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Item 10 of the agenda of the Budgetary  
and Finance Committee

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE BUDGETARY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE  
TO THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

Draft report of the Budgetary and Finance Committee

Rapporteur: Ms. MKHONZA Adelaide Phindile (Swaziland)

Addendum

CHAPTER I. MATTERS REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE BY THE COUNCIL

D. Women in Development: implementation strategy

1. For its consideration of the financial implications of this subject under item 4 (b) of the Council's agenda, the Committee had before it document DP/1986/14, which contained a description of a proposed strategy for strengthening the capacity of UNDP to deal with the issue of women in development.
2. Introducing this item, a representative of the Administration explained that the strategy proposed would involve two phases. The first phase would be

a preparatory one, of approximately 18 months, during which a training director would be hired to plan and co-ordinate six case studies; six research writers would prepare the case studies, based on actual UNDP projects, and two trial seminars, one at UNDP headquarters and one in the field, would be carried out. The total costs of this preliminary phase was estimated at \$374,700 and a detailed budget for this amount was made available to members as an informal document.

3. The representative stated that the second implementation phase was also expected to last approximately 18 months and, at an estimated total cost of \$1,880,800, would finance a further 48 seminars, 40 in the field and 8 at UNDP headquarters. It had been foreseen, she said, that training in the field should include Government representatives as well as UNDP staff, in about equal numbers, and that the objective was to train approximately 1,000 trainees: 40 Government representatives, 410 UNDP field staff and 180 UNDP headquarters staff. It was envisaged that each seminar would provide training for 20 people, hence 50 seminars had been planned. The total cost of \$2,255,500 for both phases represented approximately 25 per cent for the planning and management of the training programme, as well as the preparation of the training materials, and 75 per cent to carry out the seminars themselves. On this basis, the average cost of each seminar came to \$45,110 or \$2,256 per trainee, which compared favourably to other training programmes.

4. The Associate Administrator explained that the present request for financing was limited to the \$374,700 required for the first phase of the programme and would cover activities up to the end of 1987. Specific proposals for financing the second phase would be made in the context of the 1988-1989 budget submission to the next session of the Council. The Administrator was proposing that the first phase should be financed from

savings realized in the 1986-1987 budget, with any shortfall being charged to Special Programme Resources (SPR).

Summary of the discussion in the Committee

5. Several members expressed their support for the Administrator's proposals. They considered that the training programmes proposed represented a valuable and appropriate response to the Nairobi Conference and General Assembly resolutions. Some of these members expressed concern that the implementation phase had not been planned to start until 1988 and asked whether this phase could not begin earlier. One member stated that his Government considered the issue to be of high priority, and had itself experienced considerable success in using training seminars as a means of promoting women in development. This member was glad to note that the Administration's original suggestion, as contained in document DP/1986/14, for financing these activities out of extra-budgetary resources, including possible support from UNIFEM, had now been changed to a proposal to finance them from the biennial budget; his delegation believed that, as a matter of principle, such an important activity should be an integral part of UNDP work and accordingly be financed from its regular financial resources.

6. Some other members had difficulty in accepting the Administrator's proposals as contained in document DP/1986/14 and requested further clarification on a number of aspects. While not opposed in principle to the concept of training for the purposes in question, they were concerned at the approach being taken to the matter, in particular at the difference in the proposed financing arrangements as given in the document and as given in its presentation, at the implication that nothing had been done by UNDP to foster the involvement of women in development until now, that the financial proposals were being made on an issue on which general agreement had not yet

been reached by the Council, and that the strategy proposed could involve, in the longer term, an encroachment on the prerogatives of recipient Governments.

7. A number of detailed questions were raised concerning the areas of special concern referred to in the document. In particular, further information was requested on: the status and nature of the guidelines for project identification, design, planning, implementation and evaluation referred to in paragraph 11, the data base for planning referred to in paragraph 13 and whether that would not duplicate statistical information already available elsewhere; and the envisaged qualifications of the training manager. Some members expressed the view that the programmes proposed seemed overambitious and excessive in cost. Some urged that the programmes should be integrated as soon as possible into the regular training programmes of UNDP.

#### Response of the Administration

8. Responding to the discussion, the Associate Administrator explained that the Administration had changed its original proposals for financing these activities in the light of the number of delegations who, in the debate on the subject in the plenary, had clearly expressed the view that they should be an integral part of UNDP activities and accordingly should not be financed out of extra-budgetary resources. Financing from SPR would only be required to the extent that sufficient savings could not be realized from the biennial budget and that could only be determined in 1987. The possibility of accepting extra-budgetary contributions as well, was, however, not excluded and with regard to UNIFEM, joint financing of a project by UNIFEM and indicative planning figure (IPF) resources was to be encouraged and indeed was present practice.

9. With regard to the preliminary phase, the Associate Administrator emphasized that it was in the nature of a capital investment: the two trial

seminars would be revised and improved as necessary and manuals would be prepared. He agreed that in principle the training programme should become an integral part of the UNDP training programmes; there was, however, an immediate need first to deal with a back-log in such training and then to ensure that the involvement of women became an automatic and normal feature of project design from the very beginning of project formulation. Such training should continue after the fourth cycle as and when required. He assured the Committee that the sovereignty of developing countries remained undisputed in the present discussion, as in all discussions with the Administration and that there was no intention to dictate to developing countries, nor to discriminate in any way between them.

10. Regarding the detailed questions which had been asked, the Associate Administrator stated that the Programme Advisory Note, which was intended to update and replace existing guidelines on the subject, had been prepared in draft, but had not yet been issued, pending any modifications which might be necessary to take account of views expressed at the current session of the Council. With regard to the creation of new data base, the intention was not to duplicate but to build on existing information. It was not known at that time who might be appointed as the training manager, nor were there any preconceptions in that respect.

11. The Associate Administrator indicated that by June 1987 the Administration would be able to report on the experience gained to date and would make detailed proposals on the financing and integration of the training programme for 1988-1989 and future years.

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