



**Governing Council
of the
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Development Programme**

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Agenda item 8 (b)

Draft decision

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,

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,

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, qualification 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 under-used resource,

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

2. Requests the Administrator to continue to arrange annual consultation meetings with other volunteer-sending organizations and with interested governments;

3. Endorses the view that the supply of United Nations volunteers should be expanded;
4. Requests the Administrator to identify and where possible rationalize the Programmes within his purview regarding 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 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 the use of United Nations volunteers by these agencies where possible;
7. Requests the Administrator to make efforts towards increasing the proportion of women volunteers;
8. Urges the UNDP to promote the volunteer concept in all regions by bringing to the attention of Governments and Resident Representatives the possibility of the UNV as a source of technical expertise;
9. Requests the Administrator to undertake a review as per the terms of reference attached taking into account discussions carried out in the Governing Council;
10. Recognizes the need for UNV to continue to meet effectively the existing and future demand of UNVs 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 UNVs;
11. Requests the Administrator to report on action taken in respect of paragraphs 4, 7 and 9 of this decision to the Council at its thirty-fifth session.

PROPOSED UNV REVIEW

Purpose of the review

1. Over the years, and 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 UNV has experienced an increasing growth of activity. In addition to this increase in demand, this growth of activity has taken place within a context of an increasing participation of UNV 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 United Nations system's operational activities and on the priorities for UNV, it is decided to conduct a review, the results of which, together with the recommendations of the Administrator, would be presented to the thirty-fifth session of the Governing Council in June of 1988.

Terms of reference

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

(a) How the mandates given the UNV are being fulfilled. The review should also consider the question of priorities given to the mandates, 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 of UNDP and executed by other bodies within the United Nations Development System and other activities.

(b) The role of UNV in emergencies and what institutional arrangements, if any, should be made for this purpose.

(c) UNV's recruitment and placement methods, 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 should particularly examine whether and how volunteer recruitment could be adapted more effectively to the differing needs and conditions in countries participating in the Programme.

(d) The existing mechanisms and capacities for orientation, support, monitoring, debriefing and evaluation of UNV activities in the field.

(e) In the light of the actual cost of recruitment, administration and fielding of UNVs, the most appropriate future sources and modalities of funding with a view to simplifying the financing structure [at the 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 UNDP. Opportunity should be taken:

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

(b) to have extensive discussions with the UNDP, UNV-user agencies, 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 thirty-fifth Council.

Financing of the review

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