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PROGRAMME PLANNING

Country and intercountry programmes and projects

FOURTH COUNTRY PROGRAMME FOR CAMEROON

Note by the Administrator

I. PROCESS OF THE PROGRAMMING EXERCISE

1. In early January 1986, the Resident Representative submitted his note on the fourth country programme to the Ministry of Planning and Regional Development for the consideration of the Government. The Government subsequently endorsed the orientation and concentration of the new country programme and agreed to proceed with the evaluation of the ongoing third programme. To that effect, a joint United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)/Government working group was set up, in which most sectoral departments of the Government were effectively represented.

2. An interministerial working group reviewed the progress in the implementation of projects in the third cycle, and paid particular attention to bottle-necks and other institutional and policy factors which had impeded the timely implementation of some projects, from the points of view of the Government, the executing agencies and UNDP. Corrective actions for management and technical aspects, with special reference to cohesiveness, have since been proposed for the planning, formulation and implementation of the fourth country programme.

3. Continuous, high-level contact has been maintained with the Ministry of Planning in order to achieve agreement on the main objectives in formulating a viable programme consistent with the Government development strategy and priorities, in which scarce UNDP resources could play a catalytic role and have a dynamic impact in the sectors of concentration.

4. In May 1986, a task force was convened between the Resident Representative and the Government technical departments concerned, for the purpose of assessing technical assistance needs and requirements in the two areas of concentration: agriculture and industry. This meeting had before it several substantive technical reports on agricultural and industrial sectoral reviews and appraisals prepared by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) on behalf of the Government to serve as background information in the country programming exercise. The Government subsequently accepted and endorsed the recommendations of the task force and requested that the programming exercise go forward.

II. THE FOURTH COUNTRY PROGRAMME

5. The development strategy and sectoral priorities adopted by the Government of Cameroon are focused on the development of agriculture, both for export and domestic consumption, closely linked with an industrial development policy built around the agro-industrial subsector to maintain food self-sufficiency. Cameroon is today largely self-sufficient in food for its population of 10 million. However, the country must revitalize the agricultural sector in order to boost stagnating agricultural production to meet the challenges of the next 20 years, during which its population is projected to double.

6. The Government is taking appropriate measures to develop a modest industrial sector with special emphasis on the promotion of private enterprises, mainly in rural areas.

7. To underline these policies, the Government has decided to channel UNDP resources in a concentrated and selected manner in two sectors of the economy: agriculture and industry. In view of the relatively limited magnitude of the indicative planning figure (IPF) resources (\$15 million), as compared to the huge needs for technical assistance, it has been argued that UNDP assistance will have maximum impact on the Government development goals in the medium and long term by using these scarce resources in those two sectors.

8. The concentration covers two main themes: (a) agricultural and rural development through a large-scale institutional support project for medium-size agricultural units; and (b) industrial development through the strengthening of Government policies, with particular reference to the formulation of a master plan for the industrialization of the country.

9. In the agricultural sector, the most dynamic, the Government is requesting UNDP assistance for its modernization through the promotion and development of progressive small and medium farming units. Cameroon is indeed a country which has the potential for such an endeavour. If some measure of success can be achieved in the next five years, it will be of significant impact for the whole economy and will encourage further investment from within and outside the country.

10. In the industrial sector, UNDP activities will focus on critical areas such as: (a) assistance in the formulation of national industrial policy by developing

and strengthening national capabilities in conducting studies, project preparation and negotiations; (b) assistance to Government machineries in the implementation of sectoral policies; (c) assistance in the development of manufacturing small- and medium-size industries.

11. In addition to new projects in the sectors of agriculture and industry, which consume 76 per cent of IPF resources, the country programme also contains ongoing projects in these same sectors which originated from the third country programme (1982-1986) and which should attain their objectives within the first years of the fourth country programme. In particular, those project activities bearing on the modernization of agriculture and industrial development will continue.

12. The financial resources of the fourth cycle, totalling \$22,880,000, have been distributed as follows: (a) agricultural and rural development (five new projects and four ongoing projects): \$9,839,000; (b) industrial development (12 new projects): \$7,480,000; (c) other projects (four new projects and four ongoing projects): \$4,355,000; (d) unprogrammed reserve: \$1,206,000.

III. MANAGEMENT OF THE COUNTRY PROGRAMME

13. The country programme will be managed at the field level by the Resident Representative in close consultation and collaboration with the Ministry of Planning and Regional Development; a mid-term review of the programme will be held in 1989.

14. Whereas overall programme policies and orientation will be discussed and decided at the level of the Ministry of Planning, day-to-day operational and procedural matters related to project execution are dealt with directly by the Resident Representative and the ministries concerned, with the active participation of executing agencies of the United Nations system.

15. At UNDP headquarters, the Regional Bureau for Africa will monitor programme implementation through field visits and provide policy guidance as appropriate to ensure that IPF resources are being utilized to reach the stated objectives.

IV. RECOMMENDATION OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

16. The Administrator recommends that the Governing Council approve the fourth country programme for Cameroon.

