

# UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME



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POLICY

## PROGRAMME PLANNING: THE THIRD PROGRAMMING CYCLE, 1982-1986

### Request from the Government of Liberia to be accorded treatment as if it had been included in the list of least developed countries

#### Note by the Administrator

1. In resolution 37/149 of 17 December 1982, the General Assembly requested, inter alia, UNDP to maintain and expand its programme of assistance to Liberia and urged, inter alia, UNDP "to provide all possible assistance to help the Government of Liberia to cope with the critical humanitarian needs of the population and to provide, as appropriate, food, medicine and essential equipment for schools and hospitals, as well as to meet the emergency needs of the population in the region hit by the recent landslide and flooding". The General Assembly, furthermore, invited inter alia UNDP to bring to the attention of the Governing Council the special needs of Liberia.

2. In its third country programme, which covers the period 1983-1986 and which has been submitted to the present session of the Council under symbol DP/CP/LIR/3, the Government of Liberia provides background information regarding the situation in the country. It also informs the Council that it has prepared up-to-date information relating to the economic situation in Liberia for submission to the Committee for Development Planning (CDP), requesting it to re-examine whether Liberia should be included in the list of least developed countries. CDP will consider this matter at its nineteenth session in April of this year. In this connection, it should be recalled that at its meeting in April 1982 CDP had considered whether Liberia, together with five other countries, met the criteria for inclusion in the list of the least developed countries. From the information then available, the Committee decided that Liberia did not fully meet those criteria whereas the other five did.

3. The Governing Council has in the past authorized 11 countries to be treated by UNDP as if they were included in the list of least developed countries (in the case of one country for 1980-1981 only). Six of these countries have subsequently, by decision of the General Assembly or ECOSOC, been included in the list of least developed countries. Currently four countries are being treated as if they were included in the list: Angola, Mauritania, Senegal and Nicaragua. The Council's decision to accord countries this treatment has been based on General Assembly or Security Council resolutions calling for special efforts for these countries.
4. The benefits enjoyed by countries designated as least developed, or treated as if they were, consist of revision of their IPFs to take into account this supplementary criterion and access to the Special Measures Fund for the Least Developed Countries and to the United Nations Capital Development Fund.
5. The Council may also wish to note that some of the major contributors to the Special Measures Fund for the Least Developed Countries have expressed the view that only countries officially designated as least developed should benefit from their contributions as only such countries were covered by the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in 1981.
6. The Administrator has therefore noted the request from the Government of Liberia to be accorded treatment as if it were included in the list of least developed countries and on its behalf submits the request to the Council for its review and decision.
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