

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME



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S U P P O R T

IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE GOVERNING COUNCIL AT PREVIOUS SESSIONS

UNDP DEVELOPMENT STUDY PROGRAMME

Report of the Administrator

Summary

This report summarizes the action taken by the Administrator since the twenty-eighth session of the Council to give practical effect to the relevant provisions of decision 81/30 on the establishment of a development study programme.

The Council's attention is drawn to the Administrator's recommendation in paragraph 14 of the report.

INTRODUCTION

1. At its twenty-eighth session, the Governing Council adopted decision 81/30, whereby the Administrator was requested to establish a UNDP Development Study Programme to organize seminars to which high-level national policy makers, government representatives of international organizations, senior secretariat officials and field experts would be invited to discuss informally various aspects of development and technical co-operation in order to promote greater understanding of development problems and to generate new resources and ideas. According to the same decision the Study Programme is to be financed by voluntary contributions of Governments, international institutions and private foundations.

2. The Governing Council invited member Governments and relevant international organizations and foundations to finance the Study Programme and to co-operate with the Administrator in organizing its activities. The Council further requested the Administrator to consult with these Governments, international organizations and foundations in order to ensure the necessary financing of the Study Programme.

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3. The Council also requested the Administrator to report to its twenty-ninth session on the implementation of decision 81/30.

4. Decision 81/30 of the Governing Council was endorsed by the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session in 1981, and by the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session.

I. OBJECTIVES OF THE DEVELOPMENT STUDY PROGRAMME

5. In accordance with the provisions of decision 81/30 and its Annex, the objectives of the Programme include:

(a) Promotion of a greater understanding of the issues concerning development and technical co-operation, through the organization of informal and continuous dialogue and discussion at various levels;

(b) Strengthening of public and governmental support for development and technical co-operation;

(c) Generation of new ideas and innovative solutions to problems of development and technical co-operation; and

(d) Mobilization of additional resources for development and technical co-operation.

II. ACTION TAKEN

6. On 15 October 1981, the Administrator wrote to member Governments and relevant international organizations requesting their support in giving practical effect to the provisions of decision 81/30 at the earliest possible date. The Administrator noted in his letter that the establishment of the Study Programme demonstrated once again that UNDP had a unique and innovative role to play in matters of development.

7. At the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities held on 3 November 1981, some delegations expressed their support for the decision to establish the Study Programme, and indicated that their Governments would be pleased to co-operate with it and consider favourably the possibility of providing either financial assistance or facilities for seminars organized by the Programme or both.

8. A number of Governments have replied to the Administrator's letter and have expressed support for the establishment of the Study Programme. One Government pledged \$50,000 as its contribution to the Study Programme. Some Governments have indicated their willingness to provide financial assistance or to host seminars. Others, while supporting the objectives of the Study Programme, have cited budgetary difficulties in making financial contributions. The Administrator has continued efforts to seek the support of member Governments.

9. The Administrator has also held consultations with interested international organizations with a view to developing in collaboration with them a programme of seminars and discussion meetings. Consultations in that regard are continuing.

of the international organizations concerned have expressed their willingness to co-operate with the Study Programme by providing speakers and other participants for seminars and discussion meetings.

10. A "Development Dialogue" Programme has also been organized with the collaboration of the University of Pittsburgh. On 9 March an organizational meeting was held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, at which a possible format for such a dialogue was discussed with a group of corporate executives, bankers, journalists and academics interested in the subject. Further preparatory discussions in that connexion are continuing.

11. The Study Programme is also providing advice on the development of subject matter for a series of conferences being organized by some private foundations.

12. Subject to the availability of funds the Administrator is also planning to:

(a) Convene the Honorary Advisory Committee of the Study Programme at an early date; and

(b) Hold a one-week seminar for parliamentarians attending the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS

13. In light of the situation regarding financial contributions for the Study Programme, the Administrator has had to restrict its activities to those that do not involve additional expenditure. The Administrator considers that the Study Programme can be developed into an important instrument for the promotion of understanding of issues concerning development and technical co-operation. The Administrator therefore renews his appeal to member Governments to support the Study Programme with financial contributions.

14. The Study Programme has started its activities despite the financial constraints. The Administrator recommends that, in addition to voluntary contributions by Member States, the Governing Council may wish to consider allocating, as seed money, a small amount from resources available to UNDP to the Trust Account opened for the Development Study Programme.
