

# UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME



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GOVERNING COUNCIL  
BUDGETARY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE  
Twenty-ninth session  
June 1982

## REPORT OF THE BUDGETARY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Rapporteur: Mr. Finn Norman Christensen (Denmark)

### CHAPTER III

#### PROGRAMME SUPPORT AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES EXPENDITURES, 1980-1981

1. The Committee decided to consider item 7 (b) of the Council's agenda in conjunction with agenda item 7 (c). See Chapter IV below.

### CHAPTER IV

#### PROGRAMME SUPPORT AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES BUDGET 1982-1983 (continued)

##### D. UNSO UNDP/UNEP joint venture (institutional support)

1. The Assistant Administrator set forth the sequence of events which had led to the extension of the programme of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification to three additional countries. <sup>1/</sup> He noted that, based on an exchange of letters between the Administrator and the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) constituting the agreement reached on the additional resources required to meet the expanded level of operations, UNDP had taken the necessary action to request increased appropriations for that joint venture for 1980-1981. The Executive Director of UNEP, however, had not included the corresponding revised estimates in the budget proposals under the Environment Fund. The Assistant Administrator further stated that the expanded level of operation was also used as the basis for the budget estimates for the joint venture for 1982-1983.

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<sup>1/</sup> See General Assembly resolutions 34/187 of 18 December 1979 and 35/72 of 5 December 1980 as well as decision 8/17 of 20 April 1980 of the Governing Council of UNEP and decision 80/45 of 30 June 1980 of the UNDP Governing Council.

2. The Assistant Administrator informed the Committee that UNDP had been advised that UNEP was not prepared to pay its 1980-1981 share of the expanded operation and further, that UNEP intended to provide a level of support for 1982-1983 below that which appeared in the UNDP biennial budget estimates. He advised the Committee of the Administrator's intention: (a) to secure reimbursement of the additional amount of \$130,500 for 1980-1981; (b) to secure immediate payment of the contribution of UNEP to the joint venture for 1982; and (c) to negotiate a firm basis for the level of activities for the 1982-1983 biennium on the basis of the decisions of the UNDP Governing Council. The Administrator would report on this issue to the Governing Council at its next session.

#### Observations of the Committee

3. Several members expressed support for the manner in which UNSO was carrying out its mandate in the Sudano-Sahelian region, noted with concern the unclear and unresolved financial situation of the UNDP/UNEP joint venture, and expressed the view that appropriate financial means should be secured to provide UNSO with the institutional support it required to operate at the level established in 1980-1981 as commensurate to the requirements of the 19 countries of the region, without compromising the scope and quality of its programming and project performance. While acknowledging the existing financial constraints of UNEP, one member stated that agreements entered upon previously should be adhered to and underlined that this issue should be dealt with in full recognition of the prevailing situation in the Sudano-Sahelian region and the critical needs of the Sudano-Sahelian countries. Members reaffirmed that the contribution of UNDP should be equal to that of UNEP according to previous Council decisions.

#### Recommendation of the Committee

4. The Committee recommends that:

##### The Governing Council,

Expressing appreciation for the satisfactory manner in which the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office is discharging its desertification control mandate in the Sudano-Sahelian region,

(a) Note with concern that the level of the contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to the UNDP/UNEP joint venture (institutional support) is uncertain;

(b) Urge that this issue be resolved in a manner so as not to impair the ability of the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office to carry out its expanded responsibilities in this region;

(c) Reaffirm its decision that the contribution of UNDP should be equal to that of the United Nations Environment Programme;

(d) Request the Administrator to report to the Governing Council on this issue at its next session.