



**Governing Council  
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Agenda item 4(b)

SUPPORT

IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE  
GOVERNING COUNCIL AT PREVIOUS SESSIONS

Measures to be taken concerning the documentation  
of the Governing Council

Note by the Administrator

In accordance with paragraph 4 of decision 84/5 of the Governing Council, the Administrator issued a questionnaire to Governing Council members to ascertain the usefulness of documents issued for the thirty-first session. Responses were received from 11 countries who were Governing Council members in 1983: Argentina, Australia, Bahrain, Canada, Finland, Hungary, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America. The results of the questionnaire are given below.

1. All respondents agreed that the content and presentation of documents were useful.
2. Most respondents agreed that the frequency of issue of documents was adequate. It was suggested, however, that detailed reports on programmes or activities not receiving policy consideration during a particular Council should no longer be issued.
3. All respondents agreed that reports presently submitted in written form should not be presented only in oral form. It was, however, suggested that oral presentations should be shorter in order to leave more time for debate and discussion. In addition, it was felt that some documents could be condensed.

4. It was agreed unanimously that no documents were too short, while half of the respondents also felt that some documents were too long.
5. Most respondents felt that it was useful to categorize documents as either "main policy" or "support" papers. Those disagreeing noted that the categorization served no practical or analytical purpose.
6. It was felt by all except one respondent that "policy papers" did indeed address only policy issues.
7. It was felt by all except one respondent that the Administration should continue the useful practice of including in documents suggested courses of action for consideration by the Council.
8. All respondents agreed that the content and format of documents were in line with the intent of the General Assembly request.
9. Two thirds of the respondents agreed that the Secretary-General's report on technical co-operation activities should continue to be prepared in the present form; half the respondents felt the report should only focus on selected aspects in uneven years, and half felt that the report should deal in uneven years with a specific theme to be determined by the Governing Council.
10. All respondents agreed that UNFPA documentation should not be prepared in a different manner in uneven years.

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