SUMMARY

The present report is prepared in accordance with Governing Council decision 81/15, which called for the submission of a progress report on the implementation of the programme in 1987, highlighting the significant developments in selected country programmes and projects.
I. GENERAL OVERVIEW OF THE REGION

1. During 1987 the economies of Latin America and the Caribbean continued to evolve unfavourably. Economic growth declined, inflation accelerated and external sector improvements took place in a few countries only. Gross national product (GNP) increased overall by 2.6 per cent and, as a result, per capita GNP rose 0.5 per cent. However, in nine of the countries per capita GNP fell by between 10 and 27 per cent. Inflation resumed in 1987, with the increase in consumer prices, averaging almost 190 per cent overall, rising more sharply than in the previous year in 13 out of the 21 economies. The balance of payments improved as a consequence of a 13 per cent increase in the value of exports of goods on account of a rise of nearly 7 per cent in unitary values and 5 per cent in volume. Imports rose by 10 per cent and, as a result, the trade surplus rose to approximately $23 billion. Transfers of resources abroad fell to $15.7 billion and continued to absorb some 15 per cent of export earnings.

2. The external debt increased, reaching $410 billion by end-1987. Considering international inflation, the external debt of the region remained virtually unchanged in real terms. Interest payments as a percentage of exports improved, falling from 36 per cent in 1986 to 30 per cent in 1987. Unless there is a substantial improvement in the evolution of world trade, a significant change in the thrust of the debt seems necessary for growth in the region to resume.

3. During the period 1980-1987, the feeble evolution in economic activity in the majority of the countries of the region was clearly inadequate to prevent an economic deterioration and a worsening of the living conditions of the vast majority of the population and particularly the poorest groups. The prospects for growth are not favourable. Decisive, innovative international co-operation is required in respect of the external debt, financing and trade which must be accompanied by improvements in development strategies, domestic economic policies and renewed international co-operation.

II. CENTRAL AMERICA

4. In accordance with General Assembly resolutions 42/1 and 42/204, the Secretary-General entrusted the Director of the Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean with specific responsibilities to assist in the implementation of the special economic assistance programme for Central America. A technical mission was fielded to determine, in consultation with other organizations, the economic and social priorities of Central American countries. Hence, UNDP has acquired new and greater responsibilities in this region.

5. The economic and social indicators of the subregion have deteriorated to the level of some 30 years ago. GNP growth of between 1 and 2 per cent in 1987 seems to anticipate an improvement although such an increase is below the rate of population growth. International prices for coffee and other agricultural export goods are depressed, while oil prices and imports from developed countries other than North America have increased.
6. The external debt of over $18 billion amounted to approximately 88 per cent of the subregion's GNP. Debt payments have been lagging behind their terms, and all countries have initiated debt negotiations without any major achievement to date. Imports have been reduced—with a consequent reduction in economic activity and the availability of basic consumer goods. This trend continues in spite of the positive advances made by Costa Rica and Guatemala in expanding non-traditional exports. Public finances have deteriorated. A decrease in foreign earnings and the weakness of the productive sector have led to a limited increase in fiscal income. Expenditures have expanded rapidly to service foreign debt, mitigate the impact of inflation on costs, and cover defence and security activities. The countries' endeavour to introduce tax increases have met with serious opposition, particularly in Guatemala and Costa Rica.

7. Although open unemployment in some countries is low, disguised unemployment has continued to increase. Real wages have deteriorated and migration has intensified as a consequence of regional conflicts creating refugee and displaced population problems. In general, the process of economic readjustment has hit the labour market and poorest section of the population most severely.

8. Intraregional trade decreased in 1987 owing in part to the military conflicts and to weak internal demand, together with widespread foreign currency restrictions. Liquidity problems for reciprocal payments of commercial debts accumulated in the past have been aggravated by limitations on the free movement of merchandise.

III. THE CARIBBEAN

9. During 1987 the economies of the Caribbean exhibited continued sensitivity to developments in the regional and international economy. The decline in the major productive sectors such as bauxite and petroleum in some of the larger countries had an adverse impact on output and employment. In the smaller countries members of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), despite the rising prospects for tourism and modest levels of growth, the economies remain fragile. These problems are compounded in small island and newly independent developing countries.

10. The debt problem varies from country to country but is particularly severe in Guyana and Jamaica where in recent years the total debt has exceeded 100 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP). Unemployment continues to be a major problem which in some cases exceeds 25 per cent of the labour force. The situation has been aggravated by the adoption of structural adjustment programmes in some countries which have had an adverse social impact in terms of investment in education, health, housing and nutrition.

11. The Caribbean countries are dependent on a narrow range of primary export commodities and growth in tourism, which accounts for significant foreign exchange earnings. However, the manufacturing sector is small and contributes a relatively small proportion of GDP, in most cases less than 12 per cent.
12. Given the economic difficulties and challenges enumerated above, the Caribbean Community Countries (CARICOM) would need to embark on a major strategy of economic diversification at the national level in order to promote a more self-sustained pattern of economic growth. In addition, it will be necessary to strengthen the process of subregional economic integration to optimize development efforts.

IV. OVERVIEW OF THE PROGRAMME

13. With the exception of Trinidad and Tobago, the formulation of country and regional programmes corresponding to the fourth cycle has been completed. The major areas of technical co-operation and pre-investment were described in the report to the Governing Council at its thirty-fourth session (DP/87/31). An overview of the status of the programme at the end of 1987 is summarized below.

14. The first year of the fourth cycle amply proved the capacity of the region to implement an increasing programme. The high absorptive capacity of the region is demonstrated by the fact that the 1987 actual expenditure of indicative planning figure (IPF) resources is likely to reach $63 million, i.e., $3.9 million over the expenditure target. Total delivery in 1987 will exceed $100 million. Of the total 1987-1991 IPF resources amounting to $288 million, $155.7 million has already been committed in approved project budgets, which as of December 1987 represents 54 per cent of the total. Seventy-eight per cent of the regional IPF has already been approved ($35.6 million) leaving $10 million for new projects. Of the $36 million available for the Caribbean, the $36.2 million available for five Central American countries and the $170.1 million earmarked for other countries, approved project budgets stand at $17.9 million (50 per cent), $17.9 million (49 per cent) and $84.3 million (50 per cent), respectively. With respect to cost sharing, total approved budgets for 1987-1991 amount to $130 million of which $9.3 million, $5.6 million, $112.7 million and $2.9 million correspond to the Caribbean, Central America, other countries and the regional programme, respectively.

15. During the period from November 1986 to December 1987, the Action Committee approved a total of 100 projects for a total cost of $154.9 million, of which $58.4 million came from IPF funds and $96.5 million were under cost-sharing arrangement with various sources. The sectoral composition of the total amount approved shows the following percentage distribution: science and technology, 18.6 per cent; infrastructure, 16.9 per cent; agriculture, 16.1 per cent; planning and public sector, 11.8 per cent; education, 8.6 per cent; technical co-operation among developing countries (TCDC), 7.9 per cent; industry, 6.6 per cent; social development, 5.4 per cent; disaster and humanitarian aid, 2.9 per cent; health, 2.3 per cent; private sector, 1 per cent; and employment and culture, 1.9 per cent. While IPF funds were primarily allocated to agriculture ($16.8 million), cost-sharing was concentrated in infrastructure and science and technology ($42.5 million).

16. Collaboration with agencies of the United Nations system in 1987 was satisfactory, with agencies adjusting to the operational characteristics of the region. The Regional Meeting of Resident Representatives, held early in 1987 in
Argentina contributed greatly to this. However, it will be necessary to undertake some policy and operational reviews with agencies in 1988 to expand the use of national experts and services, increase government execution, virtually ceasing to use long-term international experts and replacing them by short-term consultants preferably from the region and increasing the use made of TCDC.

17. Of the 14 country programmes (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Uruguay and Venezuela) presented to the Governing Council in the February and June 1987 sessions, the priority areas of attention were economic reactivation; public sector management; critical poverty, including the informal sector; science and technology; and external debt management. The total amount of programmed resources (IPF, cost-sharing and other sources) for these 14 programmes exceeds $358 million.

18. Implementation of major development thrusts critical to the region progressed satisfactorily as reflected in the programmes and projects approved in 1987.

19. National and subregional activities in the area of critical poverty under regional project RLA/86/004 placed emphasis on establishing indicators to monitor the state of critical poverty in the region and orienting policy and action to the implementation of projects designed to promote goods-and-services micro-enterprises, including the transformation of informal producers into efficient private entrepreneurs, regulatory aspects, credit, marketing, appropriate technology and management. Also under the critical poverty project, preparations were made for an intergovernmental regional conference on poverty to be held in Colombia in mid- to late-1988.

20. Activities in support of rationalization of the public sector and increased participation of the private sector in development continued to expand. A regional workshop was held in the Dominican Republic from 14 to 16 March 1988 and preparations have been made for three additional workshops later in the year as well as for a number of national workshops. Collaboration with the International Finance Corporation (IFC) continues, especially in the areas of financial instruments and investment forums.

21. With respect to technology and development, the implementation of the approved biotechnology programme, including mobilization of complementary resources, received special attention along with activities related to technological prospecting, informatics and electronics.

22. In the external sector, the implementation of approved regional and national projects gave increased attention to expansion and diversification of trade and investment, debt management, foreign investment and activities in support of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) negotiations in Uruguay. Likewise, support to subregional integration within a regional integration framework was emphasized.

23. National and regional projects on the environment emphasized management of natural resources, integrated rural development and urban and rural physical planning and development.
24. Grass-roots activities, including collaboration with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and gender issues, became an increasingly integral part of project design and implementation, and several countries were identified to serve as "pilots" for intensified activities. Moreover, a conference of NGOs active in the critical poverty area is scheduled to be organized in Colombia just prior to the Regional Conference on Critical Poverty in mid- to late-1988.

V. COUNTRY PROGRAMME REVIEW

25. In selecting the Jamaica country programme (DP/CP/JAM/4 and DP/CP/JAM/NOTE 4) for this review, an attempt was made to select a programme not recently reported on and which offers important lessons for the implementation of the fourth cycle country programmes.

26. A review of the Jamaica country programme was carried out in September 1987 with the participation of the local United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) office representatives and of the Planning Institute of Jamaica, which is the government agency responsible for technical co-operation activities. The objective was to assess the progress made in implementing projects within the agreed country programme framework with a view to expediting implementation and correcting problems encountered in the process.

27. Progress in promoting the three major themes of the country programme, namely human resources development, export promotion and technology, was examined. The review also took account of the three regional themes of science and technology, critical poverty and public policy/administrative reform and the overall UNDP focus on private sector development, new partners (NGOs, etc.), women in development (WID) and the environment.

28. It was recognized that owing to the unattractive civil service salaries, the Government was unable to secure trained technical personnel to work on government projects that had been established or strengthened with UNDP assistance. The Government was, therefore, attempting to conclude service contracts with the private sector in order to ensure an adequate supply of trained personnel in support of its development effort.

29. The appropriateness of using loan funds to finance preliminary and pre-investment studies was another issue raised. It was felt that a mix of loan and grant funds would contribute to lowering interest payments.

30. The continued use of Government-execution was confirmed. However, standard financial arrangements might have to be modified depending on the capacity of the government implementing agency to comply with accounting requirements.

31. In general, the review proved useful in enabling the Government and UNDP to confirm the validity of the overall direction of the country programme while making adjustments to accommodate new needs.
VI. REVIEW OF INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS

32. In this section, a brief account is provided of individual projects, illustrating results achieved and problems encountered in their execution.

Social Emergency Fund (BOL/87/008)

33. As a means of mitigating the effects of the economic crisis affecting the country, the Government of Bolivia established the Social Emergency Fund, a public entity attached to the Presidency of the Republic, with full juridical personality and administrative, technical and financial autonomy. The Fund began its activities in January 1987 and will be phased out in December 1989.

34. The Fund's primary purpose is to improve the income levels, employment opportunities and living conditions of a significant portion of the Bolivian population. Therefore, the Fund has to attract external and internal resources, including the negotiation of soft loans, and administer these resources in collaboration with the entire public sector of Bolivia.

35. Priority areas for the Fund's activities are employment generation, health, education and training and support to productive sectors, primarily through credit and financing under appropriate conditions. The Fund operates with a small core staff and subcontracts specific implementation activities to local entities such as NGOs and church groups.

36. UNDP has co-operated with the Fund since its inception. The project has a budget of $363,000 of which $167,000 is government cost-sharing. Its purpose has been to assist the Fund in setting up mechanisms for attracting resources, operating agreements, creating revolving and guaranteed funds, developing training mechanisms, creating co-operative enterprises, executing specific projects for miners, developing evaluation policies concerning social impact in four areas (Cochabamba, Santa Cruz, Tarija and La Paz) and providing advice in micro-enterprises. The project was the subject of an external evaluation in October 1987 which concluded that UNDP assistance had been of great use to the Fund in the fulfilment of its functions and activities. For example, as at 15 October 1987, 305 projects had been approved, employing 9,604 persons. Nevertheless, the evaluation mission concluded that the Fund needed further assistance in project evaluation and promotion, public and community participation and in-service training. Based on these needs a second phase of the project (BOL/87/021) has been approved in the amount of $360,000.

Training courses in project formulation and management (BRA/80/008)

37. UNDP has been co-operating since June 1983 with SUDENE, the government superintendence for the north-east region of the country, in a rural training programme to strengthen the human resources of organizations involved in the support programme for the small rural producer. Originally intended as a two-year activity with a budget of $280,000, the project was thereafter extended until March 1988, to take into account the changed environment, such as the creation in April 1985 of the "North-east" project, an ambitious development plan intended to
bring a major flow of resources to the region; administrative reform in support programme for the small rural producer; personnel changes; and new loans. Even with constant changes, through the project 628 professionals have been trained in 26 courses, and 193 professionals participated in 7 seminars.

38. The decision to extend the project until December 1988, as requested by the Government, was taken in the light of the findings of the evaluation mission carried out in November 1987. The evaluation was positive in pointing out the success obtained in direct training and outlined the need to incorporate the training functions with SUDENE's organic structure as part of the support programme.

Development of biological processes and their industrial application in the bacterial leaching of Chilean copper ores (CHI/85/002)

39. Chile is the largest copper producer in the world and the copper industry accounts for 10 per cent of the country's GDP. The copper industry in Chile is based on large-scale pyrometallurgical smelting of copper oxide ores. While this process will continue to predominate in Chile and other countries in the foreseeable future, newer methods with lower energy consumption and higher yields will need to be developed, particularly as the deposits of the easily treatable copper oxide ores are being depleted and the more complex copper sulphide ores will increasingly need to be processed.

40. In order to develop the knowledge required for improving output in the bacterial leaching of sulphurated copper ores, a project executed by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), almost exclusively with national expertise, was approved by UNDP in May 1985. This project, which received a total allocation of $1,067,743 ($301,103 in government cost-sharing), carried out studies over a two and a half year period through three co-ordinated subprojects covering microbiology and genetics as well as basic physics, chemistry, metallurgy and metallurgical development and industrial testing of the bacterial leaching process. In September 1987 the project was the subject of a tripartite evaluation by UNDP, UNIDO and the Government. The mission found that the major achievement had been the development of a core of interdisciplinary national expertise in the bacteriological aspects of copper leaching equal to or better than that existing in the international scientific and technical community and more cost-effective. The mission recommended that the project be continued since the specific scientific goals of the first phase were over-ambitious and not all were achieved and that in the second phase the copper-producing entities be incorporated financially and operationally. The second phase project is under preparation in Chile.

Support to the national rehabilitation plan (Phase II) (COL/86/018)

41. The national rehabilitation plan is a basic component of the Colombian Government's reconciliation, normalization and rehabilitation plan and constitutes an integral part of the economic, social, political and institutional programme of the Government. Its objective is to reach the population living in regions affected by extreme poverty and secure an effective and adequate decentralized institutional presence. The plan covers 30 per cent of Colombia's territory and aims to benefit 11.5 per cent of the total population. The project, for which the
Government has assigned nearly 16 per cent of the IPF and $2.9 million in cost-sharing, supports the following areas: regional planning and programming, priority programmes and projects, physical and financial resources allocation and internal and external financing requirements; decentralized institutional organization to open channels of community participation; implementation and follow-up of investment projects (the Government assigned nearly $300 million from the 1987 national public investment budget to implement the plan); evaluation of the implementation of the plan and of its economic and social impact; and strengthening of the executing entities in order to implement strategic demonstration projects in the areas of transport, health and the productive sector. This is the continuation of a project which commenced in 1985 (COL/84/013).

Small-scale fisheries development (ELS/84/001)

42. This project commenced in September 1984 and terminated in December 1987 with a total expenditure of $1.4 million from the IPF. The objectives were to upgrade the skills of approximately 2,000 artisanal fishermen in selected fishing communities; to organize two technical assistance centres and train 50 national technical staff members of the Centre for Fisheries Development; and to introduce, develop and demonstrate an integrated system for small-scale fishing operations including boat-building, manufacturing of fishing gear, fishing operations, processing and marketing of fish products. In September 1987, the project was jointly evaluated by the Government, UNDP and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The project resulted in the establishment of two technical assistance centres in La Herradura and La Unión (located in an area of conflict); two new fishing co-operatives with 50 members each; four prototype artisanal fishing boats with an average annual production of 160 tons each; 1,600 fishermen affiliated to established co-operatives were trained in maintenance and repair of outboard motors, boat construction, net-making, fishing techniques, artisanal processing and preservation of fish, co-operative administration and coastal navigation and 35 local technicians were trained to disseminate the new technologies to other communities. This project was grass-roots-oriented with full participation of the communities including women, 72 of whom participated in training courses in fish processing and preservation and preparation of salted fish.

Reactivation of the industrial zone in the southern outskirts of Lima (Villa El Salvador) (PER/86/021)

43. Villa El Salvador, the largest shanty town in metropolitan Lima, is home to approximately 300,000 people. Nearly 65 per cent of the active population is engaged in informal-sector activities. Since 1985, the Government has been seeking ways of promoting the integration of these activities into the formal economy. It decided that a partly-built industrial zone adjacent to Villa El Salvador will be reactivated so that informal micro-enterprises operating from private dwellings in Villa El Salvador could be transferred to the zone. During the preparatory phase of the project in 1987, 460 such units were identified. Legal recognition was initiated; proposals were elaborated for the communal and sectoral services of the zone; assistance was provided for the purchase and installation of laboratory equipment for a pilot cheese plant; and engineering/topographic studies of the zone were conducted. The full project, approved in late 1987, is assisting...
460 micro-enterprises in their transfer to the zone and with credit modalities for land purchases, workshop construction and equipment rental or procurement, supporting the zone's administration in establishing four communal service centres which will provide financial marketing, technical training and seven sectoral service centres, one for each major category of activity of the existing micro-enterprises which will assist them with bulk purchases of raw materials, acquisition of equipment and the introduction of appropriate technology. It will also assist the pilot cheese plant to diversify its production. The project is part of a multisectoral programme amounting to $8.2 million over a three-year period in Villa El Salvador which will include industrial, agricultural, health, youth, WID and urban planning components. Additionally, UNDP has been requested to implement certain activities through a funds-in-trust agreement with the Federal Republic of Germany and Monaco.

Regional programme on biotechnology (RLA/83/003-RLA/83/009)

44. This programme is being implemented through the Latin America Biotechnology Network. It includes two subprogrammes executed by United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and UNIDO.

45. The project's objective is to assist the countries in the region to build up their capabilities in biotechnology research and application aimed at resolving priority regional problems by means of new processes, products or services.

46. To achieve this goal the following activities are being pursued: (a) research in the fields of health, agriculture and industry which have been identified as priority by the participating countries; (b) implementation of six specific projects by undertaking activities in endemic diseases of the region (trypanosomiasis and leishmaniasis) and on enzyme utilization for industrial processes, utilization of natural resources and raw materials available in the region using horizontal co-operation; (c) training through specific projects utilizing TCDC; and (d) work in specific projects.

Caribbean rural development and advisory training services (CAR/86/003)

47. In an effort to deal with the increasing food import bill of the Caribbean countries, the CARICOM Council of Ministers agreed on a programme of agricultural diversification aimed at stimulating domestic agriculture geared to increased food production. Within this framework, the project was designed as a major instrument to improve the output of small farms which accounts for a significant proportion of total agricultural production and by far the greater part of domestic food production in the eastern Caribbean.

48. The project, which covers the States members of OECS, namely, Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, was also designed to establish an improved system for the delivery of a co-ordinated package of services to ensure timely delivery of production inputs; develop entrepreneurial skills in the small-farm community as well as cost-effective management systems suitable for small-farm enterprises; and establish effective marketing arrangements for small-farm output.

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49. An independent evaluation of the project, carried out in 1986, commented very favourably on its achievements and recommended its continuation in order to enable the project to achieve its objectives. By 1991 the project is expected to assist approximately 4,000 farmers, compared with 1,564 during the previous phase. Forty per cent of the farmers are expected to be women. Moreover, the project is expected to generate approximately $16 million in income for small farmers during the period 1988-1991.

VII. CO-ORDINATION ACTIVITIES

50. Bolivia. The Consultative Group Meeting on Bolivia met in Paris in December 1986, under the auspices of the World Bank. The meeting was attended by representatives of 10 Consultative Group members, 3 observer countries and 9 international organizations. UNDP not only participated actively in the meeting but, through an ad hoc project, supported its preparation by assisting the Bolivian Government in the elaboration of strategy papers on agriculture, mining, energy, foreign trade, macro-economic policy, national project systems and disbursement flows. In addition to contributing to the strategy paper presented to the Consultative Group Meeting, the working groups continued their activities to formulate to a medium- and long-term development strategy. Working groups on transport, social infrastructure industry and a new investment law are contemplated as well, leading up to the second meeting of the Consultative Group scheduled to be held in Paris in April 1988. One concrete result of the 1986 meeting was a request in 1987 from the Government to UNDP for management services for the procurement of goods and services to implement the public investment programme for 1988 using undisbursed foreign loans and credits.

51. The Caribbean. The Caribbean Group for Co-operation in Economic Development (CGCED) is one of the main channels for promoting economic co-operation and development in Caribbean countries and, as such, plays a key role in aid co-ordination. UNDP, together with the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), is one of the institutions sponsoring CGCED, which was established in 1978 to mobilize additional technical and financial resources for some 20 countries of the Caribbean. Bilateral donors, multilateral agencies and recipient countries participate in the deliberations of the Group which focuses on development problems on an individual country basis as well as in a regional and subregional context.

52. Within the Group UNDP has traditionally been assigned special responsibilities for the co-ordination of technical co-operation activities. Recently, UNDP has also been requested to assume responsibility for the preparation of an information system on aid flows to serve as the basis for improving co-ordination and ensuring the optimal use of capital and technical co-operation resources mobilized by the Group. Work on the establishment of such a system began in 1987 and focuses initially on the needs of the countries members of OECS.

53. An important outcome of UNDP's participation in the Group has been the generation of substantial sums of donor cost-sharing resources to two large-scale
UNDP-assisted projects. Total contributions to the Caribbean project development facility (RLA/81/010), which is designed to assist in the identification, preparation and promotion of suitable private sector investment projects, amounted to approximately $6 million for the period 1982-1987. Similarly, the inter-agency resident mission project (RLA/82/004), which has assisted the OECS countries in the preparation of their public sector investment programmes and in the improvement of their overall economic performance, has been supported with cost-sharing contributions amounting to approximately $2 million for the period 1982-1986.

54. **Haiti.** At the request of some donors, particularly the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), UNDP organized an ad hoc group with representatives of external donors to discuss specific issues related to orienting their programmes in a concerted manner. Within the context of this ad hoc group, a programme of joint UNDP/USAID evaluation of projects of mutual interest has been initiated under HAI/85/004, the labour intensive public works programme, and a similar exercise is being undertaken in the context HAI/87/019, development and co-ordination of NGOs and their relations with multilateral and bilateral agencies, to systematize the information on the more than 300 NGOs operating in Haiti.

55. The Resident Representative, in his capacity as Special Representative of the Secretary-General, was actively engaged in assisting the Government in preparing the interim development programme (1986-1988) containing some 26 short-term investment projects for a total cost of $43 million. The donor community was requested to fund these projects on two occasions: in New York at an informal meeting with the Secretary-General of the United Nations in October 1986 and in Paris at a meeting of CGCED in November of that year. Total funding of some $35 million has been secured.

56. To ensure co-ordination more adequately, the UNDP Office established the Unit for Co-ordination and Institutional Support with three Professionals plus administrative support. Besides supporting the Commissariat for Planning and co-ordinating with NGOs and bilateral donors, the Unit is also actively involved in South/South co-operation, the Transfer of Knowledge through Expatriate Nationals (TOKTEN) and other project support activities.