



**Governing Council
of the
United Nations
Development Programme**

Distr.
LIMITED

DP/1987/L.8/Add.8
17 June 1987

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Thirty-fourth session
26 May-19 June 1987

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE DRAFTING GROUP TO THE PLENARY

Addendum

Agenda item 10. Co-operation against AIDS

The Governing Council,

Aware that the AIDS pandemic is an international problem of extraordinary scope, which requires urgent international action in a co-ordinated and coherent manner,

Noting the statement of the representative of the World Health Organization to the Council and the remarks of the Administrator on the role of the United Nations Development Programme in this respect,

Notes with satisfaction the response of the Administrator to collaborate with the World Health Organization and other agencies in the efforts to fight AIDS and takes note that concrete proposals will be submitted to the Governing Council at its February 1988 session.

Agenda item 4 (a) (iii) e. Review of the Committee of the Whole and its Working Group

The Governing Council,

Recalling the Consensus contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 2688 (XXV) of 11 December 1970, entitled "The capacity of the United Nations development system", 1/

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-fifth Session, Supplement No. (), p. .

Reaffirming that the Governing Council is the legislative body of the United Nations Development Programme and therefore is the only decision-making body of the Programme,

Reaffirming its decision 85/16 of 29 June 1985 entitled "Fourth programming cycle", 2/

Recalling its decision 83/5 of 24 June 1983 entitled "Measures to mobilize increased resources for the United Nations Development Programme on an increasingly predictable, continuous and assured basis", 3/

Recalling decision 85/17 of 29 June 1985 entitled "Programming" 4/ by which it decided to establish, on an experimental basis, a Working Group of the Committee of the Whole,

Having considered the report of the Administrator on the "Review of the Committee of the Whole and its Working Group" (DP/1987/64), which was submitted pursuant to decision 86/23 of 27 June entitled "The future of the Committee of the Whole and of its Working Group", 5/

I

Committee of the Whole

1. Recognizes that, although there is still some room for refinement in its working methods, the Committee of the Whole has helped to expedite the work of the Council and strengthened the role of the Governing Council in programme planning and review;
2. Decides to continue the Committee of the Whole with its mandate as listed in decision 83/5; in addition, the Committee of the Whole shall consider programming matters of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities on an experimental basis, provided that the United Nations Fund for Population Activities and the United Nations Development Fund issues shall not be considered simultaneously;
3. Decides further to review the Committee of the Whole at its thirty-eighth session (1990);

2/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1985, Supplement No. 11 (E/1985/32), p. 59.

3/ Ibid., 1983, Supplement No. 9 (E/1983/20), p. 48.

4/ Ibid., 1985, Supplement No. 11 (E/1985/32), p. 60.

5/ Ibid., 1986, Supplement No. 9 (E/1986/29), p. 70.

II

Working Group of the Committee of the Whole

1. Considers that the Working Group of the Committee of the Whole has carried out its work in a generally acceptable manner in the context of its short life of only one year;
2. Decides to continue, on an experimental basis, the Working Group of the Committee of the Whole with its present status and mandate as listed in decision 85/17, taking into account paragraph 2 of section I above, and decision 86/1 of 18 February 1986, and to review its functioning in 1989, in the light of the outcome of the General Assembly's review of the structure and functioning of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations;
3. Expresses the need for active, substantive and responsive participation of the United Nations Development Programme and executing agencies regarding the issues taken up by the Working Group;
4. Recalls Governing Council decision 86/1, and decides, as a general rule, to convene no more than two meetings of the Working Group per year for durations of up to one week each;
5. Decides that, to facilitate appropriate participation of representatives from capitals of members of the Programme, the agenda items of the Working Group should be clearly focused and grouped according to subject-matter, in particular the discussion of items regarding the United Nations Fund for Population Activities;
- [*6. Authorizes the Administrator to facilitate the participation of officials from developing countries who are responsible for technical co-operation activities to attend meetings of the Working Group.]

Agenda item 8 (b). United Nations Volunteers

The Governing Council,

Having considered the reports of the Administrator on the United Nations Volunteer programme and Financial, Budgetary and Administrative Matters (documents DP/1987/46 and DP/1987/55 (Vol. I)) and the views expressed thereon at its thirty-fourth session (1987),

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 2659 (XXV) of 7 December 1970, 31/131 (XXXI) of 16 December 1976, and 31/166 (XXXI) of 21 December 1976,

* This paragraph is to be transmitted to the Budgetary and Finance Committee and the Working Group on the submission to be made by the United Nations Development Programme to the Special Commission of the Economic and Social Council.

/...

Informed by the views of the second United Nations Volunteers High-Level Intergovernmental Meeting on International Volunteerism and Development held in Maseru from 16 to 21 November 1986,

Conscious of the change in the level of maturity, qualifications and expertise of volunteers serving with the United Nations Volunteers and with co-operating volunteer-sending societies,

Convinced of the value of volunteers in the United Nations system of operational activities, and considering that volunteers are an underused resource,

1. Reaffirms its recognition of the United Nations Volunteer programme as an important source of cost-effective operational expertise for development co-operation activities;

2. Requests the Administrator to continue, as the need arises, to arrange annual consultation meetings with other volunteer-sending organizations and with interested Governments;

3. Endorses the view that the use of United Nations Volunteers should be expanded;

4. Requests the Administrator to identify and where possible to eliminate from the programmes within his purview any unnecessary administrative and financial mechanisms which restrict the use of United Nations Volunteers;

5. Invites the other organs of the United Nations system to review their arrangements for project preparation with a view to ensuring that appropriate use of United Nations Volunteers is considered at all stages of the project cycle and particularly at the project preparation stage;

6. Requests the Administrator to hold operational level meetings with other United Nations agencies with a view to encouraging their use of United Nations Volunteers where possible;

7. Requests the Administrator to make efforts towards increasing the proportion of women volunteers;

8. Urges the United Nations Development Programme to promote the volunteer concept in all regions by bringing to the attention of Governments and resident representatives the possibility of the United Nations Volunteers as a source of technical expertise;

9. Requests the Administrator to undertake a review as per the terms of reference in the annex to this decision, taking into account discussions carried out in the Governing Council;

10. Recognizes the need for the United Nations Volunteers to continue to meet effectively the existing and future demand of United Nations Volunteers in developing countries and, pending the review mentioned in paragraph 9, agrees to

continue the bridging arrangements for an additional year to enable orderly operations and recruitment of United Nations Volunteers]*;

11. Requests the Administrator to report on actions taken to implement this decision to the Council at its thirty-fifth session.

Annex

PROPOSED REVIEW OF THE UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTEERS PROGRAMME

Purpose of the review

1. Over the years, as a result of the several mandates given to it by the General Assembly and the increasing demand in the developing countries for a cost-effective manpower mechanism in the United Nations system, the United Nations Volunteers programme has experienced an increasing growth of activity. In addition to this increase in demand, this growth of activity has taken place within the context of an increasing participation of the United Nations Volunteers programme in Domestic Development Services, in youth and in the promotion of volunteerism in development.

2. Against this background, and with a view to giving the Governing Council and the Administrator guidance on the use of volunteers in the operational activities of the United Nations system and on the priorities for the United Nations Volunteers programme, it is decided to conduct an objective review, the results of which, together with the recommendations of the Administrator, would be presented to the Governing Council at its thirty-fifth session (June 1988).

Terms of reference

3. The review should examine and make appropriate recommendations on the following:

(a) The activities of the United Nations Volunteers programme and the relationship of these activities to the mandate given to the United Nations Volunteers programme. The review should also consider how these mandates are being fulfilled and the question of priorities given to its activities, in particular the extent to which volunteers under the programme have been and should be employed in connection, respectively, with projects financed under core and non-core resources and United Nations Development Programme projects funded and executed by other bodies within the United Nations development system and other activities;

(b) The role of the United Nations Volunteers programme in emergencies and what institutional arrangements, if any, should be made for this purpose;

* This paragraph is subject to consideration by the Budgetary and Finance Committee.

(c) The recruitment and placement methods of the United Nations Volunteers, inter alia, the selection of candidates, the speed of recruitment, and the quality of the programming, i.e., the adequacy of volunteer job assignments. In this context, the review shall also examine whether and how volunteer recruitment should be streamlined and adapted to the differing needs and conditions in countries participating in the Programme, keeping in view the principle of universality;

(d) The existing mechanisms and capacities for orientation, support, monitoring, debriefing and evaluation of United Nations Volunteers activities in the field;

(e) The actual cost of recruitment, administration and fielding of United Nations Volunteers; and in the light of this data, the most appropriate future resources and modalities of funding, the advantages and disadvantages of each, with a view to simplifying the financing structure at headquarters, external and in-country levels.

The conduct of the review

4. The review is to be conducted by the Administrator through the Central Evaluation Office of the United Nations Development Programme. Opportunity should be taken:

(a) To review United Nations Volunteers operations in selected countries and to evaluate the way in which United Nations Volunteers is responding to these countries' needs;

(b) To have extensive discussions with the United Nations Development Programme, users of United Nations Volunteers agencies, volunteers and with officials in participating Governments, as well as with a number of major volunteer-sending organizations.

5. Those undertaking the review would establish their own work programme, and provide it to the Administrator for his information.

6. The review should be completed in a time-frame to enable detailed considerations of its findings and the Administrator's recommendations by the Council at its thirty-fifth session.

Financing the review

7. [The cost of the review should not exceed \$100,000, financed from the special programme resources.]*

* This paragraph is subject to consideration by the Budgetary and Finance Committee.

Agenda item 4 (b) (i). Assistance to national liberation movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity

The Governing Council,

Having considered the Report of the Administrator on assistance given to national liberation movements recognized in its area by the Organization of African Unity (DP/1987/63),

Considering the views expressed thereon by different members of the Council,

1. Takes note of the report and, in particular, of the steps that the Administrator has continued to take, to achieve progressive improvements in the quality, timeliness and efficiency of delivery of United Nations Development Programme assistance to national liberation movements;

2. Requests the Administrator to:

(a) Continue to assist with the maximum efficiency and flexibility possible within the mandate of the United Nations Development Programme, the national liberation movements recognized in its area by the Organization of African Unity;

(b) Ensure that the assistance to be extended to national liberation movements during the fourth programme cycle shall be guided by the provisions of the first programme proposal of assistance to national liberation movements (DP/CP/NLM/1);

(c) Report to the Governing Council at its thirty-fifth and subsequent sessions on the trends, developments and effectiveness of this assistance, and relevant issues pertaining to the implementation and management thereof.

Agenda item 5 (v). Indicative planning figure for Namibia

The Governing Council,

Having considered the Report of the Administrator on the fourth cycle indicative planning figure for Namibia (DP/1987/24) and the oral introduction thereof,

Taking note of the views expressed thereon by representatives of Member States and observers, including the representative of the United Nations Council for Namibia,

Noting further that appropriate measures are already under consideration by the Senate of the United Nations Institute for Namibia for increasing the effectiveness of the Institute and the cost-effective utilization of additional resources to be placed at its disposal,

Recalling paragraph 15 of its decision 85/16 of 29 June 1985,

1. Decides to increase the fourth cycle indicative planning figure of Namibia of \$6.3 million by an additional \$3 million on the understanding that this new, higher level of the indicative planning figure relates to the fourth cycle only;

2. Requests the Administrator to ensure that disbursement of the additional indicative planning figure is made in a cost-effective manner and that disbursements relating to the United Nations Institute for Namibia are made in consonance with the implementation of the decisions taken and to be taken by the Senate of the Institute on increased cost-effectiveness;

3. Further requests the Administrator to continue to co-operate with the United Nations Council for Namibia and the United Nations Commissioner for Namibia and to assist, in as efficient a manner as possible, the development activities for Namibia funded from the indicative planning figure for Namibia, taking into account the need for flexibility within the mandate of the United Nations Development Programme, as well as other development assistance activities funded by the indicative planning figure for national liberation movements for the benefit of Namibians.

Agenda item 4 (a). Operational activities for development

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 41/171 of 5 December 1986 on operational activities for development, by which the Assembly invited the governing bodies of the organizations of the United Nations system to provide the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1987 with views and comments on the implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 1986/74, in particular on the role of the resident co-ordinators, the use of the United Nations Development Programme country programming process as a framework for operational activities, the co-location of field offices and the further harmonization of operational procedures,

Recalling its decision 86/17 of 27 June 1986 on the triennial review of operational activities,

Having considered the report of the Administrator on co-ordination (DP/1987/15/Add.1), the report of the Administrator on the organizational and financial structure of the United Nations Development Programme-administered system (DP/1987/53), the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Field representation of organizations of the United Nations system: structure and co-ordination" (A/41/424), and the comments thereon of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination,

1. Brings to the attention of the Economic and Social Council the following views on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 41/171:

- (a) The Governing Council considers General Assembly resolution 41/171 as an important element of the framework for the participation of the United Nations Development Programme in the operational activities of the United Nations system;
- (b) The Governing Council further considers that its decision 86/17 outlines its views on several issues raised in decision 41/171;
- (c) The Council draws the attention of the Economic and Social Council to several decisions taken at its thirty-fourth session (1987) which respond to various matters related to operational activities, inter alia, the co-ordination of technical assistance, the organizational and financial structure of the United Nations Development Programme-administered system, programme and project quality, procurement from developing countries and United Nations technical co-operation activities;
- (d) The Governing Council strongly reaffirms its full support for improved coherence of action by the system at the country level and for the role and responsibilities envisaged by General Assembly resolution 32/197 which, regarding the resident co-ordinator, decided that he be the single official in whom, on behalf of the United Nations system, should be entrusted overall responsibility for, and co-ordination of United Nations operational activities for development and who, in consultation with, and with the consent of the Government concerned, should exercise team leadership and be responsible for evolving, at the country level, a multi-disciplinary dimension in sectoral development programmes. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 41/171, the Governing Council strongly urges Governments and organizations of the United Nations system to provide resident co-ordinators with the requisite authority to carry out their roles and responsibilities and believes that paragraph 16 of General Assembly resolution 41/171 enumerates essential measures which should be taken in this respect;
- (e) The Council is firmly of the view that the main responsibility for defining, at the country level, the activities of the resident co-ordinator within the framework of resolutions 32/197 and 41/171 resides with host Governments, who, in exercising their sovereign responsibility for all development programmes, should decide to utilize to the extent considered necessary the services of the resident co-ordinator in the manner envisaged by the General Assembly;
- (f) The Governing Council also recognizes that an important step towards strengthening the resident co-ordinator involves the governing bodies of the United Nations system instructing their own secretariats and field staff to interact with resident co-ordinators in the manner envisaged in resolution 32/197;
- (g) The Council notes that the resident co-ordinator's authority within the United Nations system has been enhanced by the designation of the resident co-ordinator as the representative of the Secretary-General in the field. As a further practical step towards strengthening the team leadership role of the resident co-ordinator, his views are to be solicited on projects proposed for United Nations system funding if the recipient Government so desires;

(h) The Council stresses the importance of the United Nations Development Programme country programme as the framework for promoting a more coherent and co-ordinated approach to technical co-operation activities by the United Nations development system. The wider use of this process is, however, not yet a characteristic of many United Nations system technical co-operation programmes. More complete participation by members of the system in the country programme process, in accordance with the 1970 Consensus, would help in the utilization of the United Nations Development Programme country programme as the framework for technical co-operation activities of the United Nations system;

(i) The work of the Joint Consultative Group on Policy marks an important initiative towards greater inter-agency co-ordination. Nevertheless, inter-agency collaboration at the programme level needs further development. As a step in this direction, members of the Joint Consultative Group on Policy are encouraged to engage in more systematic exchanges so as to ensure a coherent and complementary approach to development efforts. In this respect, active co-operation at the field level, including co-ordinated programming practices, are encouraged;

(j) The Council welcomes the decision of the Secretary-General to conduct a review through the Joint Consultative Group on Policy of the field representation of organizations under his authority and awaits with interest concrete proposals emanating from this review. While welcoming his approach regarding the consolidation of United Nations Information Centres with the offices of resident co-ordinators, notes that the additional information functions will not be funded from the income or voluntary contributions of the United Nations Development Programme. The Council draws the attention of the Economic and Social Council to its decision 87/___ on Joint Inspection Unit reports, including, inter alia, the report on field representation;

(k) Harmonized and simplified procedures for the programming and delivery of the United Nations system technical co-operation should be more actively pursued;

2. Urges other governing bodies, through the Economic and Social Council, to review their own field representation and to seriously consider with the United Nations Development Programme the feasibility of co-location and/or common services in consultation with host Governments.
