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GOVERNING COUNCIL

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Item 10 (c) of the agenda

SUBMISSION TO THE SPECIAL COMMISSION OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL  
COUNCIL ON THE IN-DEPTH STUDY OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL STRUCTURE AND FUNCTIONS IN THE ECONOMIC AND  
SOCIAL FIELDS, PURSUANT TO ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL  
DECISION 1987/112, PARAGRAPH (i)

Response to the Special Commission of ECOSOC by the  
UNDP Governing Council

Addendum

III. INTERRELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER UNITED NATIONS BODIES

1. There was no consensus at the Council at this stage, on the question of a single governing body for operational activities. While most delegations felt that such an idea had serious drawbacks, some delegations felt that it was premature to express their views on this idea in this forum.
2. The Special Commission may wish to consider how best ECOSOC could give more thorough consideration to the report of the Governing Council, preferably in conjunction with reports by other governing bodies dealing with operational activities. The Governing Council will ensure that in future the report be submitted to ECOSOC with an appropriate introduction containing the main issues discussed by the Governing Council.
3. It was further suggested that UNDP could benefit from ECOSOC's consideration of the reports on operational activities of different organizations of the United Nations system using a thematic approach, sector by sector.
4. In view of the very short interval at present between the conclusion of the Governing Council and ECOSOC's discussion of operational activities under which most decisions of the Council are discussed, the Special Commission may also wish to consider how best to organize the calendar of meetings.

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5. An area requiring further attention is improved co-operation between UNDP and all Regional Economic Commissions. It is also important to obtain a more active participation of agencies in the work of the Council, including in subsidiary bodies of the Council. UNDP itself should also participate more actively in the deliberations of the governing bodies of the organizations of the United Nations system.

6. UNDP and the funds it administers (see para. 5) support a number of activities on which other intergovernmental bodies set substantive and sectoral policy. This is another area where a higher degree of co-ordination and rationalization should be achieved.

#### IV. SECRETARIAT SUPPORT STRUCTURE

7. By its decision 87/1, the Council approved, on an experimental basis, proposals on biennialization and further streamlining of Governing Council documentation and identified reports to be submitted on a biennial basis and reports to be consolidated. The Council has taken additional steps to improve the quality and reduce the number and total volume of documentation in decision 87/1. Moreover, the Council will decide for which items oral reports will be sufficient, thus limiting the need for the preparation of written reports on each item. The number of reports requested in Council decisions should be under constant review, also with a view to avoiding overlap of reporting and in order to respect the biennialized programme of work.

8. The preparation of delegations for Council sessions and therefore the conduct of its business is seriously affected by the late receipt of Council documents. The Special Commission may wish to consider what steps should be taken to avoid future problems.

9. A number of points were raised on strengthening the role of the Governing Council whenever changes are made in the UNDP secretariat structure. For structural changes of the secretariat, which involve additional posts or which would have a negative impact on approved activities of UNDP, prior approval of the Council is required.

10. Concerning the secretariat structure, delegations found it, in general, appropriate to the size and complexity of UNDP's diverse funds and programmes. The Council will continue to conduct periodic reviews of the secretariat's structure to ensure that it follows the policies and priorities set by Governments, improves its efficiency and corresponds to the volume of resources available to undertake operational activities.

11. The role and responsibility of the United Nations resident co-ordinators in the field should be strengthened, as defined by General Assembly resolutions 32/197 of 20 December 1977 and 41/171 of 5 December 1986, in order to promote greater coherence and co-ordination of operational activities in the United Nations system and to respond constructively to host country Government requests to play a broader co-ordinating role in appropriate cases. The Special Commission may wish to

consider how to improve the procedure for the appointment of the Resident Co-ordinator in such a way as to strengthen the authority of the Resident Co-ordinator vis-à-vis local representatives of the United Nations system. The Special Commission may also wish to consider ways and means of locating, in a common facility, the representatives of the United Nations system for operational activities in consultation with host Governments.

12. The re-institution of Agency Review Meetings is considered useful in achieving better co-operation between UNDP and agencies and allows agencies to express their views on operational matters.

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