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GOVERNING COUNCIL
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Item 4(d)

PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

REPORTS OF THE JOINT INSPECTION UNIT ON THE

EVALUATION SYSTEM OF THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
AND THE

UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM CO-OPERATION IN DEVELOPING EVALUATION BY GOVERNMENTS

1. As indicated in DP/1983/7 and DP/1983/7 Add. 1, the Joint Inspection Unit has issued two reports on evaluation, entitled "Evaluation System of the United Nations Development Programme" (JIU/REP/83/05), issued in March 1983, and "United Nations System Cooperation in Developing Evaluation by Governments (JIU/REP/82/12), which was issued in December 1982.
2. The Administrator strongly supports the conclusions and recommendations of the report "Evaluation System of the United Nations Development Programme". UNDP is also pleased to note that the JIU is in agreement with the general thrust and with many of the specific proposals contained in the Note by the Administrator on "Arrangements for the Evaluation of the Results and of the Effectiveness of the Programme" (DP/1983/ICW/6). Both reports emphasize the need to re-establish a Central Evaluation Unit (CEU) in UNDP which will provide overall management, leadership and support to the evaluation system and ensure that evaluation becomes an essential element within an integrated management system. While progress has already been made to strengthen evaluation procedures and to define more clearly the role of all participants in the tripartite system, the JIU feels that even more concentrated efforts are needed if evaluation is to realise its full potential to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the Programme.
3. UNDP notes the Inspector's emphasis on UNDP's leadership role in project monitoring and evaluation. The annual tripartite reviews which monitor the progress of each project are now oriented towards more emphasis on project outputs and the achievement of objectives. Tripartite reviews are the formal expression of the continuous monitoring responsibility of the tripartite system, i.e. governments, UNDP, and the executing agencies. They reflect the element of "built-in" or self-evaluation and are to be further

strengthened. The JIU report emphasizes the importance of self-evaluation and this is fully acceptable to UNDP, though there is a need for further clarification on the relationship of self-evaluation to the tripartite review system at the field level and to in-depth evaluation carried out with participation of personnel not directly responsible for project implementation.

4. UNDP has proposed the establishment of an inter-agency working group on evaluation to promote coordinated actions in the above-mentioned areas, as recommended by the JIU.

5. The JIU report on "United Nations System Co-operation in Developing Evaluation by Governments also emphasises the strong potential leadership role of UNDP in encouraging and supporting evaluation of development projects by governments themselves. The Director General for Development and International Economic Co-operation has requested UNDP to consolidate the comments of members of the ACC on this report. It is clear from these comments that there is system-wide support for increased efforts on the part of the UN system to assist governments to strengthen in their own evaluation capability. This effort is seen by the JIU as one of three key linkages in an integrated process of development and improvement of evaluation systems; the others are project design, with particular reference to base-line data and performance indicators to permit successful evaluation, and inter-agency harmonization of evaluation approaches.

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