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PROGRAMME PLANNING

Country and intercountry programmes and projects

FOURTH COUNTRY PROGRAMME FOR BULGARIA

Note by the Administrator

I. PROCESS OF THE PROGRAMMING EXERCISE

1. In Bulgaria, as in most European countries, the Government took the leading role in preparing the country programme, while the UNDP European office in Geneva remained closely associated. The first version of the Bulgarian country programme for 1987-1991 was discussed in Sofia during 1986. It was elaborated mainly by the State Committee for Science and Technological Progress, with the participation of each technical ministry concerned. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs acted as the co-ordinating authority and the content of the programme was approved by the Council of Ministers. The UNDP European office participated in the dialogue by offering advice, suggestions and comments on the proposed programme.

2. Since the Government had already decided where the small UNDP resources should be concentrated when the amount of the IPF for Bulgaria became known, it was felt that the submission of a resident representative's note would be neither necessary nor appropriate. While the European office was in agreement with the Government about the best utilization of UNDP resources, the UNDP role of appraising the highly sophisticated projects will continue to be of special significance. The views of the United Nations system organizations were elicited by circulating the draft country programme document among them.

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II. THE FOURTH COUNTRY PROGRAMME

3. Previous country programmes for Bulgaria have been small, and there is a need to consolidate and expand the achievements of projects initiated in earlier years so as to ensure success. Noteworthy in this respect are the follow-up projects in ship-building design and manufacture; automated industrial production techniques; and the control of viral infections. These projects will make use of know-how available through the United Nations system and adapt it to local circumstances. An emphasis on research, design and production and the use of sophisticated equipment and training nationals in a variety of specialized areas is therefore an important element of the programme. The project to update teaching curricula is of particular significance in this respect, as it aims to equip the young generation to assume responsibility for economic development and transformation. Accordingly, 45 per cent and 25 per cent of IPF resources in the new cycle will be devoted to equipment and training activities respectively. It is hoped that the results of successful projects in Bulgaria will be made available to developing countries in other regions.

4. The fact that the IPF is distributed among several sectors should not be interpreted as a scattering of the small IPF. There is a cohesive element in the fact that UNDP resources are concentrated on meeting limited needs in diverse high technology areas in order to raise the general level of technical self-reliance in the service of the development process.

III. MANAGEMENT OF THE COUNTRY PROGRAMME

5. Reviews of the fourth country programme will be held on an annual basis with the participation of officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as co-ordinating authority; the State Committee for Science and Technological Progress; and a representative of the UNDP European office in Geneva. In view of the limited number of projects in the fourth programme, tripartite reviews will be held frequently, while internal and in-depth evaluations of projects will be conducted on a selective basis. Tripartite reviews have proven to be an effective monitoring technique in the past in the absence of a local field office.

IV. RECOMMENDATION OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

6. The Administrator recommends that the Governing Council approve the country programme for Bulgaria.

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