978. The growing availability of large-scale, air cargo capacity has brought new and increased emphasis on marketing this service which, during 1968-1978, grew by an average of 23 per cent annually. New investment in telecommunications is strongly influenced by the emergence of advantageous new technologies. Sea transport moves the bulk of the region's trade.

45. The development of technological capacities of developing countries in the region forms an essential element of the International Development Strategy for the 1980s. While the emphasis and the approach may vary from country to country, depending on the state of their respective domestic technological capacities, there is an increasing trend towards strengthening the negotiating capacity of Governments vis-a-vis transnational corporations. The planning, selection and adaptation of technology is coming to the fore.

/.../
Areas of Co-operation

46. In some areas, regional co-operation may well be the only rational alternative to the exploitation of common resources. The establishment of Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) points to the imperative for at least subregional co-operation for the exploitation of pelagic fishery and other marine and mineral resources within overlapping economic zones. More broadly, it points to the need for collaborative action to ensure that developing countries can obtain maximum benefits from their offshore resources.

47. Co-operation among developing countries in the area of trade offers considerable opportunities in meeting overall development targets, especially given the likelihood of the persistence of a difficult and uncertain external environment in the 1980s. A significant potential for the expansion of intraregional trade exists. However, systematic co-operative efforts would be necessary to expand intraregional trade. The groundwork for future developments in this area has been laid by such institutional arrangements as the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Bangkok Agreement, under which a number of countries have offered reciprocal preferential reductions in tariff rates. Regional co-operation is also an important rationale in developing co-operative marketing enterprises covering specific export products within the ESCAP region. Co-operation in such areas as joint market research and joint distribution outlets can have a direct impact on exports.

48. The potential for intraregional co-operation is nowhere more dramatically evident than in the large river systems in the region. One such river system - the Mekong - has already been partially developed to the mutual advantage of its riparian countries. Similar possibilities are to be found in tapping the enormous potential of the Ganges-Brahmaputra River for the benefit of Nepal, India and Bangladesh.

49. A positive development for co-operation in South Asia has been the formation of the Committee on Studies for Co-operation in Development in South Asia bringing together scholars and development institutions in the subregion. A study on the development of Himalayan resources (including hydro-power) for regional co-operation and national development has been undertaken by this Committee and could serve as a basis for further consideration.

50. Recent reports indicate that a South Asian summit meeting may take place in 1981 with a view to discussing regional co-operation. Potential areas of co-operation may include: telecommunications, meteorology, land transport, shipping, tourism and aviation, agricultural research and rural development, joint ventures, marketing promotion, education, science and technology, and culture.

51. More generally on the subject of energy, regional co-operation might be profitably pursued in a number of areas associated with energy production and energy use and may include co-operative ventures that can significantly enhance the region's capacity to explore, exploit and conserve conventional energy sources, to develop non-conventional sources of energy and to share information on new energy technologies, both renewable and non-renewable.

52. Other areas where regional co-operation can assist significantly in the establishment of the New International Economic Order and in the implementation of
the international development strategy for the region in the 1980s may include: food and agriculture, specifically to improve the capability of developing countries to establish and promote food security; creation of endogenous technological capacities and transfer of technology; to strengthen bargaining positions of developing countries vis-a-vis transnationals and to adapt technology to their specific needs; and the promotion of joint ventures for economic co-operation.

53. Co-operation programmes among regional groupings (ASEAN, LDCs and Pacific Island countries) are moving into new and more central areas of development. The growth of commodity communities (coconut, pepper, tea and jute) might require increased support.

Priorities

54. In the search for priority areas, the current exercise deepened the collective involvement of Governments in the regional programme by means of direct consultations with the countries to a degree not achieved during the first and second cycles.

55. Direct consultations at the country level revealed a wide spectrum of needs related to the countries' national priorities and to their perception of how their participation in the regional programme could contribute towards their own development within a subregional or regionwide framework of intercountry co-operation. Due to the heavy demands on the regional IPF and the limited funding available, it became necessary, therefore, to ascertain priority areas in the regionwide programme for Asia and the Pacific that represented a consensus of the countries' views.

56. For the sub-regional groups - the LDCs, ASEAN and Pacific Island countries - the designation of priorities was made by the member countries themselves at their intergovernmental meetings.

57. For the region as a whole, priority areas were determined by the countries represented at the regional Intergovernmental Meeting held at New Delhi during the period 23 to 28 February 1981, which also confirmed the priorities designated by the subregional groups.

58. Governments gave the highest priority to energy and food production. The adverse effects of rising energy costs on agriculture and food prices were noted by the New Delhi Meeting. Technology and industry were highlighted by some delegations. The sectors of transport and communications were underlined by the LDCs and by the Pacific Island developing countries in view of their geographical handicaps and resulting constraints to development. Training and human resource development were emphasized by the Meeting. Planning and administration, natural resources development and trade and economic co-operation were also identified as high priority. Annex I gives the distribution of resources by programme areas and sectors.

B. Substance of the programme

59. In the light of the discussions and conclusions reached by the Governments at the New Delhi Meeting, the following programmes and activities are proposed for
implementation in the next cycle. In addition to the proposals in the draft programme presented at the meeting, new areas of high priority were suggested by the Governments and are included in this presentation.

(i) Energy, natural resources and environment

Energy

60. The consultant mission fielded by UNDP in 1979 recommended, on the basis of consultations and visits to six countries in Asia, a regional co-operative programme with emphasis on energy planning, energy conservation (including demand management), work on utilization of new and renewable sources of energy, and training in these fields.

61. For the Pacific region, a programme was requested that would concentrate on energy planning/management, energy use assessment including establishment of systems for compiling energy use data, and demand management. Technical advice was requested for alternative technologies in the use of wood, wind and solar energy and on kerosene/petrol stoves and specially designed refrigerators for low energy consumption.

62. The LDCs expressed primary interest in non-conventional sources of energy and in design and construction of mini-hydro plants for irrigation and power.

63. Regional assistance in energy will be supplemented by a major UNDP interregional project to assist lower income developing countries in respect of national energy planning, policy analysis and institution-building including development of curricula and materials for training in these fields.

Natural resources

64. For development of the Mekong Basin, technical support from UNDP will be required in order to continue activities already started and to initiate planning, agricultural and other studies such as updating the Indicative Basin Plan, the final organization and management study for the proposed massive Pa Mong Dam, a data bank and water quality studies.

65. Offshore prospecting for hydrocarbons and mineral resources in East Asia, with increasing intergovernmental management, will continue to be undertaken with emphasis on deepening efforts for development of technological capability. A similar project, in the South Pacific, will devote increased attention to prospecting for near-shore and in-shore mineral resources. A third project, for the countries of the Indian Ocean, and extending to the Bay of Bengal, would support or undertake offshore surveys of hydrocarbons and mineral resources.

66. Exploration for coal, investigation of primary tin deposits and of some non-fuel minerals will be undertaken through the Regional Mineral Resources Development Centre. Work in geophysics, geochemistry, mineralogy and analytical chemistry will continue to be undertaken at the Regional Tin Research and Development Centre. Geological survey and mapping in Indo-China will be assisted under the regional programme.
67. Following a consultation mission to nine countries of the region, regional efforts in remote sensing will be supported with special emphasis on research and application activities related to agricultural and water resources development and environmental monitoring.

68. The regional programme has helped in developing forecasting and warning systems and techniques for typhoons and cyclones. Technical rather than institutional support will be provided in the next phase of these programmes. A time experiment on a real typhoon with a view to improving forecasting and warning capability is envisaged.

69. Hydrological and meteorological services in the region are expected to benefit from exchange of experiences and techniques under the regional programme with priority for LDCs. The expansion and improvement of a network of hydrology/meteorology stations in Indo-China will be undertaken with UNDP assistance.

Environment

70. In South Asia, the members of a co-operative programme have identified activities to be undertaken by lead centres in a regional network. A few selected activities will be supported by UNDP. Training to combat marine oil pollution will be supported.

Transport and communications

71. In the field of civil aviation, the regional programme has supported four Advanced Training Centres in the ASEAN region, with training facilities available regionwide. Additional courses will be required and, in some cases, the frequency of courses has to be increased.

72. With increasing regional demand for training in civil aviation, it is planned to support another training centre in Pakistan to serve South Asian countries (particularly LDCs), a sub-regional training centre in Viet Nam and a basic training centre in Samoa for Pacific countries.

73. Flight calibration of ground-based air navigation facilities will be assisted. Upgrading of essential civil aviation communications in Southwest Asia is envisaged.

74. In shipping, a regional network of existing national institutions on the basis of specialized complementary training, will be supported. A programme of activities in shipping for ASEAN has been requested. Maritime research would give clearer insights into rationalization of services in shipping for Asian countries. An umbrella-type project in shipping, ports and inland waterways would continue to help upgrade port and shipping systems. Regional maritime training for the Pacific will, hopefully, result in standardized syllabuses and regional examination and certification procedures and systems. A regional component of the Inter-Regional Programme for Training Development in Maritime and Multi-Modal Transport (TRAINMAR) will be funded under the regional programme.

75. A cost-benefit oriented study of air and sea cargo development for the Pacific should both shed light on possibilities for increased efficiency of services and also ascertain pre-investment requirements and potential. It is proposed to be undertaken in partnership with the Asian Development Bank, on an equal costsharing basis.

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76. The LDCs unanimously requested that UNDP provide transport and transit equipment and facilities to offset their land-locked and other geographical disadvantages.

77. A pre-feasibility study has been requested for examination of transport links between Vientiane, Lao PDR, and neighbouring Vietnamese ports in order to overcome land-locked handicaps.

78. Training and technical advice in telecommunications planning and maintenance for Asian countries, particularly in respect of emerging new technologies, should help improve the efficiency and productivity of existing and planned telecommunication systems. Regional telecommunications training and the development of the regional telecommunications network in the Pacific will require continued assistance in the next cycle.

79. Because of the steady increase in the number of radio stations, there has been great demand from countries of the region for technical training and advisory services in radio frequency monitoring and management.

80. Rural telecommunications services in LDCs and research on short-wave telecommunications transmissions in Indo-China will be assisted under the regional programme. Training at the Asia and Oceanic Postal School is envisaged with emphasis on higher level management and on the development of regional expertise for TCDC.

81. For the ASEAN group, a package of projects in the development of telecommunications technologies and senior level postal management has been requested.

(iii) Human resources development

Health

82. There is increased awareness in the region of the importance of the primary health care approach to meeting health needs. Technical assistance activities in the 1982-1986 cycle accordingly need to reflect the importance of preventive health measures, in particular, policies to improve water supply and sanitation, and to meet the large scale needs for training, supervision and provision of basic health supplies and facilities. Many countries in the region are also actively seeking to involve practitioners and practices of traditional medicine in the provision of basic health services. Diarrhoeal diseases are rampant. Malaria is coming back to Asian countries, and is prevalent in three countries of the Pacific. Control measures are therefore necessary.

83. The consultations with Governments in the region and with WHO confirmed the importance attached to Primary Health Care (PHC). The WHO Regional Committees for South-East Asia and for the Western Pacific, at their respective thirty-third and thirty-first sessions in September 1980, endorsed interalia the following programme areas: health education in support of PHC, increased use of traditional medicine, appropriate technology for health with emphasis on water supply and sanitation, expanded immunization programmes and PHC promotion and development.

84. Over the 1982-1986 period, most of the countries in the region will be developing their national plans and programmes in connexion with the International
Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade (IDWSSD). UNDP is already involved in the promotion and support for the IDWSSD in Asia and the Pacific. This support is recommended for continuation in the next cycle.

85. An assured supply of essential drugs at reasonable cost is an important element in the provision of basic health services. Technical and managerial skills in drug production and quality control need to be strengthened. In LDCs, the pharmaceutical supply system is still in a developing stage and requires substantial inputs for further strengthening and extension.

86. There is a need for strengthening national units dealing with health planning, management and administration. There is also a need for support at the regional level to strengthen the national planning processes in order to reflect the concerns of PHC, with particular emphasis on incorporating multi-sectoral inputs relating to health, nutrition, and education as part of the planning process.

87. Repair and maintenance of biomedical and other electro-medical equipment have been identified by the LDCs and the Pacific countries as an area of specific need that can be met under the regional programme.

88. In many of these areas, the bulk of activities would have to be carried out at the national and local levels. However, a sharing of techniques and experiences through training programmes and pilot-level activities could usefully be supported by UNDP at the regional or subregional level.

89. The regional assistance proposed in manpower development for malaria control and training of trainers and managers of national diarrhoeal disease control programmes are complementary to UNDP-assisted global projects for related research. Linkages can also be identified in respect of regional efforts to apply low-cost sanitation technologies developed under the interregional programme. It is also proposed that training in expanded immunization programmes be undertaken regionally, taking into account the interregional experience in the same field and in the quality control of vaccines.

Education

90. A UNDP sector review mission, after visiting some countries of the region, confirmed the need to strengthen through regional co-operation national capabilities to support efforts integrating education with economic development. Specific functional areas may include reorienting higher education for development, the improvement of educational facilities, and efficiency in education through improved management and planning and action-oriented research.

91. The Asian Programme for Educational Innovation in Development (APEID), which became operational in 1974, is designed, executed and supervised jointly by 19 member states of Asia and the Pacific. APEID supports an expanding network of national institutions and has been instrumental in establishing national development groups. The programme seeks to build national capabilities in education and to relate it to developmental policy through the promotion and transfer of innovative techniques and strategies in such areas as rural development and skills development. For the 1982-1986 cycle, APEID's programme will focus more on the universalization of education with emphasis on such disadvantaged groups as
women and the rural poor. APEID, as a lead centre, is expected to play an important role in collecting and disseminating regional experience in this area and to support pilot programmes in selected countries.

92. With regard to the efficacy of educational programmes, education planning and management were identified as key areas requiring support at the regional level. Whereas educational planning is a standard feature in almost all countries of the region, it has not, however, been supplemented by appropriate management tools.

93. Expansion of educational facilities is essentially a matter for individual countries. While regional action can do little in this field, it can render an important service in facilitating the exchange of information on innovative approaches developed in each of the countries.

94. A major obstacle for LDCs in effectively participating in and benefiting from existing regional training facilities in technical fields has been the prevailing low academic level in basic sciences, which does not meet the higher level of qualifications required for courses held by institutions on a regionwide basis. An on-going project seeks to develop a crash training programme for training trainers from LDCs, pre-qualification training of prospective entrants to technical courses and to advise participating LDCs as to the most appropriate strategies for the upgrading of basic science teaching and technical and vocational education/training.

95. Countries of the region are in need of adequate and appropriate laboratory and school equipment. During the vist of the LDC programming mission, Lao PDR raised the possibility of including in the regional programme a project on the production of laboratory and school equipment for primary and secondary schools. A similar proposal for the development of school instructional materials was also made by Bangladesh. Nepal also expressed interest in a feasibility study for joint production of school and laboratory equipment. This proposal for a feasibility study was endorsed by the LDCs.

96. The regional centres network operated by the Southeast Asia Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO) could be utilized for regional training by nationals from LDCs and other countries as well. Training awards and workshops will be supported by UNDP in the next cycle.

97. In order to develop the curriculum in industrial arts, home economics, agriculture and commerce, a project for vocationally oriented education was requested by the Pacific countries for exchange of experience through workshops, co-ordination of planning for the various curriculum designs, application in the schools and evaluation. Educational materials will be produced and distributed under this project.

98. The promotion of equal access to new information sources, and the utilization of news media for the purposes of development, are among the priorities of Governments in the region as evidenced by recent UNESCO conferences. UNDP financed preparatory assistance to cover the cost of a meeting in 1980 for Governments to decide on a framework for a news network in Asia.

99. The Asian Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development has been one of the regional organizations supported by UNDP. No further institutional support is anticipated after the completion of the present project. However, UNDP has indicated its willingness to provide programme support in key areas as identified by Governments.

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100. Appropriate consideration will be given to a project proposal from ASEAN for the restoration and conservation of cultural relics and monuments.

Labour

101. Basic objectives have been indicated for UNDP support in the coming years as follows:

(a) To promote employment in the rural areas as well as in the growing urban informal sector;

(b) To promote and assist in a massive effort to develop skills to serve development; and

(c) To establish an appropriate framework of labour administration and industrial relations to sustain co-operation between social partners in economic and social development.

102. Regional funds will be provided to assist the Asian Regional Skills Development Programme (ARSDEP) to follow up policy-oriented research carried out during the current cycle. In addition, the programme will assist in providing training documentation and referral services, rural training, development and exchange of training materials, and testing and certification, in trade standards. Training programmes for small and medium-sized enterprises, for women and for overseas employment were identified for future action.

103. The Asian Employment Programme (ARTEP) will undertake studies and sponsor seminars on employment planning, labour markets and employment policies, monitoring trends, and labour absorption for employment in industry and trade.

104. ARTEP and ARPLA are both projects of long duration, and their continuance during the third cycle will, therefore, need careful monitoring. The sharing of related activities among them, as well as with other UNDP-supported institutions in the region, will be encouraged.

105. The ASEAN Labour Ministers requested support for intercountry efforts in the development of responsible trade unionism, including the promotion of collective bargaining, innovative approaches to industrial relations based on national values and cultures, and voluntary or compulsory conciliation and arbitration.

Other areas

106. Other activities to be undertaken include training in basic skills and promotion of small-scale enterprises and entrepreneurship in the Pacific, and assistance for regionwide improvement of domestic development services, including Youth in Development.

107. A programme to assist integrated atoll development has been requested for Pacific countries and the Maldives. Experimental and pilot activities are expected to facilitate application of appropriate measures in other remote atolls and outer islands which are inhabited by disadvantaged groups.
Agriculture, fisheries and forestry

108. Despite accelerated urbanization, the population and labour force of the countries in the region as a whole remain predominantly rural. Agriculture continues to be a mainstay of the economies, and remains a priority area for national and international action.

109. Consultations with the Governments concerned revealed a strong regional need for assistance in improving food self-sufficiency by water resource development, by increasing the availability and rationalizing the distribution of fertilizers and pesticides, by preventing food losses, and by improving small scale water conservancy and farming systems in rainfed and high-altitude areas. Services in soil survey techniques were requested by the LDCs. Assistance for plant quarantine and plant protection services was seen by the Pacific countries as a priority area.

110. Specific work is envisaged with respect to coconut and pepper varieties, food grains and coarse legumes and jute marketing in Asia, and root crops in the Pacific. Training and applied research in sericulture was requested by countries in the region.

111. ASEAN co-operation in agriculture will continue to be assisted in the next cycle. A study of supply and demand of food and other strategic agricultural products is expected to lead to improved harmonization of agricultural policies. The study is being conducted along TCDC lines.

112. Assistance to programmes that particularly affect small farmers and fishermen is emphasized in the regional programme. In rural development, the training of rural communicators and in-country training of rural development workers were of prime interest to the LDCs.

113. Dissemination of applied research results on buffalo, including work on buffalo nutrition and economic feeding systems at the small farm level, is another new feature in the programme. Regional livestock development in the Pacific will continue to be assisted.

114. Development of marine fisheries in the Pacific including strengthening of the Forum Fisheries Agency was requested for continuation by the countries concerned.

115. Fishery development in the Bay of Bengal area and in the South China Sea region will continue to be assisted, as well as EEZ fishery management. Associated funding from other programmes is envisaged.

116. Some instances of linkages between regional and interregional programmes may be mentioned here. The results of a global project on research for development of pest management techniques through biological methods of control should be relevant to a proposed regional project for prevention of food losses. Regional support for an aquaculture network of lead centres in Asia made it possible to plan the regional training and research centres in Nigeria and Brazil under the interregional programme. The regional projects in the South China Sea and in the Bay of Bengal originated from the Ind.-Pacific Fisheries Council previously assisted under the interregional programme.

117. The on-going Asian aquaculture network, which includes a lead centre in China will continue to focus on training, applied research and demonstration. It is largely TCDC-oriented.

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118. The regional forestry advisory group is envisaged for extension into the next cycle. Regional training in forest inventory continues to be undertaken at the Forest Survey of India located in Dehra Dun. Of primary interest to LDCs are a regional project in forest and reforestation management, which includes work on wood fuels, and a project on watershed management, including flood and drought-prone areas.

(v) Technology and industry

Technology

119. The promotion, transfer and adaptation of technology can be fostered mainly through regional exchanges in experience-sharing and upgrading capability to undertake joint demonstration or applied R and D efforts. In the dissemination of technology, it is essential to obtain the co-operation of the productive sectors; otherwise, experiments and prototypes tend to remain isolated from the mainstream of development. Technology planning has been given increasing priority by the countries in view of the importance of technology selection in economic growth.

120. Consultations with the countries of the region revealed a significant interest in technology transfer. Selection of technologies from developed countries could be facilitated by strengthening the capacity of developing countries in negotiating with transnational corporations. Regional projects for Asian countries and for the Pacific were requested in this area. TCDC could be utilized regionwide to foster multicity country work on R and D, and for training within the framework of the Regional Centre for Technology Transfer (RCTT). Establishment or strengthening of industrial property systems in the region could facilitate technology transfer.

121. The ASEAN group has requested a programme of projects in waste recycling, low-cost housing materials, strengthening regulatory mechanisms, establishment of a technology information bank, promotion of anti-pollution technologies, planning of science and technology, research on science and technology indicators and developing an information exchange network.

122. Appropriate technology will be fostered in the Pacific at the request of the countries. TCDC methods and the assistance of volunteers, as appropriate, would be useful.

123. The regional network of agricultural machinery centres will continue into the next cycle. Assistance will also be provided to regional linkages in precision measurements and scientific instruments. A project on industrial application of isotopes, supported by UNDP and associated funding from other sources, is proposed for extension in the next cycle. Training and applied research on mangrove eco-systems will be conducted. A seismological programme for Asian mountain ranges is required in order to complete earthquake catalogues, to improve seismographic networks, to study areas of particular seismological or engineering significance, to collect seismotectonic information and to prepare relevant maps.

124. In coconut wood processing and utilization, programme support confined to training is envisaged.
Industry

125. Co-operation in industry at the subregional rather than regional level appears to be more feasible. For example, ASEAN is embarking on a programme of industrial co-operation including pre-feasibility studies on three specific industries earmarked for possible industrial complementation efforts.

126. A feasibility study on the establishment of an ammonium sulfate fertilizer plant has been requested by the LDCs.

127. Assistance for regional efforts to improve low-cost building materials, including their pre-fabrication, and to carry out regional training in sponge iron industry development was requested under the regional programme.

Tourism

128. To foster the potential for tourism in the region, hotel personnel training in the Pacific and tourism training in South Asia and in the ASEAN region will be assisted in the next cycle.

(vi) Planning and administration of development

129. To apply strategies of development effectively, the countries of the region, particularly the lesser and least developed, require adequate administrative capability in planning, implementation of plans, monitoring and evaluation.

130. While much progress has been made by countries of the region in terms of their capacity to formulate development plans, much more remains to be done especially in addressing the twin problems of growth with equity, and of efficient plan implementation. The latter problem clearly stems from a number of well-known constraints, one of which is the inadequacy of trained staff in national administrative agencies. Furthermore, local-level planning is increasingly required as an essential element of overall planning, in order to achieve equity and income distribution through popular participation in development.

131. In addition to sectoral planning techniques, it is increasingly recognized that there is need for specific planning in the new areas of energy and the application of science and technology to development.

132. In the training of administrative and managerial personnel, the twinning of training institutions in countries at different levels of development will be advanced with UNDP support.

133. The need to strengthen the capacity to conduct policy studies on the "needs of tomorrow" was recognized. These studies should relate only to development issues of practical relevance and applicability in the region, and should preferably be entrusted to existing institutions in Asia and the Pacific.

134. The Asian and Pacific Development Centre (APDC) will conduct research on its own or encourage research among institutions in the region; facilitate exchanges through meetings of senior researchers, officials and other persons at the policy-making level; arrange working-level training utilizing national, sub-regional and regional institutions in a network approach; and serve as a
clearing house for information on development. It will maintain a judicious balance between research and training. Special organizational identity will be given to programme areas related to issues concerning women, youth, children and the handicapped, and sufficient emphasis will be given to social welfare and development. UNDP will continue support to APDC within the frame of UNDP's primary concern for programme financing while, as agreed, institutional costs become progressively the responsibility of the participating countries.

135. UNDP technical assistance in support of Co-operation in South Asia was requested by the countries concerned.

136. Quick-action, short-term consultancies to assist Pacific countries in dealing with specific development issues and concerns are greatly appreciated and consequently requested for continuation in the next cycle. Regional training in project formulation and appraisal was also endorsed by the Pacific countries.

137. Training in public administration for Pacific countries and in development banking regionwide were recommended for extension.

138. Inadequacy of available data inhibits efficient plan formulation and implementation. The regional programme will therefore strengthen technical capability in statistics by support to the Asian and Pacific Statistical Institute (SIAP), while shifting its emphasis from institutional to programme funding. Likewise, for each of the next four years, it is proposed that regional courses and workshops on household survey statistical techniques be conducted in India under TCDC arrangements.

139. It was requested by the LDCs that UNDP provide assistance to upgrade national institutions and facilities which could be adapted for regional co-operation. In these instances, regional funding would be more readily available when some measure of country IPF resources is also invested in these national institutions.

140. In order to be able to assist in responding to new opportunities and demands that may arise from the deliberations of the upcoming United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries, the LDCs requested that some funding be set aside during the next cycle. It is also proposed that there should be an exclusive allocation to the LDCs in order to help them gain access to new activities of the international community pursuant to needs and priorities of regional or global concern.

141. A possible regional component of UNDP's development information network has been discussed by a consultant mission with some countries of the region.

142. For the continuing validation of the intercountry programme by means of continuing contacts with Governments of the region, it will be necessary to envisage the programming support shown in Annex I, B.1. (f).

(vii) Trade and economic co-operation

143. The developing countries in the region are intensifying their efforts to secure improved trade terms and access to markets in developed countries, while diversifying and improving the quality of their exports as well as increasing trade among themselves. Within these broad objectives, certain programme areas have been identified for assistance during the 1982-1986 cycle. UNDP is already active in supporting activities in many of these programme areas.
144. The 1979 review of the trade sector concluded that new projects in this sector in 1982-1986, as well as the follow-up of activities in the existing programme, should pursue new directions aimed at involving the commercial sector, engage in more micro-level activities, and promote closer linkages of production with trade. Future activities should also promote improved packaging of export products and industrial complementation linked to trade facilitation measures.

145. It was recognized that for most developing countries, especially LDCs in the region, there is a continuing need to help improve and strengthen planning and management capability of the external sector (trade policy, trade promotion, etc.).

146. Continued technical support of regional forums such as the Trade Negotiations Group (TNG) and the Bangkok Agreement will be necessary in the 1982-1986 cycle. The Bangkok Agreement, at present, covers Bangladesh, India, Lao PDR, Republic of Korea and Sri Lanka. There is scope for expansion both of the membership, as well as of the subjects covered by the preferential agreements.

147. New activities to be carried out in support of ECDC in the region will include both product studies for co-operation among Asian state-trading organizations, and sectoral studies on multi-national marketing arrangements. The January 1980 meeting on ECDC held in Manila and financed by UNDP made recommendations on investigating the prospects for an Asia/Pacific Forum on ECDC, and for regular meetings among subregional co-operation groupings.

148. The regional project on the Trade Co-operation Group (TCG) will require continuing support during the next cycle for studies and advisory services for negotiations of long-term contracts, study of non-tariff barriers and trade/production linkages.

149. Recognizing the severity of trade and transit problems in the landlocked countries, related assistance is being provided to Afghanistan, Bhutan, Lao PDR and Nepal. Follow-up to this project for 1982-1984 was recommended by the LDC Meeting. The project involves assistance in reducing transit transport costs, examining feasibility of air routes, simplifying trade products, and utilizing storage and cargo handling facilities in transit countries.

150. With regard to assistance to ASEAN, studies supported by UNDP and UNCTAD have been completed relating to ASEAN preferential trading arrangements, import procurement and harmonization of trade statistics. Studies on a STABEX scheme with Japan for the stabilization of ASEAN export earnings, and follow-up work on MTN non-tariff barriers are underway. ASEAN requested technical support to the Committee on Trade and Tourism (COTT) for the 1982-1986 cycle. Relevant activities include follow-up to MTN, import procurement, research and policy studies for trade expansion and transport economics to be carried out by existing ASEAN institutions, trade information and documentation, standardization and quality control, and regional tourism training.

151. Assistance is being provided to LDCs by a project in trade policy and planning. This project was endorsed for continuation into 1982-1984 at the LDC Intergovernmental Meeting in November. It covers training and advisory services in export development policies, trade control measures and trade negotiations.
152. For the Pacific island countries, a trade promotion project, endorsed for extension to 1982-1984 by the Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting in November, includes an assessment of export production, product adaptation, trade information, export marketing programmes, import procurement management, and training in trade negotiations.

153. The regional project on advisory services for trade information has assisted countries of the region in respect of market research, trade intelligence and information on trade flows. Further assistance from the project during 1982-1984 will be required, particularly for LDCs.

154. Experience has shown that reduction or removal of trade barriers by themselves may not lead to an expansion of trade without appropriate financial and monetary arrangements as well. Hence, there is a need for strengthening such co-operation, possibly at the level of the subregional groupings. The ASEAN group has requested UNDP funding for training in financial systems and techniques, e.g., a seminar on access to capital markets in the United States, Japan and West Asia, and a study of ASEAN banking structures and prospects.

155. The Asian Clearing Union (ACU) was set up to facilitate payments for international transactions among the participating members on a multilateral basis and has been instrumental in promoting monetary co-operation between the banking systems in the countries of Asia. With UNDP's support, this ACU framework can be used to incorporate the concept contained in a long-standing proposal for an Asian Reserve Bank to provide balance of payments support to its members by means of reserve pooling.

156. Continuing assistance to the Asian and Pacific Coconut Community and to the Pepper Community is envisaged for the next cycle. Co-operation in jute marketing will also be promoted, in association with bilateral donors.

157. Intraregional arrangements to promote ECDC can be supplemented by interregional ECDC supported by UNDP. Assistance for technical aspects of MTN, funded under the regional IPF, represented part of an interregional programme in the second cycle. Continuing regional support will include training in trade policies and negotiations for LDCs, complemented by advisory services under the interregional programme on implications for their trade policies, in compliance or non-compliance with the MTN agreements.

158. Dissemination of information on the General Scheme of Preferences (GSP) through technical advice and training will be supported in the next cycle.

159. Regional training in customs administration is also expected to continue.

160. The development of export credit insurance should promote the expansion and diversification of exports from countries of the region and help bring about an increase in intraregional trade.

161. Existing insurance training programmes are far from adequate. A series of specialized seminars are to be organized in 1981 with UNDP support. A review mission organized by UNDP in 1979 recommended the need for further assistance in this area during 1982-1983.
Other areas

162. New programme areas which will require support over the 1982-1986 cycle cover advisory services in export packaging of such products common to the region as shrimps, spices, fruits and vegetables; trade facilitation (i.e., training in tariff nomenclature and policies); debt restructuring or debt management; quantitative analysis studies to provide an empirical base for an interlinked regional model for forecast planning and economic relations; restrictive business practices; and assistance to the business community through co-operation among national chambers of commerce.

C. Modalities for programme implementation

163. Throughout the programming exercise, and at the concluding Government Aid Co-ordinators Meeting in Delhi, Governments evinced the utmost concern in the methods of technical co-operation to be applied in the delivery of the region's intercountry programme for the third cycle. The views expressed by the participating Governments are recorded in paragraphs 164-185 below.

(i) Institutional vs. programme support

164. On the premise that a primary purpose of UNDP assistance is to promote collective self-reliance, an analysis of past experience with United Nations supported regional institutions points to the clear need both for a reduction and consolidation of these institutions, as well as for direct support to the specific programmes of those institutions which are truly intergovernmental in character.

165. In the past, a number of regional projects have taken the form of central institutions, essentially created and run by organizations of the United Nations system. There is now widespread agreement that this type of project—often characterized by the token participation of large numbers of countries in the region—has generally outlived its usefulness. The network approach seems to be a more viable alternative as a means of bringing more direct benefits to the participating countries.

166. However, to the extent that Governments have the readiness and capacity to cooperate and assume responsibility for regional institutions, support to them on a specific and time-bound basis should not be excluded. There are also economies of scale when training needs are met by a regional or subregional institution serving a group of countries.

167. The long-term viability of regional institutions depends on the financial contributions of participating Governments. UNDP assistance will increasingly focus on the development and support of programme activities of regional institutions in priority areas. This will permit UNDP to support only those programmes which are tailored to meet needs clearly identified by the participating countries, and to evaluate performance in line with stated objectives.

(ii) Networking arrangements

168. Networking arrangements involve technical co-operation among several national institutions or projects to achieve common goals. This form of regional institutional co-operation has the advantage that Governments are likely to be more
directly involved since such a network gives them concrete benefits from the regional programme, in addition to opportunities for external co-operation. It can facilitate TCDC in a much more direct way. A major portion of support from intercountry resources would thus go directly into strengthening the participating national institutions joined together in a regional network. The networking of associated national centres in the Asian Programme of Educational Innovation in Development is a successful example.

(iii) Diversification of location of project sites

169. The heavy concentration of project sites of UNDP-supported regional projects in a few locations has impeded the process of involving Governments more directly in the management and operation of regional projects. It has been observed that host countries (i.e., where projects' headquarters are located) are much more actively involved in the programmes of a regional project than the other participating countries. Accordingly, without prejudice to substance, projects should be designed so as to make it possible to disperse project sites to a wider extent in order to spread the benefits of the regional programme to more countries in the region. This process has already begun to occur. For example, in the Pacific region there are now nine projects located or about to be located in the smaller island countries as compared to none two years ago.

170. Host country obligations in respect of regional projects located in the smaller, less advantaged countries, however, can impose a heavy financial burden. In these cases, therefore, it has been suggested that administrative support costs be included in project budgets as a charge to UNDP.

(iv) Unified project management

171. Another modality consists of merging or unifying the appropriate projects under a single management in order to achieve a more unified approach to development tasks, maximize project cost/benefits and facilitate the task of project supervision, implementation and monitoring. Proliferation of projects and some duplication or overlapping could be avoided or reduced through this approach. The successful integration of four regional institutions - the Asian and Pacific development Administration Centre (APDAC), the Asian and Pacific Centre for Women in Development (APCWD), the Asian and Pacific Social Welfare and Development Centre (SWDCAP) and the Asian and Pacific Development Institute (APDI) - into an integrated Asian and Pacific Development Centre (APDC) is a prime example.

(v) Advisory services

172. Serious questions have been raised about those regional adviser posts, with general terms of reference, which have tended to proliferate and/or self-perpetuate with increasing costliness relative to results achieved. At the New Delhi Meeting, the continuing usage of regional advisors was therefore strongly discouraged. The preference is, rather, for shared expertise with specific job descriptions and tasks, available to a number of countries. In some instances, it may be useful to incorporate the more useful features of regional advisory services within the framework of the network-type projects rather than to provide them on the traditional self-contained basis.
173. A justified criticism in the past has been that regional expertise tended to
cover vast areas of Asia and/or the Pacific. This has served to dilute the
effectiveness of regional projects. Shared expertise covering smaller groups of
countries and giving more expert time to each country is preferred. In this
connexion, the concept of "shared services" has been viewed with considerable
interest, whereby a given specialist is assigned successive tasks within a
pre-established work programme for a limited number of countries which have a
common need for a particular specialist service.

174. Staff engaged in regional projects should be guided by work plans drawn up in
consultation with the Governments involved, and should work with a clear and
established focal point in the Government departments concerned. In some fields,
mobile teams of regional experts providing in-country training would reach greater
numbers of trainees in the countries served, as compared with countries sending
limited numbers of fellows to an existing institution in the region.

175. The countries of the Pacific have expressed great appreciation for the
consultancies available to them under a UNDP-financed project executed by ESCAP
through the United Nations Development Advisory Team, the South Pacific Bureau of
Economic Co-operation and the South Pacific Commission. The flexible and prompt
response to urgent needs of short duration was supported by the Governments and
requested for continuation into the next cycle.

176. In view of the rising cost of expert services, and in recognition of the New
Dimensions guidelines, UNDP and the Executing Agencies should examine more cost
effective arrangements, including TCDC, in the provision of expert services. The
definition of agreed regionwide and subregional levels of remuneration would enable
these arrangements to have wider application in the future.

(vi) Training

177. Since fellowships are provided under national IPPFs or other funds, regional
IPPFs should normally finance only the participation of fellows in courses conducted
by institutions in the region and designed to promote the specific purposes of
intercountry co-operation. Such activities, therefore, need to be related to the
objectives of a regional project; it would be preferable if regional IPPF funds for
fellowships are matched by provision of fellowships from the national IPPFs of the
sending or receiving countries. Such training of a TCDC type within the region may
be assisted under the regional programme while training outside the region should
usually be financed from the country IPPFs or other sources.

178. Under the regional IPPF, fellowships can be provided to upgrade the staff of
existing national institutions which already have the capacity to assume a role in
a regional network. For the LDCs, the provision of UNDP funds for basic training
to assist them in taking greater advantage of regional training facilities has been
requested and approved in the past. For the smaller countries, e.g., in the
Pacific, scarce manpower resources make it difficult to release officials to take
training courses abroad. It has been requested that in a limited number of cases,
UNDP funding be provided for the recruitment of temporary replacement staff through
recruitment of United Nations volunteers or associate experts.

179. With regard to conferences, seminars, symposia, workshops and the like, the
Regional Co-ordinators Meeting urged that UNDP regional funds be drawn upon only if
these activities are part of a larger programme. Allocation should preferably not
be made for isolated ad hoc events.

...
180. Indeed, doubts have been expressed about the general efficacy of the use of technical meetings, seminars and workshops in the regional programme. Project proposals for this type of activity should be viewed in the light of the following criteria:

(a) To discover or clarify new orientations or innovations in approaches to development;

(b) To discuss the most suitable design for the relevant regional projects including reviewing consultants' reports, under preparatory assistance; or

(c) To undertake periodic reviews, at an intergovernmental level, of relevant major regional programmes or activities.

181. With such criteria, the indiscriminate use and proliferation of technical meetings, seminars and workshops may be avoided, and limiting such gatherings to the essential minimum may help ensure their more effective use in order to heighten the quality, relevance and impact of such events. In any case, the training objective of such events should be clearly identified and appraised.

(vii) **Linkages between national and regional projects**

182. The linkage between national and intercountry projects could lead to mutually reinforcing impact. This is envisaged in a number of regional projects, sometimes including the combined use of country and regional IPFs.

(viii) **Matching or associated funding from other sources**

183. Obtaining matching or associated funds from other multilateral sources or from bilateral donors should give greater "mileage" to the regional programme. UNDP would welcome this association, particularly in the perspective of limited UNDP resources. The experience of the United Nations development system in regional projects and activities over the years could be better capitalized through this modality. The past experience in co-financing or joint funding of regional projects has proven to be satisfactory.

(ix) **Use of volunteers and other middle-level manpower**

184. The increased use of the middle-level type of professional expertise as provided by the United Nations Volunteer programme continues to be supported by the Pacific countries and others. A wider coverage could be achieved through the use of United Nations volunteers, associate experts, regionally recruited field assistants or professionals hired under such specially designed schemes as the "Mekong cadres".

(x) **Preferential access for LDCs**

185. The New Delhi Meeting endorsed the principle of preferential access to be offered to the LDCs in all region-wide projects. It was also recommended not to ask for host country contributions from them and from the smaller island developing countries.

/...
Annex I
FINANCIAL SUMMARY

A. Total resources taken into account for programming
   (In US$ millions)
   226

B. Use of resources

1. Identified projects
   (a) Projects (new and on-going) as requested by subregional
       intergovernmental meetings
   (b) Other on-going projects
   (c) Other new projects
   (d) Future extension/expansion of above projects
   (e) Uncosted new projects
   (f) Programming and programme support

   Sub-total for identified projects: 166

2. Earmarked for future activities a/
   60

Total resources programmed: 226

C. Distribution of resources and identified projects by programme area

\[
\begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|c|}
\hline
& \text{US$ millions for costed projects} & \text{No. of projects} \\
\hline
\hline
\text{Energy, Natural Resources} & 19.7 & 5.45 & 25.15 & 13 & 4 \\
\text{and Environment} & 14.215 & 7.5 & 21.715 & 15 & 7 \\
\text{Transport and Communications} & 6.526 & 14.8 & 21.326 & 36 & 6 \\
\text{Human Resources Development} & 6.665 & 11.2 & 17.865 & 23 & 4 \\
\text{Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries} & 4.31 & 11.0 & 15.31 & 14 & 1 \\
\text{Planning and Administration} & 2.394 & 12.14 & 14.534 & 17 & 2 \\
\text{Technology and Industry} & 6.483 & 4.3 & 10.783 & 15 & 2 \\
\text{Trade and Economic Cooperation} & 60.293 & 66.39 & 126.683 b/ & 133 & 26 \\
\hline
\end{array}
\]

a/ Project proposals against this category were made at the New Delhi Meeting.

b/ In addition, approximately $40 million is earmarked for activities in (d) and (e), section B. above.
### DISTRIBUTION OF PROGRAMMED RESOURCES AND PROJECTS BY SECTOR AND BY PROGRAMME AREA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sectors and programme areas</th>
<th>Programmed Resources</th>
<th>Number of Projects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>On-going (costed)</td>
<td>New (Costed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Energy, natural resources and environment</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Natural resources</td>
<td>14,500</td>
<td>2,300</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meteorology</td>
<td>2,400</td>
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<tr>
<td>Environment</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>500</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Transport and communications</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civil aviation</td>
<td>4,500</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sea/air transport</td>
<td>665</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Land transport</td>
<td>6,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communications</td>
<td>1,400</td>
<td>2,800</td>
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<td>3. Human resource development</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Information/culture</td>
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<tr>
<td>Labour</td>
<td>405</td>
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<tr>
<td>Others</td>
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</table>
## DISTRIBUTION OF PROGRAMMED RESOURCES AND PROJECTS BY SECTOR AND BY PROGRAMME AREA

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Sectors and programme areas</th>
<th>Programmed Resources</th>
<th>Number of Projects</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>On-going (costed)</td>
<td>New (Costed)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>4. Agriculture, fisheries and forestry</strong></td>
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<tr>
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<td>Fisheries</td>
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<td>Forestry</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>5. Planning and administration</strong></td>
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<td><strong>6. Technology and industry</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Industry</td>
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<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tourism</td>
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<td>-</td>
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<td><strong>7. Trade and economic Co-operation</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Co-operation</td>
<td>5,983</td>
<td>3,000</td>
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</table>

| Total | 126,683 a/ | | 133 | 26 |

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*a/ In addition, approximately $40 million is earmarked for activities in (d) and (e), Section B, Annex I.*