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PROGRAMME PLANNING

Country and intercountry programmes and projects

FIFTH COUNTRY PROGRAMME FOR GUATEMALA

Note by the Administrator

I. PROCESS OF THE PROGRAMMING EXERCISE

1. The programming exercise was formally initiated in early 1986 with the identification of technical co-operation priorities and the evaluation of the third and fourth country programmes. A Special Programme Resources (SPR) project was approved to assist the Economic and Social Planning Council of the Government, the co-ordinating authority for UNDP, in this task. International and national consultants provided support in the in-depth evaluation of the third and fourth country programmes, as well as in the exhaustive survey of past technical co-operation activities and the identification of future technical co-operation priorities. This entire exercise was reflected in the Resident Representative's note to the Government and in the country programme presented by the Government.

2. A seminar was organized by the Economic and Social Planning Council and the office of the Resident Representative, with the participation of several Ministers, most bilateral and multilateral donors, and representatives from UNDP headquarters in September 1986 to discuss technical co-operation priorities. One of the results was the prioritization of 257 project profiles, some of which are included in the fifth country programme for UNDP financing. Others, whose purpose is to attract contributions from other donors, are included within the framework of the fifth country programme. Other projects were presented by the President of Guatemala to European donors, a few of whom have already pledged future assistance. These technical co-operation priorities constitute the basis for a national programme for international technical co-operation.

3. Another important result of the seminar was the opportunity it provided for co-ordination between the Government and technical co-operation agencies; the role of UNDP in the co-ordination process was highlighted.

## II. THE FIFTH COUNTRY PROGRAMME

4. The fifth country programme, 1987-1991, establishes the following objectives: (a) to support Government efforts to reactivate and transform the productive structure, with special emphasis on grassroots organizations; (b) to support Government efforts towards the modernization of the State apparatus and decentralization; (c) to strengthen the infrastructure of services for productive activities; (d) to promote the participation of the population in economic development and to strengthen national identity.

5. There is a direct correlation between the main areas of concentration of the country programme and the National Development Strategy, 1987-1991, particularly those related to restructuring the productive sector, economic decentralization, participation of the population in economic development, and strengthening the national identity.

6. A new democratic Government took office in Guatemala in January 1986. There was an active participation by all the ministries and decentralized and autonomous agencies of the Government in the country programming process. As a result, the Economic and Social Planning Council faced many demands on the indicative planning figure (IPF) resources within the framework of the country programme objectives. Despite the large number of projects, the fifth country programme is focused on the main technical assistance priorities, where UNDP has a comparative advantage and where complementary resources will ensure that project objectives are achieved. Some of the national projects are linked with regional projects that will complement national resources. Moreover, it is also expected that some of the relatively small projects included in the country programme will be complemented by the technical co-operation activities of bilateral and multilateral programmes.

7. It is noted that the Resident Representative will play an active role in channelling technical co-operation resources from other donors on the basis of projects proposals identified within the framework of the fifth country programme.

8. Grassroots development and the integration of women in development, which are some of the areas of concern to UNDP, constitute important elements within the fifth country programme. Assistance to be provided under the first country programme objective is meant to support groups in their productive and income-generating activities. Projects to be implemented under the second objective will have as common denominator activities to strengthen the planning, statistical information and technical co-operation systems of the country. The third objective will strengthen the capacity to export, to increase agricultural production and to earn needed foreign exchange. The fourth objective is aimed at spurring community and youth participation in self-improvement activities.

### III. MANAGEMENT OF THE COUNTRY PROGRAMME

9. The mid-term review is foreseen for 1989. Co-ordination with the United Nations system agencies and other multilateral and bilateral donors is built into the programme. Other agencies which will provide assistance within the framework of the programme are the World Food Programme (WFP), the World Health Organization (WHO), and the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA).
10. The Government has expressed an interest in increasing the use of national consultants and technical co-operation among developing countries (TCDC) arrangements with Argentina and Brazil, which have TCDC programmes, as well as with other Central American countries.
11. The fifth country programme will continue to benefit from the regional programme through projects such as: Employment Programme for Central America (RLA/86/034); Support to External Sector (RLA/86/002); Public Sector Management (RLA/86/020); Public Policies Planning (RLA/86/029); Training of Maritime Personnel at the World Maritime University (RLA/82/009); Cultural Heritage (RLA/83/002); and Education in Central America (RLA/86/023).

### IV. RECOMMENDATION BY THE ADMINISTRATOR

12. The Administrator recommends that the Governing Council approve the fifth country programme for Guatemala.

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