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Draft decision

United Nations Technical Co-operation Activities

The Governing Council,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on United Nations technical co-operation activities (DP/1987/45 and Add.1-3),

1. Welcomes the steps taken by the Department for increased effectiveness and productivity, which contributed to the increased volume of project delivery in 1986, the elimination of previous support costs deficits, and the increased project implementation rate;
2. Urges continued attention to the performance of the Department, especially regarding the sustainability of its level of programme delivery in the context of the approval of project budgets at the outset of the 1987-1991 country programme cycle;
3. Urges that, bearing in mind the sizeable staff cuts already sustained by the Department, recommendation 15 of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts should be applied most judiciously in the case of the Department;
4. Notes the ongoing review of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations being carried out by the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation and recommends that the review should aim at, inter alia, clustering all operational activities at Headquarters in the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development and at the removal of all constraints of an administrative and financial nature which have a bearing on the efficiency and effectiveness of the Department;

5. Welcomes the steps taken by the Department for improved analysis and reporting of results of project evaluations, and encourages further such efforts aimed at augmenting the quality of projects and programmes, bearing in mind also the important roles of Governments as well as funding agencies in ensuring practical feedback and follow-up of the recommendations of evaluation missions;

6. Welcomes the measures initiated by the Department for implementation of the recommendations of the 1986 Meeting of National Recruitment Services, and urges further expeditious actions, especially as concerns increasing the participation of personnel from developing countries and socialist countries and of women as technical co-operation project personnel;

7. Notes with concern the existing shares of developing countries in the provision of equipment, subcontracted services and training facilities for projects, and urges that efforts be continued to improve the situation in keeping with the wishes of recipient Governments;

8. Welcomes the preparation of a departmental implementation strategy on the participation of women in development, and encourages its application at Headquarters and field levels;

9. Notes the progress made in the implementation of the Special Action Programme for Administration and Management in Africa, reiterates the importance of new efforts to assist African Governments, at their request, in this subject area, and encourages the early approval of projects for such assistance, drawing upon the capabilities of the Department in the relevant substantive fields;

10. Notes with interest the recent augmentation of the Department's programme in Africa, reflecting the interests of requesting Governments, the budgetary allocations of funding bodies and the measures taken by the Department in collaboration with its partners to increase the volume and rates of project implementation, and urges the continuation of such special efforts as may be necessary in this regard;

11. Welcomes the new emphasis being placed by the Department upon support and follow-up to intergovernmental programming exercises for technical co-operation among developing countries (TCDC) in conjunction with UNDP and in response to the requests of Governments; encourages further such efforts and the related earmarking of resources from the Department's share in the United Nations Regular Programme of Technical Co-operation;

12. Recognizes the distinction in primary functions between the Department and the funding agencies of the system, as well as its relevance in avoiding overlap and duplication of activities carried out by all entities, and recommends that agreements be reached, as appropriate, regarding collaborative arrangements which would foster closer co-operation;

13. Invites the Secretary-General to make available, through various means, further information on the role, experience and competence of the Department so as to assist Governments of developing countries and others in becoming more fully aware of the possibilities for technical co-operation available through its services, as well as to elicit information for use by the Department on previously underutilized sources of supply for inputs to projects.

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