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GOVERNING COUNCIL
Twenty-eighth session
June 1981
Agenda item 12

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL TO THE
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL AT ITS SECOND REGULAR
SESSION, 1981

Draft report of the Governing Council on its twenty-eighth session

Rapporteur: Mr. Anton BARAMOV (Bulgaria)

Chapter VIII. OTHER MATTERS

A. Action by other organs of the United Nations system

1. For its consideration of agenda item 10 (a), the Council had before it a note by the Administrator contained in document DP/560.
2. The views expressed during the Council's consideration of this agenda item are contained in documents DP/SR.715, 716, 720 and 734.
3. At its 734th meeting, the Council adopted the draft decision on the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries submitted by the Working Group as contained in document DP/L.372. The text of the decision appears in the annex below as decision 81/35.

B. Relations between UNDP and external institutions

4. For its consideration of agenda item 10 (b), the Council had before it a report of the Administrator contained in document DP/561.
5. The report of the Administrator was introduced by the Director, Division for Programme Support and Co-ordination, Bureau for Special Activities. The views expressed during the Council's consideration of this item are contained in document DP/SR.734.

6. At its 734th meeting, the Council took note of the report of the Administrator and of the introductory statement. The text of the decision appears in the annex below as decision 81/36.

C. Organization of sessions of the Council

7. For its consideration of agenda item 10 (c), the Council had before it a note by the Administrator (DP/562), Streamlining and rationalization of the work of the Governing Council.

8. At the Council's 709th meeting, the Secretary of the Council introduced the report in DP/562. The views expressed during the Council's consideration of this item are contained in documents DP/SR.709, 711-716, 726, 728 and 734.

9. At its 734th meeting, the Council adopted the draft decision recommended by the Chairman of the Working Group in DP/L.373. The text of the decision appears in the annex below as section I of decision 81/37. On the recommendation of the President, the Council also adopted a decision relative to the agenda of its twenty-ninth session. The text of the decision appears in the annex below as section II of decision 81/37. Also on the recommendation of the President, the Council adopted a decision relating to the documentation of its twenty-ninth session of the Council. The text of the decision appears in the annex below as section III of decision 81/37.

10. At its 734th meeting, the Council also approved the proposed revisions of its rules of procedures (DP/1/Rev.2) as contained in document DP/L.357. The text of the decision appears in the annex below as section IV of decision 81/37.

ANNEX

Decision 81/35. The United Nations Conference on
the Least Developed Countries

The Governing Council,

Recalling resolution 122 (V), Comprehensive New Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries of the Fifth United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and General Assembly resolution 35/205 adopted on 16 December 1980 on the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries to be held in September 1981,

Convinced that technical co-operation will continue to be an important element in the development process of the least developed countries, and recalling the role of UNDP in this respect,

1. Takes note of the report of the Administrator to the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (DP/554);
2. Endorses the proposals of the Administrator to place upon request UNDP's extensive experience in co-operating with the least developed countries including the UNDP field establishment and the Funds and Programmes under UNDP's administration, at the disposal of the international community in a manner consonant with the activities outlined in paragraph 52 of DP/554;
3. Takes note with appreciation of the support provided by UNDP for the preparation of the Conference;
4. Requests the Administrator to ensure full participation of UNDP in the Conference itself and to undertake within existing administrative resources necessary preparation to effectively discharge any role, consistent with UNDP's mandate, which might be requested of UNDP by the Conference regarding the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action; and
5. Requests the Administrator to report to the next session of the Governing Council on how UNDP has responded to the recommendation of the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries.

734th meeting
27 June 1981

Decision 81/36. Relations between UNDP and external institutions

The Governing Council,

Takes note of the report of the Administrator on relations between UNDP and external institutions and of the introductory statement made thereon.

734th meeting
27 June 1981

Decision 81/37. Streamlining and relationalization of the work of the Council

I

The Governing Council,

1. Decides, with respect to the role and function of the Council:

(a) Henceforth to allocate and orient a well-defined part of its deliberations to major policy issues and emerging development in the operational activities carried out under its supervision on which immediate action is necessary. For this purpose, and in full accordance with its functions under relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, the Council will make recommendations, as appropriate, to the Member States participating in the Programme and will establish adequate policy guidelines and directives for the programmes and funds for which it is responsible;

(b) That the agenda of the Council at each session will include, as a main item, policy reviews;

(c) To define at each session which policy area or subject will be reviewed at the following session; and

(d) Requests the Administrator to prepare relevant documentation on the priority topic selected by the Council for review, including options and possible courses of action for its consideration.

2. Decides, with respect to the sessions of the Council, that the following should apply:

(a) To hold a short part of its annual sessions at a high, senior policy-maker level for the purpose of considering issues which could provide the necessary dynamism to technical co-operation activities carried out under the supervision of the Council;

(b) Whenever required, short sessions may be held by the Council, immediately before or after regular sessions, to examine specific matters;

(c) To hold a short special meeting prior to its twenty-ninth regular session for the consideration of country and intercountry programmes and a special meeting in February 1983 to facilitate the timely approval of new country programmes of the third programming cycle;

(d) To hold a one or two day organizational meeting at the beginning of February each year in New York to elect its bureau and to consider, if necessary, organizational matters.

(e) To establish the agenda of each session, apart from items on organizational and other matters, under five main items (a) policy review;

(b) Programme implementation; (c) Programme planning; (d) other funds and programmes; and (e) financial, budgetary and administrative matters, and further decides that it will consider biennially the question of Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries (TCDC);

(f) To have a broad policy review of other funds and programmes under its supervision biennially, beginning 1983, except for those funds whose activities must be considered annually in accordance with the relevant General Assembly resolutions;

(g) To make introductory statements by the Administrator on separate funds or programmes consecutively, so as to provide Council members with the opportunity of expressing their views in one single intervention;

(h) To establish a list of speakers for the consideration of the main items prior to the session and, during the session to open and close a list of speakers before the consideration of each item;

(i) That, except during the high-level segment of the Council's session, statements under each item, in principle, should be no more than 15 minutes;

(j) That its meetings should start promptly, at the time for which they have been scheduled;

(k) That arrangements, including interpretation, should be made for the servicing of at least one working group;

(l) That in order to avoid the proliferation of the decisions of the Council these decisions should be grouped, whenever possible, under a single heading and that documents which contain proposals having financial implications, in accordance with decision 79/33, should include a statement of the costs involved or should provide in a separate statement the relevant financial implications. The Council further decides that the financial implications of each draft decision should be considered by the Budgetary and Finance Committee before adoption by the Council;

(m) Taking into account the new format of its report, to follow the practice of the Economic and Social Council and no longer formally adopt its report;

(n) To elect its officers at the beginning of the year at its organizational meeting and to request the officers, in co-operation with the Administrator, to hold consultations, as required, with the Member States both before and during the sessions of the Council, for the purpose of organizing and facilitating the completion of the work of the Council; and

(o) To authorize the Administrator to convene when he considers it necessary, in consultation with the Council's elected officers, informal briefing sessions for the members of UNDP in order to ensure that members are kept fully informed on issues to be discussed at the Council.

3. Further decides, with respect to the sessions of the Council, that the following should also apply:

(a) That the Budgetary and Finance Committee should have its own agenda in a separate document and its own organization of work; and

(b) To convene, regularly, the Budgetary and Finance Committee of the Governing Council one week prior to the annual Governing Council sessions, with that week to be devoted to the consideration of those documents which, with priority treatment by the Committee, will contribute most to the efficient scheduling of the Council's time.

4. Also decides, with respect to the control and limitation of documentation:

(a) That the measures recommended by the General Assembly, by the Economic and Social Council and by the Council itself on the control and limitation of documentation should be strictly implemented;

(b) That an indicative quota for the documentation which it expects as a maximum at the following sessions be adopted at each session and that it will exclude documentation on country programmes but will include subquotas for main policy papers and support papers;

(c) That the feasibility of publishing the documentation of the Council in two categories, "main policy papers" and "support papers", should be studied by the Administrator; end

(d) That the changes proposed by the Administrator concerning the symbols of documentation should be implemented.

II

The Governing Council,

1. Decides that "New and specific ways and means of mobilizing increased resources on an increasingly predictable, continuous and assured basis" be the subject of its agenda item on policy review for its twenty-ninth session; and

2. Requests the Administrator to prepare relevant documentation including options and possible courses of action for the Council's consideration of this subject.

III

The Governing Council,

Decides that the indicative quota for the documentation to be submitted to its twenty-ninth session excluding documentation on country and intercountry programmes shall be 1,500 pages with subquotas of 300 pages for "main policy" papers and 1,200 pages for "support papers".

IV

The Governing Council,

Approves the following revisions of its rules of procedures (DP/1/Rev.2).

Rule 1

(Existing Rule 1 shall be part 1 of revised Rule 1)

2. The Governing Council shall hold an organizational meeting early in each calendar year at such times as the Governing Council determines, but in no case later than the last day in February. The organizational meeting shall be responsible for the election of officers of the Governing Council, for the adoption of the agenda of the Governing Council's regular session and for any other matters the Governing Council may determine.

Rule 9

In the first sentence, for "at the beginning of each session" read "at its organizational meeting".

Rule 11

1. In the first sentence, for "at the commencement of its regular session" read "at its organizational meeting"; and for "a Rapporteur" read "a Fourth Vice-President".

734th meeting
21 June 1981