



**Governing Council
of the
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Twenty-fourth session
26 May-19 June 1987, New York
Item 5 (b) of the provisional agenda

PROGRAMME PLANNING

Country and intercountry programmes and projects

FIFTH COUNTRY PROGRAMME FOR ALGERIA

Note by the Administrator

I. PROCESS OF THE PROGRAMMING EXERCISE

1. The starting point for the launching of the 1987-1991 programming exercise was the analysis of the previous programme in close co-operation with the Government, beginning with an ad hoc dialogue and followed by formal joint working sessions. Government officials responsible for the co-ordination of international technical co-operation and the field office of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) that participated in these discussions noted difficulties in programme implementation due to reductions in resources and changes in development priorities.
2. The search for new orientations led to a careful review of key policy documents such as the Second Development Plan (1985-1989) and the National Charter adopted in January 1986. This review provided a clear picture of the country's mid-term development strategies and led to the identification of a series of themes around which a new programme could be developed.
3. The note by the Resident Representative, which reflected the main results of the above analysis and review, served as a basis for discussions and consultations with the Government, the agencies of the United Nations system and some bilateral/multilateral partners. Of particular significance were discussions with a number of economic and sectoral identification missions of the World Bank.
4. The preparation of the country programme also benefited from several sectoral missions from the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the

International Labour Organisation (ILO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Trade Centre (ITC) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) that visited Algeria throughout the second half of 1986.

II. NEW COUNTRY PROGRAMME

5. On the basis of the above reviews and consultations, it has been possible to identify broad themes requiring multisectoral approaches in line with expressed Government wishes. The idea of a programme organized around selected themes was based on the concept of the integrated project approach as a means of developing sectoral linkages and enhancing co-operation among national institutions.

6. The process resulted in the following selected themes:

(a) Agro-rural development, emphasizing the importance of the food chain and the necessity of strengthening linkages between its various components: cereals, meat and dairy products; agricultural inputs, seeds and fertilizers; extension work; and quality control. In order to reduce food imports the Government attaches first priority to agricultural production and water resources. This will be achieved through improved technical inputs and expanded agricultural lands.

(b) Integration and innovation, reflecting a key theme that became the focus for national debates and seminars on intersectoral and inter-institutional co-ordination as well as on assimilation and development of technologies. This involves the reintroduction of pre-investment work for small and medium-scale industries and for the pharmaceutical sector. Other projects include engineering capacity, agricultural machinery, the application of computer technologies to various administrative functions, and the promotion of foreign trade.

(c) Enhanced utilization of existing capacity, based on the concept of "complementary investment" that emerged as the nucleus of the planning process. It is intended to build on the country's particularly impressive investment in physical and human resources over the past 20 years. This theme deals with the development of human and natural resources, the improvement of industrial capacity and the protection of the environment. It includes activities in maintenance, water and sanitation, planning and management, higher education, vocational training, desertification and environment.

(d) Development of social services, with special emphasis on labour hygiene and security and on promotion of a national industry to produce sport and recreation materials.

(e) Prospective studies and planning instruments, contributing both to long-term policy and to new mechanisms such as the economic evaluation of investment projects.

III. MANAGEMENT OF THE COUNTRY PROGRAMME

7. The thematic approach adopted for the programme necessitates special mechanisms to foster greater linkages between separate activities. A first step will be the organization of a programme-launching seminar to analyse the main issues facing all national institutions involved in programme implementation and to identify further areas of co-operation and joint initiative.

8. Similarly, this approach implies co-ordinated inputs by the United Nations system. The response by some agencies to this challenge has already been encouraging. For instance, UNIDO and FAO will join forces in the implementation of the proposed project related to the production and utilization of agricultural machinery, and ITC intends to call on the competence of other agencies, e.g. UNIDO, to complement its trade promotion efforts.

9. Efforts will be made to use, where possible, new operational modalities. These include: more frequent and direct relations between national project directors and the technical personnel of the agencies of the United Nations system; increasing use of short-term consultants instead of resident experts; and the opportunity of applying the umbrella project concept to meet the overall objectives of each theme. Other modalities such as the use of United Nations Volunteers and national experts as well as technical co-operation among developing countries (TCDC) will be given careful consideration in the implementation of the new programme.

10. Another aspect related to programme management is resource availability. Although the financial situation of the country deteriorated throughout 1986 as a result of the collapse of petroleum prices, the Government has decided to increase its cost-sharing contribution to reach one and a half times the Indicative Planning Figure (IPF) - a clear sign of the importance Algeria attaches to multilateral co-operation and to UNDP.

IV. RECOMMENDATION OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

11. The Administrator recommends that the Governing Council approve the fifth country programme for Algeria.





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