The primary focus of the present document is on the role of UNDP in the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development during the period 1987 to 1988. It updates the earlier report of the Administrator contained in document DP/1987/20 dated 11 March 1987 and incorporates the views and observations made by the Working Group of the Committee of the Whole during the special session of the Governing Council in February 1988. The report describes briefly a number of the consultative processes in which the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is involved and which are strengthening co-ordination for more effective implementation of the Programme of Action. Also highlighted are the most significant of the special initiatives undertaken by UNDP to help to address some areas of major concern to African countries in their implementation of the Programme of Action, in particular at the regional level. The allocation of UNDP resources consistent with the priority sectors identified in the Programme of Action is shown, both for country and for intercountry fourth-cycle programmes for Africa. The report describes UNDP activities in the area of aid co-ordination and resource mobilization for African countries, particularly through the round-table process, and the main results of three round-table conferences held during the past year are indicated.

Developments with respect to national technical co-operation assessments and programmes (NaTCAP) exercises are also briefly reviewed. The report concludes by illustrating the heightened emphasis of UNDP, in consonance with the Programme of Action, on four specific areas: the private sector; economic co-operation among developing countries/technical co-operation among developing countries (ECDC/TCDC); the promotion of women; and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).
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INTRODUCTION

1. The General Assembly of the United Nations, at its thirteenth special session (May-June 1986) adopted resolution A/S-13/2 of 1 June 1986 which established the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, 1986-1990. That resolution, which was adopted by consensus, inter alia, emphasized the need to intensify economic and technical co-operation with African countries during and beyond the period 1986-1990; urged all Governments to take effective action for the rapid and full implementation of the Programme of Action; and requested the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to participate fully in and support the implementation of the Programme of Action.

2. The main objective of the above-mentioned resolution was to initiate and sustain renewed concerted action by the international community in full support of the efforts of African countries towards their economic recovery and development as evidenced in Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery 1986-1990 1/ adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) at its twenty-first ordinary session, held at Addis Ababa from 18 to 20 July 1985, in which the Governments of Africa reaffirmed their primary responsibility for the economic and social development of their countries, identified areas for priority action and undertook to mobilize and utilize domestic resources for the achievement of these priorities.

3. In response to General Assembly resolution S-13/2, at its thirty-third session, the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), welcoming the request of the General Assembly that the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system participate fully in and support the implementation of the Programme of Action adopted decision 86/27 of 27 June 1986 which authorized the Administrator to take appropriate action within his mandate in relation to the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action and to report thereon to the Governing Council at its thirty-fourth session in June 1987.

4. The present report is being submitted in response to the Governing Council's subsequent decision 87/23 of 18 June 1987 and updates the Administrator's earlier report DP/1987/20 dated 11 March 1987 presented to the thirty-fourth session on the role of the UNDP in the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action and reports to the Council on actions taken since then to implement that decision. In particular, the present report incorporates the views and observations made by the Working Group of the Committee of the Whole in February 1988 during the special session of the Governing Council.

I. PRIORITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR AFRICAN ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND DEVELOPMENT

5. It will be recalled that in accordance with the objectives and strategies of Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery 1986-1990, the United Nations Programme of Action as adopted by the General Assembly at its special session in June 1986 identified inter alia the following as priority areas: agricultural
development, with special emphasis on actions for the improvement of the food situation and the rehabilitation of agricultural development in Africa; drought and desertification; human resources development; and socio-economic policy reforms including measures for alleviating Africa's external debt burden.

II. OVERALL UNDP RESPONSE TO THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION

6. UNDP's contribution to the implementation of the priorities of UNPAAERD has been largely through the machinery of the UNDP country programmes and the intercountry programme for Africa for the fourth cycle 1987-1991, most of which have been presented to either the February 1987, the June 1987, the February 1988 or the June 1988 sessions of the Governing Council. These programmes have been appropriately reoriented to support, to the extent possible, given the limited resources of UNDP, the priorities established for the United Nations Programme of Action. The reorientation has been achieved primarily through an overall redistribution and reallocation of programme resources available from UNDP. In this connection, it should be noted that to date, of the indicative planning figure (IPF) resources allocated to the 31 country programmes approved through the end of 1987, at least 45.2 per cent is attributable to agriculture and food production; 15 per cent to human resources development; and 15 per cent to economic planning and administration.

A. Allocation of programme resources

7. During the fourth programming cycle, IPF resources totalling $1.212 billion have been allocated, under country and intercountry programmes, to projects and programmes in countries of sub-Saharan Africa. This represents an increase of $240 million or 24.7 per cent over the third cycle. While this amount is modest in relation to the total estimated cost of the full implementation of Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery 1986-1990, estimated at $128.1 billion at 1985 prices, the catalytic and promotional role of UNDP needs to be emphasized in terms of attracting additional funding from other donors and agencies. Cost-sharing budgets for Africa have increased substantially in recent years and the trend is expected to continue. Furthermore, through its leading role in the round-table process, UNDP is facilitating resource mobilization for the least developed countries of Africa as well as promoting consensus in macro-economic policies and priority action.

1. Country programmes

8. Of the $1,212 million in IPF resources allocated to sub-Saharan Africa in the fourth cycle, over $1 billion, including carry-over, is for the implementation of 42 country programmes. Thirty-one country programmes for Africa with IPF resources of $768.6 million were approved by the Governing Council in 1986 and 1987. Eleven country programmes with total IPF resources of $222.9 million are being submitted...
to the Governing Council in 1988. These funds will contribute to the implementation of the sectoral priorities identified in the Programme of Action as follows:

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<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Resources (millions of dollars)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Food and agriculture (including water)</td>
<td>45.2</td>
<td>100.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support sectors (agro-industries, transport and communications, trade and finance)</td>
<td>18.3</td>
<td>48.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human resources development</td>
<td>14.8</td>
<td>33.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic planning and administration</td>
<td>15.2</td>
<td>33.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>14.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.0</strong></td>
<td><strong>222.9</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Intercountry programme

9. Resources available under the current UNDP intercountry programme for Africa for the fourth cycle amount to $211.95 million. Of this, $195.75 million is core or IPF resources, while $16.2 million represents Special Programme Resources, third-party cost-sharing and UNDP trust funds.

10. In the formulation of the intercountry programme, a significantly new approach was adopted, involving different arrangements with all relevant partners. Following the adoption of the African Priority Programme in July 1985, the UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa invited the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) to participate in preparing a paper which would propose a new orientation for the fourth cycle regional programme. Extensive discussions on the draft were held subsequently with African Governments, UNDP resident representatives, United Nations agencies, intergovernmental organizations, and selected non-governmental organizations (NGOs). In the light of these exercises and discussions, the intercountry programme, which was approved by the Governing Council in June 1987, focused on four areas of concentration and the distribution of resources emerged as follows:
Area of concentration  | Percentage | Resources (millions of dollars)
--- | --- | ---
Research and development for food production | 16.6 | 35.18
Productivity and management for production of goods and services | 38.1 | 80.75
Natural resources | 11.5 | 24.37
Infrastructure | 21.3 | 45.16
Others | 7.9 | 16.74
Unprogrammed reserve | 4.6 | 9.75
Total | 100.0 | 211.95

11. The ongoing and proposed regional projects under research and development for food production focus on food security, crop protection, biosciences, fertilizer research, pesticide production, veterinary vaccine production, livestock diseases, animal feed, fisheries, aquaculture and forestry resources. Projects to promote productivity and management have as specific objectives, for example, to strengthen human resources planning, promote employment, co-ordinate and institutionalize statistical training, strengthen agricultural technology, strengthen industrial property organizations and promote regional standardization activities.

B. Other UNDP-administered funds

12. Under the existing system for the allocation of resources through national or regional IPFs, it is normally not possible to allocate additional financial resources for individual countries. However, through other UNDP administered funds, not exclusively earmarked for Africa, this has been achieved. These funds, which are under the responsibility of the Administrator, are now especially directed, in the African region, at the priority themes of the Programme of Action and the activities are increasingly being harmonized. These associated resources encompass those designated by donors for (a) drought and desertification (United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO)); (b) small- and medium-scale capital assistance projects (United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)); (c) economic development of women (United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)); (d) science and technology (United Nations Fund for Science and Technology for Development (UNFSTD)); and (e) volunteer assistance (United Nations Volunteers (UNV)).

13. Resources available to UNSO have increased from $39 million (provisional) in 1986 to an estimated $44.2 million in 1987; the share of UNCDF general resources...
directed to least developed countries in Africa increased from 52 per cent in 1985 to 58 per cent in 1986 and to 70 per cent in the first nine months of 1987; resources available to UNIFEM have grown from $17.9 million in 1986 to $20.2 million in 1987, with contributions from all sources showing an increase (government voluntary contributions, government cost-sharing contributions, non-governmental contributions, sub-trust funds); out of 19 ongoing UNFSTD country projects, 9 are in Africa and there is also a regional project and in 1986, almost 53 per cent of all United Nations volunteers were serving in Africa and the number is increasing.

14. To the above should be added non-IPF resources available from UNDP such as the Special Programme Resource (SPR) and from the Special Measures Fund for the Least Developed Countries (SMF). The amount of $7.5 million has so far been committed during 1987-1988 for Africa from SPR for projects which meet the criteria established for such resources. From SMF, an amount of $16,882,000 has been allocated to Africa to date since January 1987. Both these sources of funding are expected to generate additional resources for Africa during 1988 and for the remainder of the cycle.

C. Management services

15. Through management services agreements entered into by UNDP with interested donors for sub-Saharan Africa, the Administrator has gained access to substantial additional funding for priority development and emergency activities for specific African countries. During 1987 and 1988, UNDP has continued to administer management services already agreed upon with the Governments of Italy, Japan and France. Italy is funding projects in Ethiopia and Chad, as well as a regional project; Japan currently finances projects in Côte d'Ivoire and the Niger, whilst France is supporting a regional project for round-table processes. Under an UNSO/Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA) agreement currently under negotiation, the Swedish Government will shortly extend assistance to Burkina Faso and the Niger.

16. An estimated $118.097 million is currently being administered by UNDP under management services agreements through the UNDP Office for Project Services. The breakdown is broadly as follows: Italy, $86,877,000; Japan, $26,000,000; France, $655,000 and Sweden, $4,565,000.

III. SPECIFIC ACTION IN SUPPORT OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION

17. As already demonstrated in the preceeding paragraphs, UNDP has continued in 1987-1988 to pursue the implementation of the Programme of Action through a variety of actions and special initiatives as well as through the orientation and reorientation of its country and intercountry programmes for Africa in the fourth cycle. Care has been taken to ensure that the allocation of resources is consistent with the priorities, strategies and thematic emphasis identified in the Programme of Action. UNDP has intensified its endeavours to promote aid co-ordination and resource mobilization for African countries and to increase the effectiveness of its support to regional and subregional institutions.
A. Consultative processes

18. UNDP has been closely involved with, and has provided support to a variety of processes which have facilitated consultations concerning the implementation of the Programme of Action at all levels and which have strengthened the co-ordination of effort as it relates to the Programme, both within the United Nations system and between the United Nations System and Governments, donors, regional and subregional groups, and non-governmental organizations.

1. Exchange of information

19. As previously reported by the Administrator to the Governing Council in June 1987, during the regional meeting of resident representatives/resident co-ordinators serving in sub-Saharan Africa convened by UNDP at Niamey, Niger, in July 1986, considerable progress had been made in sensitizing and guiding UNDP personnel on specific ways and means to support Governments in their efforts to implement the Programme of Action. The appointment by the Secretary-General of the UNDP Regional Director for Africa as Secretary of the United Nations Steering Committee on 4 September 1986 was also reported. The linkages thus established between UNDP resident representatives in sub-Saharan Africa and the Steering Committee have continued in 1987 and early 1988 to provide a useful and viable framework of mutual exchange of vital information on donor and recipient countries' interactions as well as on specific areas of major concern to all parties concerned. UNDP, to date, continues to co-finance staff services and other support to the secretariat of the Steering Committee and has participated in related series of strategy meetings of the Inter-Agency Task Force held at Geneva, Dakar (Senegal), Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), Lusaka (Zambia), Harare (Zimbabwe) and Washington under the chairmanship of the Executive Secretary of ECA.

20. Similarly, a cluster meeting of resident representatives in the Sahelian countries which took place in Senegal in April 1987 reviewed progress and obstacles to the ongoing efforts to combat drought and desertification in Africa and has been instrumental in improving co-ordination between national country programmes, the regional programme and the activities of UNSO. In the case of southern Africa, UNDP took advantage of the annual meeting of the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference (SADCC) held in Gaborone, Botswana, in February 1987, to take stock of SADCC priorities and strategies and how UNDP, in consultation with other donors, could support SADCC initiatives during the fourth cycle.

2. Regional seminars

21. In its efforts to maintain maximum awareness and effective implementation of the Programme of Action through well-informed national initiatives, UNDP provided resources in support of two high-level seminars for the African region:

(a) A high-level technical meeting of African economic planners held at Abuja, Nigeria, in June 1987 on the subject of Africa, the challenge of economic recovery and development. The meeting was attended by participants from 29 African
countries and 14 countries outside Africa. The Abuja statement on Economic Recovery and Long-term Development in Africa was subsequently reproduced in document A/42/410;

(b) The first Congress of African Scientists was organized in June 1987 at Brazzaville, Congo, by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and OAU. Participants from 47 countries attended and reviewed how their competences in science and technology could be harnessed to overcome the crisis in the region. The meeting established a non-governmental Pan African Union of Science and Technology with its headquarters at Brazzaville which will follow up the initiatives of this category of domestic inputs.

3. **Regional co-operation with the Economic Commission for Africa and the Organization of African Unity**

22. At the regional level, UNDP is working in increasingly close collaboration with ECA and OAU for the co-ordinated implementation of the Programme of Action. UNDP is funding a number of projects in a variety of areas to be executed by ECA, and a large number of intercountry projects and programmes are being formulated in close collaboration with ECA and OAU. Altogether nine projects have been approved for $8.4 million for execution by ECA. These projects focus primarily on strengthening existing regional and subregional institutions. An example is the Pan African Documentation and Information System (PADIS) (RAF/86/053). Training is the major emphasis of the assistance.

23. UNDP, in co-operation with SADCC, is supportive of the latter's Plan of Action. Eighteen projects have been identified for UNDP funding in the sectors of food production and security, livestock production, energy, transport and communications, trade and industry and human resources development. Seven projects have been approved for $8.2 million.

24. UNDP is also expanding and strengthening its support to selected programmes of other African subregional groupings, especially to the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and the Eastern and Southern Africa Preferential Trade Area (PTA). A special study funded by UNDP and UNSO with regard to anti-drought and desertification strategies and priority needs assessment has been completed. The Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) and the Intergovernmental Authority for Drought and Development (IGADD) will benefit from the joint Regional Bureau for Africa/UNSO undertaking.

25. The process of close consultations and collaboration between UNDP and OAU has been consolidated during 1987 and 1988. In addition to ad hoc consultations at Addis Ababa, the UNDP Regional Director for Africa organized a special session in September 1987 to brief the African Group at United Nations Headquarters on current developments in the implementation of the Programme of Action and the role of UNDP in the process.
26. Co-operation between UNDP and OAU with respect to human resources priorities is already being further enhanced during 1988 through close collaboration in the organization of the International Conference on the Plight of Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in southern Africa to be held at Oslo, Norway, from 22 to 24 August 1988. UNDP, together with the United Nations, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and OAU are members of the steering committee of the Conference which will address the long-standing problem of refugees, returnees and displaced persons in terms of root causes; economic, social and humanitarian needs; formulation of a plan of action for international intervention; as well as mobilization of resources to assist the countries concerned. In addition, UNDP is funding a consultant and providing other material support for the organization and follow-up of the conference.

B. Special initiatives

1. Special Action Programme for Administration and Management

27. In response to the widely held perception that there is significant weakness in public administration and management in Africa, the Director-General for International Economic Co-operation and Development initiated in 1986 the Special Action Programme for Administration and Management (SAPAM). This was, and continues to be an inter-agency effort involving the United Nations Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, ECA, the World Bank and the International Labour Organisation, with UNDP as lead agency. To date, a programme of action has been prepared identifying priority areas for technical co-operation, covering (a) policy management, (b) increased productivity and (c) human resources development. Sensitization of the United Nations agencies and resource mobilization from donors have also formed part of the planning for the Programme.

28. In pursuance of these objectives, SAPAM missions have been fielded in nine countries, and 27 projects requiring about $40 million of financing identified. These projects include strengthening of public sector training in administration and management (Botswana); assistance in the creation of financial systems (Burkina Faso); financial planning and management of the external debt (Guinea-Bissau); strengthening of the organization and methods service (Niger); strengthening of the organization and methods unit in the Ministry of Labour and Planning (Swaziland); assistance to the Civil Service Training Centre (United Republic of Tanzania) and strengthening of policy analysis capabilities (Zambia). Several of these projects are programmed to be financed or have already received financing either through national IPFs or by the Special Trust Fund for Public Administration and Finance of 22.5 million guilders (approximately $5 million at the 1986 exchange rate) established by the Government of the Netherlands during the special session of the General Assembly in May 1986. In addition to these activities, six programming missions to sub-Saharan African countries are planned for the first half of 1988. With the co-operation of international financial and development institutions, including the African Development Bank (AfDB) and other donors and agencies, more projects will be identified, funded and implemented in support of the programme.
2. Monitoring aid flows and development programmes

29. Monitoring of economic and social development in Africa has been severely handicapped by weaknesses in national statistical capabilities. Key social and economic indicators of development are either not in place or are inadequate for the task. Thus, available data are neither sufficiently comprehensive nor current to permit up-to-date assessments of progress. To redress the situation, under a new project approved in April 1987, UNDP is contributing $1.5 million to a regional project executed by the World Bank in association with ECA to monitor changes in economic variables in African countries using carefully selected indicators. In addition to providing data for the Secretary-General's reports to the General Assembly, the project is assisting African Governments to implement the Programme of Action by yielding data that can serve as a basis for future planning and decision-making. Furthermore, the donor community can use the data as a basis for formulating its assistance. The first report, now completed, focuses on aid flows and some key indicators of short-term policy actions. A second document, which is scheduled for 1988, will be more comprehensive in scope, covering additional indicators as well as updating those contained in the earlier report. In particular, the 1988 document will include a section on baseline indicators that would be useful in longer-term monitoring, with special attention being given to the agriculture sector.

3. Social dimensions of structural adjustment programmes

30. At least 28 African countries have to date adopted structural adjustment programmes, with their inevitable transitional costs, especially in terms of their impact upon vulnerable groups. Many of these countries have sought UNDP assistance to strengthen their national efforts in developing appropriate plans and strategies to address social issues generated by existing structural adjustment programmes in the design of future programmes of adjustment. Under a new project approved in September 1987, Social dimensions of structural adjustment programmes (RAF/87/037), UNDP is contributing $5 million and the World Bank and AfDB are each contributing $2.5 million to a multi-donor facility to fund a regional project designed to help African Governments to meet this particular challenge. The project, which is to be executed by the World Bank over a five-year period, aims (a) to strengthen the institutional capacities of African Governments to implement and monitor poverty alleviation programmes and develop adequate statistical data bases, in particular the development of household surveys and social accounting matrices; (b) to assess the impact of structural adjustment programmes over time on population groups by assessing trends and identifying possible linkages; and (c) to design poverty alleviation programmes aimed at increasing the access of the poor to employment opportunities and income-generating assets and improving the quality of these assets. The project is managed by a steering committee chaired by UNDP with representatives of the World Bank, ADB, ECA, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), ILO, the United Nations National Household Survey Capability Programme (NHSCP) and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). If deemed necessary other agencies and NGOs could be invited to take part. A donor advisory committee is also being established for the project.
31. Aside from UNDP regional initiatives to assist African Governments in coping with their problems arising from structural adjustment programmes, an increasing number of projects are being developed and financed from country IPFs. As examples, at the request of the Government of the Comoros, UNDP has recently approved preparatory assistance to help the Government in the preparation of a structural adjustment programme. Projects in response to specific issues generated by existing structural adjustment programmes have been approved for the Central African Republic, Ghana, Guinea, Malawi, Mozambique, Senegal, Togo and Zaire. Similar projects are currently under consideration, e.g., in Madagascar and the United Republic of Tanzania, and it is expected that several other African Governments will seek such UNDP assistance in the near future.

4. Structural adjustment advisory teams for Africa

32. In February 1988 UNDP approved a preparatory assistance project to design this new regional project under which structural adjustment advisory teams for Africa (SAATA) are to be fielded to help African countries to strengthen their capacity to prepare, negotiate and monitor adjustment-related activities. The three advisory teams of high-level experts, which will include Africans, will have three main functions: (a) to assist the Governments in identifying structural adjustment needs within a medium- to long-term development strategy; (b) to provide advisory services to prepare and assist in negotiating adjustment-financing operations and in co-ordinating the implementation and monitoring of adjustment programmes; (c) to train teams of local personnel in defining and negotiating adjustment measures. The project, estimated at $8.5 million, will be executed by the UNDP Office for Project Services over a period of four years.

33. The above-mentioned SAATA project is closely related to the proposed economic management facility and both initiatives are closely linked with the senior field economists being posted in the African field offices. In point of fact, these three initiatives and others, constitute different aspects of UNDP's overall effort to assist and advise African Governments in the area of economic management and structural adjustment.

5. Economic planning and management

34. To help to strengthen national capacity in economic planning, nearly 300 UNDP projects, at a cost of approximately $150 million, are under way in African countries. Of these, 37 projects for an estimated total of $49.2 million have been approved during 1987 and early 1988.

35. African countries' national capacity in aid co-ordination is currently being reinforced by some 40 UNDP projects, at a cost of about $20 million. Of these, 11 projects were approved in 1987-1988. Also, there are four projects in the pipeline currently under discussion for Burkina Faso, Mauritania, the Niger and Senegal.

36. In reference to activities related to structural adjustment programmes at the national and regional levels, UNDP currently supports over 100 projects designed to
assist African Governments in dealing with developments and problems emanating from the impact of these programmes. At least 10 of these projects were approved by UNDP in 1987 and early 1988.

6. Employment strategies

37. To assist African Governments to meet the challenge of channelling the continent's vast reservoir of human resources towards productive employment, UNDP approved in November 1987 a new regional employment strategy project of $3,346,000 to be executed by ILO, in close collaboration with the World Bank and ECA. The project covers a range of strategies which include appropriate wage policies to maximize employment opportunities; mechanisms for consultation between the Government, the private sector and workers' organizations to identify actual and projected employment opportunities; fiscal, financial and administrative measures to promote employment opportunities in small- and medium-scale enterprises, including the informal sector; and the development of capacities to assess and monitor the employment implications of particular macro-economic measures.

38. At the national level a number of similar initiatives are being undertaken. Most notably among these is the Kenyan country programme which has adopted the theme of employment as its main objective.

C. Aid co-ordination and mobilization of resources

1. Round-table conferences

39. As of April 1988, of the 27 African countries that are least developed countries, altogether 18 had requested UNDP assistance in organizing a round-table conference. Since the adoption of the Programme of Action in June 1986, round-table conferences have been held for Cape Verde in October 1986; the Central African Republic in June 1987; and the Niger in June/July 1987. An in-country review meeting for Cape Verde took place in Praia in December 1986. As a matter of policy it is the intention of UNDP to increase the frequency of round-table conferences in the future.

40. Sector or special programme consultations have been organized in 1986-1987 in Benin (transport); Burkina Faso (health and anti-desertification); Cape Verde (NGOs); Chad (agro-sylvo-pastoral); the Gambia (agriculture); Guinea-Bissau (agriculture and health); Mali (drought and desertification); Rwanda (water and sanitation); Sao Tome and Principe (rural development, energy and water and NGOs); and Togo (rural development, social sector and human resources management). Further sectoral consultations to be held in the immediate future are in the planning stage.

41. As regards the results of the round-table conferences held for Cape Verde, the Central African Republic and the Niger, in all three cases a consensus emerged on the overall orientation of the national development strategies as well as clear recommendations for changes or improvement in certain policies. During round-table
discussions, a number of donors referred to the Programme of Action in announcing improvements in the modalities of their aid or increases in the volume of assistance. The experience of the three round-table conferences held since June 1986 indicates that the majority of donors are favourably inclined towards providing aid on concessionary terms and that an increasing number are also ready to consider a request for non-project aid, particularly in the context of an adjustment programme supported by the World Bank and/or the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

42. In terms of additionality of resources, in the case of the round-table conferences held over the past year for Cape Verde, the Central African Republic and the Niger, the Governments' estimates of the financing requirements for the next few years (which were globally consistent with the estimates of the World Bank and/or IMF) emerged more than adequately covered by the pledges announced by the donors at the round-table conferences. Thus, in Cape Verde, the Government requested some $260 million for the implementation of the first three years of its plan, whereas intentions announced by donors amounted to $300 million. In the case of the Central African Republic, pledges of annual assistance amounting to $190 million were made against the financing requirements of the public investment programme, estimated at $160 million per year during the next three years. The financing announced during the round-table conference for the Niger exceeded $390 million per year against annual external financial requirements for the public sector estimated at a yearly average of $350 million over the period 1987-1991.

43. Consultations and co-ordination between UNDP, the World Bank and IMF regarding round tables have been further consolidated during 1987-1988. Both the World Bank and IMF now systematically provide access to some of their documents for the preparation of round-table conferences and participate in the meetings as well as review documents. UNDP on its part participates actively in the Consultative Group meetings of the World Bank and assists the Government in presenting its own assessment and priorities with regard to technical co-operation and human resources. The consultation and co-ordination processes reported herein are always conducted with the prior approval of the Government concerned.

2. Local aid co-ordination

44. Co-ordination at the country level is an important third building block in the aid co-ordination process and UNDP continues to play a lead role at the field level. Here, the UNDP resident representative/resident co-ordinator is well placed to play a key role, and one which UNDP would wish to institutionalize to a greater degree. UNDP recognizes that the effectiveness of local co-ordination groups could be increased through more efficient recording of the conclusions and recommendations of the project/sectoral meetings and their more systematic monitoring and follow-up. Also being promoted are closer linkages between the round-table conferences and Consultative Group meetings, sectoral consultations and local co-ordination groups.

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3. National technical co-operation assessments and programmes

45. Among the major national priorities identified in OAU's Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery and fully reflected in the United Nations Programme of Action are human resources development and the related need to reduce the present high level of dependence of most African countries on foreign experts. Current aid flows for technical co-operation to Africa as a whole account for about $3 billion annually and constitute between 25 and 35 per cent of total aid to the region. As previously reported to the Governing Council by the Administrator, 2UNDP established in 1985 the concept of national technical assessments and programmes (NaTCAPs) as a vital tool or mechanism for systematic assessment of technical co-operation requirements over a given period of time. Through these exercises, the priority needs of Governments are determined and the modalities for redress are explored and selected.

46. Implementation of the NaTCAP exercises has continued during 1987 and early 1988. Currently, NaTCAPs are under way or under discussion at different stages in 12 countries, namely Benin, Burundi, the Central African Republic, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania, Mozambique, Sierra Leone, Swaziland, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia. These exercises should result not only in specific blue-prints for better utilization of foreign expertise, but equally in the optimization of the development and use of national expertise in response to the development needs and priorities of the countries.

D. Thematic modalities for implementation of the Programme of Action

47. During 1987 and 1988, UNDP has continued to intensify its efforts in the implementation of its overall programmes as well as in its role in the implementation of the Programme of Action. The search for more and more effective implementation modalities has resulted in the adoption of thematic approaches which are briefly summarized below.

1. Private sector

48. Corresponding to a growing effort on the part of some African countries to create a more favourable environment for private sector promotion, both domestic and foreign, UNDP has increased its support to these countries in this area. Priority is accorded to small- and medium-scale enterprises. UNDP has, for example, entered into close collaboration with the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and AfDB to develop private sector assistance projects for Africa. UNDP is contributing to the funding of an African project development facility. The purpose of this project is to assist African entrepreneurs in such areas as formulating and screening project ideas; providing guidance and technical and consultancy services; assisting in the area of financing; and advising on company acquisition. UNDP is contributing $2.5 million, IFC is providing $1.5 million, AfDB is contributing $1 million and bilateral donors are contributing $12 million. Additionally, negotiations are going on between UNDP and IFC...
concerning UNDP involvement in two other project proposals, the African Management Services Company, which would provide executive management services for enterprises in sub-Saharan Africa and would also prepare qualified trainees for private-sector-oriented programmes at local and regional African training institutions; and the Foreign Investment Advisory Services, which would assist African Governments in formulating policies to facilitate and regulate the inflow of foreign private investment.

2. Economic and technical co-operation among developing countries

49. While UNDP has long been active in promoting economic co-operation among developing countries and technical co-operation among developing countries (ECDC/TCDC), these efforts have been intensified in response to the Programme of Action, and UNDP is endeavouring to increase its support to intra-African ECDC and TCDC as well as to interregional activities. Currently, more than 40 UNDP-assisted projects in the Africa region have significant TCDC objectives and/or components. In addition there are a number of ECDC projects to strengthen the programmes or capabilities of intercountry institutions. In heightened support to technical co-operation among African countries, activities in the food and agriculture sector, UNDP, in collaboration with the World Food Council (WFC) and the African Regional Centre for Technology, has provided funding support to a series of promotional meetings held in April 1987 at Yaoundé, Cameroon, and as well for a Lusaka interregional meeting held in Togo in May 1987. The conclusions and recommendations of the interregional meeting were endorsed by the thirteenth session of WFC held at Beijing in June 1987 and by the session of the Economic and Social Council held at Geneva in June 1987.

3. Promotion of women

50. The accelerated promotion of women in Africa's development process is of prime concern to UNDP. The number of UNDP-financed projects for Africa in which women have a predominant role, either as participants or as beneficiaries, has increased significantly. There are, for example, projects designed to increase the productivity of women in their crucial role in African food production. Other projects aim to enhance women's role in the informal sector; to improve access to low-cost water supplies; to launch credit schemes for the productive activities of women; and to promote women's involvement in the use of new and renewable sources of energy. UNDP is also supporting the establishment of an AfDB Women in Development (WID) unit. UNDP believes that, in terms of rehabilitation and development efforts in the region, African women have the potential for much fuller participation in the professions, the sciences and especially the new technologies, many of which yield high returns in productivity from relatively short training periods. UNDP, in consultation with African Governments, will continue to explore the possibilities of identifying appropriate projects and programmes designed to realize this potential.
4. Co-operation with non-governmental organizations

51. UNDP is very supportive of the trend exhibited by a number of African Governments to encourage and broaden the role of NGOs in development activities. First, round-table follow-up meetings have been convened exclusively for NGO participation or with NGO involvement in sectoral consultations. Second, on a pilot basis, NGOs are becoming associated more closely with the country programme process so as to identify selected opportunities for parallel or co-financing with UNDP. Moreover, NGOs are becoming more involved in implementing UNDP-sponsored programmes under sub-contract arrangements with the Office for Project Services or an African agency or a specialized agency. In support of NGO activity in Africa, UNDP participated in a conference of national African voluntary development organizations, held at Dakar from 26 May to 5 June 1987, which culminated in the formation of the Forum of African Voluntary Developmental Organizations. In a further initiative, UNDP has carried out a major study, involving a joint UNDP Private Agencies Collaborating Together (PACT) mission to 10 African countries to identify ways of implementing what the UNDP Administrator has called a major policy thrust towards community-based, grass-roots approaches in development and towards expanding co-operation with NGOs.

Notes
