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POLICY

OTHER MATTERS

RELATIONS BETWEEN UNDP AND EXTERNAL INSTITUTIONS

Report of the Administrator

SUMMARY

This report is submitted in compliance with Governing Council decision 79/19 and describes the actions taken to implement that decision and the activities undertaken during 1982. It also provides the Council with a first evaluation of results achieved and reaches certain conclusions about the use of the "Guidelines concerning the relationship between the United Nations Development Programme and external institutions."

1. At its twenty-sixth session, in June 1979, the Governing Council had before it document DP/414, with which were provided, for information of the Council, "Guidelines governing the relationship between UNDP and external organizations". The purpose of issuing the guidelines was to help achieve a higher degree of uniformity in the relationship between UNDP and external institutions in order to enhance over-all co-operation with the developing countries. It was emphasized that the guidelines would have application to a wide variety of institutions and organizations, including those in the fields of education, science, labour and trade. In its discussion, the Council expressed appreciation for the formulation of a framework which could potentially increase the flow of resources and skills to developing countries. Members also noted the applicability of the guidelines in attracting institutions and organizations which could provide additional services and expertise from the widest possible geographical and economic base.
2. The Governing Council, in its decision 79/19, adopted the guidelines on the understanding that they would be operative for a trial period of three years, and that an evaluation report would be provided to the Council at the end of the three-year period. Reports, as requested by the Council, have provided detailed information on implementation during the years 1979 (DP/475) and 1980 (DP/561). This present report combines a description of activities during 1981 and action taken or proposed as of the beginning of 1982 with a brief evaluation of the experiences so far gathered.
3. During the year 1981 a modest level of activity by co-operating organizations continued. Both the Catholic Relief Services and the International Co-operative Alliance continued their involvement in projects which were also receiving grant assistance from the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF). The Young Presidents Organization provided advisory participation in a global seminar on institutes of management, organized by the International Labour Organisation (ILO). The Industry Council for Development provided advisory assistance to several Governments in all of the geographical regions, including, also, assistance on a regional basis, to the Caribbean Community (Caricom) countries in seed industry development and other aspects of the food industry. The highlight of their activity during the year was the sponsorship, in co-operation with UNDP and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), of a workshop on the selection of technology for assembly of electronic and electrical products in developing countries. The format and methodology of the seminar proved so successful that discussions are taking place on the potential replication of workshops in such areas as food processing, textiles and agro-chemicals. At the headquarters level, the International Federation of Institutes of Advanced Studies has provided useful backstopping, on a continuing basis, to the Interim Fund for Science and Technology for Development (IFSTD).
4. At the end of the three-year trial period, 15 organizations have officially been recognized as participating in development activities with UNDP on

the basis of the guidelines. These organizations represent a very wide spectrum of fields and disciplines, from medicine, science and technology, education, trade, international business and commercial development, to indigenous entrepreneurship, co-operatives and self-help. Although the response capacity and impact of the whole group of organizations is in the process of initiation, the developing countries can now turn to a multiplicity of outside additional sources to meet development requirements and can obtain easier access to these diverse kinds of assistance through the good offices of the UNDP field establishment. In addition, the regional bureaux, technical advisory units and associated funds and programmes at UNDP headquarters have readily available advisory services and additional sources of technical knowledge and experience upon which to draw. In order to promote more widespread use of co-operating organizations, and to provide more readily available information on their fields of discipline and experience, the Administrator has issued a set of profiles of the active participating institutions to all field offices and headquarters staff. These profile sheets, which will be periodically updated, give information on the expressed aims and purpose of each organization, their fields of discipline and recent development experience, as well as the conditions under which they are prepared to offer assistance and how to contact them.

5. At present, only a certain number of tentative conclusions can be drawn from the limited experience with the guidelines over the past three years. Although there are now some 15 organizations officially listed as co-operating organizations, many of them have yet to provide any significant amount of additional assistance in direct relation to UNDP activities. At the same time, all of the organizations have their own individual programmes of direct assistance to developing countries, and their activities extend, on a bilateral basis, into significant inputs in direct co-operation with Governments as well as non-governmental agencies in the developing countries. However, on the basis of activities to date, it is apparent that the application of the guidelines, while providing a very useful policy framework, does not require any further formalization or institutionalization. The main purpose of the guidelines is to provide the developing countries with easier access to the additional inputs that these organizations can provide, by making UNDP a channel of communication between developing countries and external organizations at all levels, and to do so with a minimum of centralized co-ordination. In this context, the existence of the guidelines and recognition of an established UNDP policy may be steps towards promotion of better co-ordination, in so far as they open an additional channel of communication in the shared development effort.

6. Despite efforts to identify others, only one of the organizations listed in the annex to this report is headquartered in developing countries. On the other hand, many organizations listed have membership from developing countries, and several of them involve, as their legislative basis, partnerships with organizations, entities and individuals in developing countries.

7. In summary, it is the experience of UNDP that establishment of the guidelines and approval of them as a fundamental policy governing such co-operation have been beneficial. It should be recalled that the use of outside groups and organizations, working in co-operation or consultation with UNDP, had been a reality on an ad hoc basis for many years before the guidelines were formulated. With the establishment of the guidelines as the official basis for such co-operation, the UNDP has obtained two important advantages. First, the existence of an official policy framework tends to make the availability of additional assistance more widely known and to open up new and more diversified avenues for such co-operation. Second, it provides a set of recognized as well as practical criteria as an official policy, thus assuring that internationally acceptable standards and purposes are applied to any dealings with such organizations.

8. In the light of experience to date, therefore, it is suggested that the Council note the workability and usefulness of the guidelines, while at the same time giving recognition to the fact that activities arising as a result of the guidelines have not taken on a level of importance or substance at a quantitative level requiring any form of institutionalization, and that the Council will, in future, be kept informed of developments based on the guidelines through the Annual Report of the Administrator. In addition, policy papers will be issued if new, at present unforeseen, policy questions should require renewed consultations.

Annex

CO-OPERATING ORGANIZATIONS

African Medical and Research Foundation (New York)
Aga Khan Foundation (Geneva)
Catholic Relief Services (New York)
International Co-operative Alliance (London)
Industry Council for Development (New York)
International Council of Scientific Unions (Paris)
International Federation of Consulting Engineers - FIDIC (The Hague)
International Federation of Institutes of Advanced Studies (Stockholm)
International Union for Conservation of Nature (Washington, D.C.)
Technical Office for International Studies and Cooperation -
 OTECI (Paris)
Technoserve (Norwalk, Conn.)
The University of the South Pacific (Suva)
Voluntary and Christian Services Trust/Help the Aged/Christian
 Action in Distress (London)
World Crafts Council (New York)
Young Presidents Organization (New York)

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