GOVERNING COUNCIL
Twenty-eighth session
June 1981
Item 10(c)

FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF THE ORGANIZATION
OF THE SESSIONS OF THE COUNCIL

Streamlining and rationalization of the
work of the Council

Recommendation submitted by the Chairman of the Working Group

Taking into account the views expressed by delegations with respect to
the recommendations contained in paragraph 65 of document DP/562, the
Chairman of the Working Group recommends that the Governing Council adopt
the following draft decision:

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;
(i) 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 sub-quotas 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; and

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