GOVERNING COUNCIL

Special meeting

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 6th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Thursday, 17 February 1983, at 10.30 a.m.

President: Mr. SLIM (Tunisia)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.50 a.m.

COUNTRY AND INTERCOUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS (continued)

(b) TRENDS AND PROBLEMS IN THE COUNTRY PROGRAMMES (continued) (DP/1983/2)

1. Mr. SILWAL (Nepal) said that his country had had a long and fruitful association with UNDP, which, with its vast experience, was in a unique position to help developing countries to improve their management capacity.

2. Cost sharing arrangements had been entered into in the main by countries with a higher gross national product. Poorer countries, in particular the least developed countries, could not participate in such arrangements. The curtailment of the resources available to UNDP, which had caused the Administrator to limit programmable resources to 55 per cent of the illustrative IPFs for 1982-1986, was a source of acute concern. It would have disastrous consequences for the least developed countries, whose economic and social development plans would be dislocated. Deliberations in the Intersessional Committee of the Whole had so far failed to yield any positive results. Donor countries should appreciate the gravity of the situation and honour the commitment to ensure an annual 14 per cent average growth in UNDP's resources. Nepal would be receptive to any system which would ensure the long-term availability of resources on a predictable and continuous basis.

3. His delegation welcomed the various proposals made by the Administrator to increase UNDP's efficiency and the effectiveness of its programme activities. The Administrator had spared no efforts to persuade Governments to support the programme. His delegation welcomed the increased contributions recently announced by Norway, the United States and Canada.

4. The common concern of the 12 African countries whose programmes had been approved earlier by the Council was to improve the security of and to become self-sufficient in food supplies. Nepal, having a similar objective, expressed its solidarity with them. UNDP was expected to play an important role in organizing a round table of donors and recipients under the Substantial New Programme of Action. Much preparatory work had already been undertaken by the Programme. His delegation fully endorsed the decision to provide aid to Yemen, following the disastrous earthquake there.

(c) IMPLEMENTATION OF SELECTED COUNTRY PROGRAMMES (continued)

(d) CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF COUNTRY PROGRAMMES (INCLUDING REQUESTS FOR EXTENSIONS) (continued)

Asia and the Pacific

5. Mr. JOSEPH (Assistant Administrator and Director, Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific) said that during the second cycle UNDP assistance in the region had grown from $90 million in 1977 to $225 million in 1981. Given the uncertainties
with regard to resources at the commencement of the third cycle, 1982 expenditures were not expected to reach the 1981 level. The decision to limit programmable resources to 55 per cent of the illustrative IPRs for 1982-1986 had led to major adjustments. Recipient countries were rescheduling the resources they expected to receive during the cycle.

6. Small countries with small IPFs had had difficulties in adjusting their commitments to the new limitations, and even in the larger programmes it had been necessary to defer many projects. In that regard, the 5 per cent relinquishment offered by China would be deferred in order to maintain the momentum of the country programme.

7. Evaluation and monitoring machinery had been established throughout the region, encompassing tripartite project reviews, annual reviews of country programmes, evaluation studies, and a selected project implementation review exercise. The latter covered almost all the executing agencies in the system and included projects accounting for some 15 per cent of programme resources. The sample had been chosen to identify projects which were encountering operational difficulties and to ascertain the effectiveness of remedial action. A report on the exercise would be distributed in due course. The Regional Bureau would continue to ensure the effective operation of monitoring machinery, while bearing in mind that there was a limit to the staff hours which could be devoted to that.

8. With regard to the Substantial New Programme of Action, UNDP was organizing a round table meeting in Geneva in May 1983. Individual meetings would be held for Afghanistan, Bhutan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Maldives and Samoa. The five Governments and UNDP had sought to inform potential donors of the forthcoming meetings. The arrangements had been made in co-operation with all the agencies in the United Nations development system.

9. Turning to the first country programme for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DP/CP/DRIC/1), he said that preparation of the programme had begun in 1979, with the establishment of an IFP for the remainder of the second cycle and the signing of a standard agreement. The first UNDP-supported projects had been approved, agreement to establish a field office reached and the first Resident Representative designated with commendable speed. The programme concentrated on industry and development research. The country had major reserves of anthracite, and research was being conducted into its conversion into liquid fuel in order to reduce the high cost of imported fuels. A number of projects would be supported in the industrial sector, which would receive some 35 per cent of available resources. Science and technology would receive some 24 per cent of UNDP resources, which would assist, in particular, with the establishment of a weather satellite ground station. UNDP assistance had also been requested in other fields such as language training and environmental health protection in rural areas.

10. The programme reflected UNDP's ability to respond to the special needs and requirements of a country with a substantial level of technological progress which was eager to increase its access to external technological knowledge, and which saw UNDP as an effective vehicle for such transfers of technology.
11. The first country programme for Mongolia had been approved in 1974, the IPF having remained at $10 million for all three cycles. Emphasis had been placed in the country programmes on the development of agro-industries. The world-wide recession and the country's harsh climate and isolation had hampered the Government's resolute efforts at economic growth, which had been maintained at an annual rate of approximately 3 per cent. Livestock continued to be the mainstay of the economy, although industry was expanding rapidly.

12. The current country programme concentrated on the introduction of new industrial technology, aimed at more efficient use of livestock. The establishment of a rural telecommunications network had also received special attention.

13. Although UNDP aid to Mongolia had been modest, notable achievements had been recorded. The third country programme (DP/CP/MON/3) would make a substantial impact on the economy.

14. Turning to the country programme for Papua New Guinea (DP/CP/PNG/3), he said that the amounts programmed were lower than in the second cycle. The Government included all aid programmes in a single national plan, integrating external and internal resources. Foreign aid was provided by Australia, the Federal Republic of Germany, Japan, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the European Economic Community. Although the country was rich in natural resources economic development had stagnated, owing to the scarcity of investment capital, the absence of trained manpower and the lack of infrastructure. Declines in export prices had contributed to the country's problems.

15. UNDP assistance had been focused on food supply planning studies, overcoming manpower shortages, and improving the infrastructure in certain areas. A number of existing projects would also be continued. The Government regarded the UNDP programme as an important link with the outside world.

16. UNDP's financial aid to the Republic of Korea was diminishing. In view of that country's notable economic progress over the past two decades, UNDP viewed it as a prospective net contributor. UNDP aid had been instrumental in the transition of that country's economy from an agricultural to an industrial base. The programme had provided technical and scientific expertise, and continued to do so. It had assisted in vocational training, in the preparation of development plans and in activities relating to food production. The current programme would support industrial and human resources development, energy conservation, food production and a social security system.

17. Referring to the intercountry programme for the Pacific subregion, he said that programmable resources at 55 per cent of the IPFs of all the countries of the Pacific amounted to $21.5 million. The Pacific subregional segment of the intercountry programme had an earmarking of $21 million for 1982-1986. It was the Administrator's intent to protect that intercountry earmarking to the maximum extent possible.
18. With regard to the country programme for Tonga (DP/CP/TGN/3), approximately $1.4 million was available for programming. Tonga's isolation, the dispersion of its various islands and its vulnerability to natural disasters had hindered economic development, as had population drift within the islands to the capital.

19. About half of the labour force of some 20,000 was engaged in agriculture. Fishing was important for the supply of staple food, although it made an insignificant contribution to the economy. The manufacturing sector was minor. The development budget was financed entirely from external aid. The country programme corresponded to the country's development plan which emphasized the development of agriculture and fisheries, interisland communications, social and health services, industrial development and education. UNDP also provided aid to Tonga through the Pacific subregional intercountry programme, in particular for the improvement of Tonga's international airport and to assist agricultural recovery following cyclone damage. UNDP assistance was of major importance to the Government.

20. The country programme for Vanuatu (DP/CP/VAN/1) provided $1.1 million for programming. France, the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand provided some 40 per cent of government revenues. The economy included a subsistence sector and a market economy. Vanuatu's former condominium status had resulted in a number of legal, social and administrative problems which needed to be solved.

21. The Government's five-year plan stressed economic self-reliance with emphasis on rural development, increasing domestic revenues and reducing imports, while diversifying indigenous production. A degree of financial and administrative decentralization had been instituted. UNDP had helped the Government to prepare the development plan.

22. The country programme would concentrate on public administration, economic planning, fisheries and industrial development. Of particular importance was assistance in the export of commodities. Although small, the aid programme was important to the Government.

23. Finally, the Council was requested to extend the second country programme for Afghanistan to December 1983. The third country programme would begin in January 1984.

24. Mr. OZA (India) said he welcomed the fact that the discussion of the African and Arab country programmes had been realistic in tone and detailed and fair in approach. He wished to give his delegation's full endorsement to all those programmes.

25. As a sponsor of the draft resolution on rehabilitation and assistance in the case of Yemen (DP/1983/L.5), his delegation wished to appeal to the Council to adopt the text unanimously as a gesture of sympathy and humanitarian concern for those made homeless by the devastation caused by the recent earthquake.
Mr. Oza, India

26. The Assistant Administrator, in his presentation of the six country programmes of Asian States, had mentioned the evaluation and monitoring machinery set up and the project review exercise carried out on a selective basis by the Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific. It would be very interesting to have access to the results of that exercise and especially to be able to study the consolidated report, for such information might be extremely relevant to the evaluation proposals which had recently been discussed in the Intersessional Committee of the Whole.

27. His delegation was pleased to see the preparations being made for the round table meeting for the five least developed countries of the Asian and Pacific region, to be held in Geneva in May 1983, and fully supported that initiative.

28. As a group, the six country programmes under consideration had a number of commendable features. They had all been planned so as to correspond with the available natural resources of the countries concerned and to fit in well with national priorities and economic development planning. They also had a substantial element of co-ordination with the assistance provided by other agencies and bilateral sources.

29. He was pleased to note that the first country programme of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DP/CP/DRK/I) concentrated primarily on industry and research and development, especially in the field of coal liquefaction.

30. In the case of the country programme for Mongolia (DP/CP/MON/3), he was pleased to note the emphasis on the country's own resource endowment and the attention being given to agro-industrial development, livestock raising and rural communications. It was gratifying that earlier UNDP assistance had led to a certain level of economic investment in the area of the goat hair industry and promotion of exports.

31. He welcomed the fact that the country programme for Papua New Guinea (DP/CP/PNG/3) gave great importance to the planning of public sector projects and human resources development.

32. In the context of the third country programme for the Republic of Korea (DP/CP/ROK/3), his delegation welcomed the role being played by UNDP in the present transitional stage of the economy, especially in the fields of shipping and manpower development.

33. The intercountry programme covering the Pacific Islands, which included Tonga and Vanuatu, was very welcome. His delegation also supported the country programme for Tonga (DP/CP/TON/3) and welcomed the appearance of the first country programme for Vanuatu (DP/CP/VAN/1).

34. He urged the Council to approve all six country programmes.
35. Mr. KUMAR (Fiji) said that his delegation noted with satisfaction that the objectives selected for UNDP assistance in the country programmes corresponded to national development objectives and strategies. He commended the UNDP secretariat and field staff for their effective approach to the programmes and their work of preparation.

36. His delegation felt impelled to draw attention to the impact on Tonga of the planned reduction in programme delivery to 55 per cent of IPF resources. On that basis the total resources available to Tonga for the period 1983-1986 would be $698,000. The figures in table 3 of document DP/1983/59 indicated that the amount required for ongoing projects in Tonga was $768,000 plus $330,000 for new projects and $63,000 for future projects. It was therefore obvious that UNDP assistance to Tonga in the period in question would be insufficient even to meet the costs of projects already current. Tonga, as a small island developing country, had a correspondingly small IPF. However, the UNDP input was significant in Tonga's development planning, especially at a time when the country was striving to recover from the ravages of Cyclone Isaac, which had struck the island in 1982. In such circumstances the cutback in UNDP resources would be a severe blow.

37. He expressed his delegation's appreciation to the Government of Canada for its recent announcement of a significantly increased contribution to UNDP and UNFPA for 1983. He also wished to commend the United States, Norway and other Nordic countries for their generous pledges and hoped that other countries would follow their example.

38. Mr. HUSAIN (Pakistan), speaking in connection with agenda item 3 (b), said that his delegation had been disappointed to hear of the Administrator's decision to reduce programme delivery to 55 per cent of IPF resources but had hoped that the Administrator would review that decision if additional resources became available. In view of the substantially increased contributions recently announced by a number of countries, including the United States, Norway and Canada, whose generosity was greatly appreciated, he would like to request the Administrator to indicate what would be the likely effect of those contributions on total available resources and whether he would reconsider his decision.

39. He referred to paragraphs 20 and 21 of document DP/1983/2, which mentioned recipient Government cost sharing arrangements. While it was desirable to encourage recipient Governments to share the costs of projects as much as possible, his delegation nevertheless felt that UNDP should not overstress that aspect, especially in countries with low levels of per capita income.

40. He supported the view expressed by the representative of the Philippines that maximum economy should be sought in planning field missions. The need to minimize administrative costs was self-evident.

41. Turning to agenda items 3 (c) and (d), he observed that the six country programmes for Asian and Pacific States had been prepared with a good deal of care and were realistic in their assumptions and priorities. In particular, they paid due regard to the development priorities selected by the Governments of the
countries concerned and it was gratifying that every effort was clearly being made to co-ordinate UNDP's activities with those of other funding sources. That co-ordination was highly desirable in order to avoid unnecessary duplication of effort.

42. His delegation welcomed the selective evaluation and review exercise undertaken by the Regional Bureau and hoped that the results would soon be made available to members of the Council.

43. His delegation endorsed all six country programmes and especially welcomed the first country programmes for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Vanuatu.

44. His delegation wished to appeal to the Council for unanimous adoption of draft resolution DP/1983/L.5, of which it was a sponsor, providing for additional assistance to Yemen in view of the tragic circumstances prevailing there.

45. Mr. ENKHASAIKHAN (Observer for Mongolia) observed that Mongolia's third country programme (DP/CP/MON/3), covering the period 1983-1986, took fully into consideration the Government's priorities in its seventh five-year economic and social development plan, the main objectives of which were discussed in paragraphs 2, 8, 9, 10, 13, 15, 20 and 24 of the country programme document.

46. The Mongolian Government placed a high value on its co-operation with the United Nations system in general and UNDP in particular. Although the programme's assistance to the country was relatively small as compared to the assistance received from the Soviet Union and other socialist countries, it played an important contributory role in the realization of national development goals.

47. UNDP had always given full co-operation and understanding and, as the Assistant Administrator had noted, it considered Mongolia's country programmes as among the most efficient and effective in terms of implementation and impact.

48. Although a part of the resources to be made available by the programme would be allocated to ongoing projects, such as demonstrations of new sources of energy in rural development and the establishment of a computer centre, the bulk of IPF resources would go to the six new projects mentioned in paragraphs 16 to 19, 23 and 26 of the programme.

49. The country programme as a whole and its individual projects accorded well with Mongolia's development priorities and reflected its specific problems, arising from geographical, climatic and demographic conditions. He hoped that it would be favourably considered by the Council.

50. Mr. BHANDARI (Bhutan) expressed his delegation's appreciation to the Government of Canada for its increased contribution to UNDP and UNFPA for 1983.

51. His delegation was happy to endorse the six country programmes under consideration and especially welcomed the first country programmes of Vanuatu and
the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. His country's own experience gave every reason to believe that UNDP assistance of the kind requested would make an important contribution to their economic and social development.

52. He was pleased to note that the Republic of Korea intended in the future to become a net donor of technical assistance to other developing countries. His country looked forward to expanded co-operation in that field.

53. The round table meeting for the least developed countries of Asia and the Pacific, whose preparation had been announced by the Assistant Administrator, was of extreme importance, not just for the least developed countries themselves but also for the donors and agencies invited, since it would enable them to convert their commitments under the Substantial New Programme of Action into concrete undertakings. The problems affecting the least developed countries could hardly be overestimated; some of those countries were especially hampered in their development by their land-locked or island status. The reduction of IPP programme resources by 45 per cent was certain to curtail or undermine projects, some of which were crucial to those countries' development. He called on all donors invited to the round table meeting to make a special effort to help the least developed countries of the region to attain sustained development. Those countries were giving very careful attention to the preparation of documentation, with the assistance of UNDP; their economic memoranda and list of projects requiring external financing would be sent to the donors being invited to the round table meeting as soon as possible. All the countries concerned would be very happy to respond to any questions at the round table meeting or earlier. His own delegation was always at the disposal of donor countries for clarification. The least developed countries concerned decided to hold a meeting jointly in Geneva in the belief that such an arrangement would be more convenient for the donors, which could then send senior representatives to cover all the countries in question. He urged donors to send representation at the highest possible level.

54. His delegation supported draft resolution DP/1983/L.5 concerning special assistance to Yemen. It was vital to do everything possible to help the country in its reconstruction and rehabilitation.

55. Mr. MI Guojun (China) said that his delegation warmly welcomed the first country programme for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Although the Government of that country had begun its co-operation with the specialized agencies in 1974, agreement with the technical co-operation for development system of the United Nations had not been reached until 1979. Since then UNDP had been providing a certain amount of technical assistance, involving a number of projects which were now reaching their conclusion, together with those which were proceeding smoothly. His delegation was very pleased to see such work being undertaken.

56. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea had been pursuing a policy of self-reliance aimed at rebuilding its homeland and restoring and developing its economic strength. In order to maintain its relatively high rate of growth it needed a major input of technology in agriculture, natural resources, industry,
science and research and transport and communications. The country programme was well adjusted to its development strategy and priorities. It was particularly interesting to note that the programme for the Democratic Republic emphasized agriculture and energy, together with the need to move away from the old economic structure based on the export of raw materials, replacing it with an emphasis on the production of manufactures. That was crucial to the country's development and to improvements in the population's standard of living.

57. The fact that 60 per cent of the resources of the country programme for Papua New Guinea were earmarked for agricultural development reflected the overriding importance given to that objective by the Government, which was contributing to the programme through a cost sharing arrangement and using United Nations Volunteers to service projects, an arrangement which was both economical and effective.

58. Since independence, the Government of Vanuatu had been carrying out reforms of its own economic and administrative structures, nationalizing institutions and standardizing rules and regulations for public employees. It had particularly stressed training for economic management personnel. Such activities were effectively paving the way towards the development of the economy and the raising of standards of living. The execution of the first UNDP country programme would be of great assistance to the Government.

59. Although his delegation had certain reservations with respect to some of the country programmes for Asia and the Pacific, it warmly supported the programme for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and accepted the other programmes for the Asian and Pacific States as a package.

60. Mr. HARE (Canada) noted the initiatives being taken in the field of evaluation. His delegation welcomed such activities, feeling that that kind of retrospective assessment was the key to strengthening the programme. He shared the interest of the representatives of India and Pakistan in seeing the information on that evaluation process, especially the reports issued to the Governments concerned.

61. The country programme for Papua New Guinea (DP/CP/PNG/3) was a clear illustration of how taking account of national priorities led to a very effective adaptation of assistance to local needs. The programme was also marked by efforts to balance UNDP activities with those of other donors. The one thing which appeared to be missing was any assessment of the effectiveness of the first and second country programmes.

62. His delegation welcomed the first country programme for Vanuatu (DP/CP/VAN/1), which rightly stressed development planning and infrastructure. The programme seemed well balanced, using the country's small IPF effectively over five main areas. It would be useful to know more about how UNDP's activities interrelated with those of the larger bilateral donors and the Government's development plans.
63. He noted that the country programme for Tonga (DP/CP/TON/3) concentrated on major priority sectors which accorded well with the country's five-year development plan. However, it would be useful to have some idea of what activities were being undertaken by other large-scale donors and of the effectiveness or otherwise of UNDP undertakings under the first and second country programmes.

64. His delegation welcomed the intention of the Government of the Republic of Korea to become a net contributor. It would have been helpful if the country programme had provided some outline of the major projects, together with the costs of those ongoing and envisaged. It should perhaps also have indicated the nature of UNDP's experience in earlier programmes and how UNDP-funded projects related to bilateral or government-sponsored activities.

65. Mr. VERCELES (Philippines) said that the country programmes for countries of Asia and the Pacific represented a wide range of country characteristics in respect of size, population, geography and politics and attested to the universality of UNDP. One of the principal features of those programmes was their modest scale; based on 80 per cent delivery, funding for the programmes amounted to only $50 million for the entire cycle. Two thirds of that amount was devoted to only two countries and it must be borne in mind that resources were likely to be reduced to 55 per cent of the illustrative indicative planning figure.

66. The principle that country programmes should support national development priorities had been adhered to in all the country programmes for Asia and the Pacific. UNDP assistance had been co-ordinated with other sources of technical assistance and planning by objectives had been undertaken extensively. Priority had been accorded to programmes which would help to ensure balanced economic and social development. In general his delegation was satisfied that the country programmes should be endorsed by the Council.

67. In connection with the third country programme for Tonga (DP/CP/TON/3) he wondered whether assistance for rehabilitation following the cyclone which had hit Tonga should be funded from the already meagre resources under the programme. An alternative might be the use of special programming resources. His Government co-operated with the Government of Tonga in efforts to upgrade the transportation system, especially by providing training facilities in Manila.

68. The country programme for Papua New Guinea (DP/CP/PNG/3) was quite modest considering Papua New Guinea's efforts in the field of economic and social development; it sought to optimize scarce resources by concentrating on manpower development and by using United Nations Volunteers.

69. The country programme for Vanuatu (DP/CP/VAN/1) was the first UNDP programme for that country and supported its first five-year development plan; the country programme would provide appropriate, if modest, support.

70. His delegation noted that the indicative planning figures for Tonga and Vanuatu were very small. It felt that for small countries, and particularly least
developed countries with very small indicative planning figures the Council could consider a programme delivery of 80 per cent, rather than 55 per cent. It might be possible to establish a benchmark of $5 million and decide that indicative planning figures below that amount would not be reduced to 55 per cent, particularly in the case of least developed countries. In such countries UNDP assistance was critical to the planning process.

71. The intention of the Republic of Korea to become a net contributor to UNDP was a welcome development.

72. His delegation supported the round table for least developed countries; it hoped that within the framework of UNDP, assistance to the Asian and Pacific countries concerned would be forthcoming. His delegation supported the approval of the country programmes for Asia and the Pacific.

73. Mr. TAKASU (Japan) said that the country programme for Mongolia (DP/CP/MON/3) fully accorded with the development strategy of Mongolia's five-year plan for socio-economic development. Because of the small size of UNDP involvement, resources had been concentrated on certain priority areas and the Government had paid special attention to the general requirements of UNDP and global concerns of the international community by making a substantial contribution to UNDP projects in the form of local participation, and to the project relating to the use of energy in animal husbandry (para. 14).

74. The country programme of the Republic of Korea (DP/CP/ROK/3) fully conformed with the priority concerns of that country's five-year plan; relatively limited resources had been focused on certain priority areas. Paragraph 16 of that country programme offered a very good example of the catalytic role of UNDP technical assistance in establishing major loans and investment programmes.

75. The country programme for Tonga (DP/CP/TWN/3) involved very small financial resources and it was essential to limit the number of projects, particularly in country programmes for small island countries, co-ordination with other external resources was essential. His delegation noted that greater complementarity had been achieved with other external sources, especially in fisheries production. His Government had an active interest in providing bilateral resources in that field.

76. In the country programme for Papua New Guinea (DP/CP/PNG/3) the relatively small resources of UNDP were focused on a number of priority areas. Paragraph 5 of that country programme showed how UNDP assistance was playing a significant role even though in terms of resources UNDP's involvement was relatively limited. UNDP assistance was characterized by high quality and flexibility and the resources provided for training had considerable long-term significance. That country programme was a good example of co-ordination with other sources of external assistance.
77. Mr. ROHNER (Switzerland) said that his delegation had no particular difficulties with the priorities chosen by the various recipient countries, except that in some cases the proportion of supply of equipment compared with technical assistance was too high. His delegation felt that UNDP should above all provide technical assistance and it was concerned that the proportion of equipment was constantly rising.

78. It was regrettable that relatively little information was provided about projects, especially the results of ongoing projects which were continued in the new country programmes. His delegation would be particularly interested to know the results of the study on the various follow-up missions carried out in 1982.

79. In the country programmes for Papua New Guinea, Tonga and Vanuatu, the priorities had been especially well chosen and corresponded to the great needs of those countries. His delegation agreed that the Council should try to avoid cuts in the programmes of small countries, especially least developed countries; it should also make use of the Special Measures Fund for Least Developed Countries, to which Switzerland had been contributing for some years, and which it hoped other countries would support.

80. His delegation supported the holding of round tables for least developed countries and would participate in the round table to be held at Geneva in May 1983. It understood why it had been decided to organize a round table for seven countries at once but feared that the discussions could be too general; much would depend on the level of preparation so as to ensure that the meeting was action-oriented.

81. Mr. JOSEPH (Assistant Administrator and Director, Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific), replying to the question of the representative of India, said that the reviews he had mentioned in his introductory statement were the regular tripartite reviews between Governments, executing agencies and UNDP; in 1982, approximately 400 such reviews had been undertaken in the Asia and Pacific region.

82. In his presentation, he had attempted to place the country programmes for Asia and the Pacific within the framework of the natural resource endowments of each country; to harmonize and integrate UNDP's development assistance with the economic planning strategy of each country; to describe the co-ordination of assistance from other sources with UNDP assistance; and to show the transition from first to second and particularly second to third programming cycles.

83. The representative of Canada had noted that in the country programme for Papua New Guinea, the transition from the second to the third programming cycle was not sufficiently explained. In that country programme the project format had been elaborated, and it had not been possible to emphasize transition as well. The representative of Canada had asked about the activities of other major donors in Tonga; some $4 million a year was provided by a large number of development partners, and the secretariat would have had difficulty in providing a detailed list of those partners. The same consideration applied to a description of the achievements of UNDP, which was not possible in the space allotted. By a previous decision of the Council, country programmes with indicative planning figures of less than $20 million could not exceed eight pages.
84. A number of delegations had raised the question of providing more details about individual projects. The Council's guidelines were that country programmes should be objective-oriented and that specific details should be provided about projects only to the extent that they were concerned with technical assistance.

85. With regard to the question raised by the representative of Switzerland about the equipment component, he assured him that the greatest possible vigilance was being exercised by the Regional Bureau in accordance with the Council's decisions in June 1982. The question of co-ordination with other sources of external assistance was being given great attention, especially in smaller programmes, and whenever possible details were provided in country programmes about co-operation with the bilateral partners of recipient countries.

86. Several references had been made to the round table meeting to be held in Geneva in May 1983. UNDP was arranging for as much information as possible, including documents, economic strategies and lists of external assistance requirements, to be made available to development partners well before the meeting. In response to requests from least developed countries UNDP had arranged to hold a collective round table in Geneva so as to ensure senior-level decision-making representation from development partners. The discussions would be planned in a country-by-country sequence and each country would be allotted one day so as to avoid the discussion of generalities.

87. On the subject of the review exercise of the implementation of selected projects, the consolidated report was almost ready and would be made available to recipient Governments and resident representatives, and also to delegations.

88. The questions raised by the representative of the Philippines about allocating funds for natural disasters from the special programme reserve and giving special consideration to smaller recipient countries in respect of the level of project delivery had organization-wide implications and would have to be commented on by the Deputy Administrator.

89. The President said that if there was no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt the proposed country programmes for Asia and the Pacific for the duration of their programme periods and within the limits of their illustrative indicative planning figures for the period 1982-1986, taking into account the balance of over-expenditure and under-expenditure of their 1977-1981 indicative planning figures: Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DP/CP/DPR/1), Mongolia (DP/CP/MON/3), Papua New Guinea (DP/CP/PNG/3), Republic of Korea (DP/CP/ROK/3), Tonga (DP/CP/TON/3) and Vanuatu (DP/CP/VAN/1).

90. It was so decided.

91. Mr. VERCELES (Philippines) said that his delegation supported the approval of the country programmes for Asia and the Pacific but that support was without prejudice to the question he had raised about programme delivery to the smaller countries, especially Tonga and Vanuatu. His delegation intended to submit a proposal on programme delivery for countries with low indicative planning figures.
The PRESIDENT said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to take note of the extension of the country programme approved by the Administrator for one year for Afghanistan (DP/CP/AFG/EXTENSION).

It was so decided.

Mr. ALBORNOZ (Ecuador) said that, as spokesman for the Latin American group, he fully approved of the programmes for Asia and the Pacific; they were essential to promote the much-needed development of the countries concerned by means of well-formulated and timely programmes to improve the standard of living of their populations. The Latin American group sympathized with the needs of the countries of Asia and the Pacific for transfer of technology and pre-investment activities; the Latin American countries on the Pacific coast shared many common problems with countries of Asia and the Pacific and were anxious to protect the resources of the area for the common benefit.

The PRESIDENT asked whether the Council wished to authorize the Administrator to proceed with appraisal and approval action on requests for UNDP assistance for projects falling within the outlines of each country programme, in accordance with the decisions of the Governing Council that expenditures be kept in reasonable conformity with the relevant illustrative indicative figures (E/5543/Rev.1, para. 31), increased as appropriate with Government cost sharing contribution, and always subject to the overriding requirements of containing expenditures within the financial resources available at any given time so as to preserve the financial integrity of the programme.

He would also take it that the Council wished to request the Administrator, in the implementation of all those programmes and projects, to take into account the views expressed during their consideration by the representatives' Governments.

It was so decided.

Mr. HAN SI HAE (Observer for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea) said that he welcomed the adoption of his country's programme by the Council for the first time. Four years had elapsed since the Democratic People's Republic of Korea had joined UNDP and during that time it had experienced the effectiveness of UNDP assistance in its efforts to lay the foundations of an independent national economy under a policy of self-reliance. With the approval of the country programme, the co-operation already begun with UNDP had entered a new stage which would be highly productive.

Mr. SALLU (Observer for Sierra Leone) said he had noted with interest the approval of the country programmes for the Arab, Asian and Pacific countries; even though Sierra Leone, as a least developed and most seriously affected country, could not contribute to the development efforts of the countries concerned, it fully sympathized with their economic aspirations. The struggle for survival was no different from the struggle in Africa for economic advancement. He hoped that with the assistance of UNDP and the international community the implementation of all projects would be successful and the desired goals would be achieved.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.