



**Governing Council
of the
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Development Programme**

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GOVERNING COUNCIL

Thirty-sixth session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 38th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 30 June 1989, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. POPESCU (Romania)

later: Mr. SALAZAR-SANCISI (Ecuador)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (DP/1989/L.17 and Add.1)

1. The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objections, he would take it that the Council decided to take note of the report contained in documents DP/1989/L.17 and Add.1, and adopt the recommendations therein.

2. It was so decided.

3. Mr. Salazar-Sancisi (Ecuador) took the Chair.

ACTION ON DRAFT DECISIONS SUBMITTED BY THE DRAFTING GROUP ON VARIOUS ITEMS
(DP/1989/L.16 and Add.1-33)

Agenda item 2

4. The draft decision relating to agenda item 2 was adopted.

Agenda item 3

5. Mr. GRAHAM (United States of America) asked what was the origin of the draft decision contained in document DP/1989/L.16/Add.33 on the promotion of sustainability. It had not been considered in the Drafting Group.

6. Mr. OULD CHEIKH EL GHAOUTH (Observer for Mauritania) said that his delegation was not clear on the status and objectives of the draft decision and that perhaps it should be referred back to the Drafting Group.

7. The PRESIDENT suggested that consideration of the draft decision relating to agenda item 3 should be postponed until the Chairman of the Drafting Group was present to give a full explanation.

8. It was so decided.

Agenda item 4

9. Mr. SALES (Mozambique) said that paragraph 12 of the draft decision in document DP/1989/L.16/Add.32 did not reflect the agreement that had been reached in the Drafting Group and he therefore proposed that it should be replaced by the following paragraph:

"Requests the Administrator to undertake evaluations and report to the Governing Council at its thirty-seventh session (1990) on the following:

1. UNDP-supported projects in respect of structural adjustment, in particular as regards the social dimension of adjustment and the 'structural advisory teams for Africa';

(Mr. Sales, Mozambique)

2. Experience with respect to NatCAPs in Africa as an instrument for the programming and co-ordination of technical co-operation;

3. Collaboration between the United Nations Development Programme, the Economic Commission for Africa, the Organization of African Unity, the African Development Bank and the African sub-regional economic organizations in the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development and other relevant provisions of this decision."

10. It was so decided.

11. The draft decision in document DP/1989/L.16/Add.32, as amended, was adopted.

12. The PRESIDENT proposed that the following new paragraph 6 should be added to the draft decision in document DP/1989/L.16/Add.13:

"Requests the Administrator to explore fully the potential of the domestic development services activities of the United Nations Volunteers programme and the United Nations Volunteers specialists in developing countries concerned as a means of technical co-operation among developing countries with a view to initiating new activities of this kind, and to report on his efforts in this regard to the Council at its thirty-seventh session, 1990;".

The remaining paragraphs of the draft decision would be renumbered accordingly.

13. It was so decided.

14. The draft decision in document DP/1989/L.16/Add.13, as amended, was adopted.

15. The other draft decisions relating to agenda item 4 were adopted.

Agenda items 5 through 7

16. The draft decisions relating to agenda items 5, 6 and 7 were adopted.

Agenda item 8

17. The PRESIDENT proposed amending the draft decision in document DP/1989/L.16/Add.17, by inserting the phrase "and its important function as focal point within the United Nations Development Programme for endogenous capacity-building in developing countries and networking with the international science and technology community" at the end of paragraph 5.

18. It was so decided.

19. The draft decision in document DP/1989/L.16/Add.17, as amended, was adopted.

20. The PRESIDENT proposed that in paragraph 7 of the draft decision in document DP/1989/L.16/Add.16 the word "all" between the words "explore" and "alternative ways" should be deleted.

21. It was so decided.

22. The draft decision in document DP/1989/L.16/Add.16, as amended, was adopted.

23. The other draft decisions relating to agenda item 8 were adopted.

24. Mr. OULD CHEIKH EL GHAOUTH (Observer for Mauritania), referring to the draft decision in document DP/1989/L.16/Add.2, said that his Government was grateful to the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office for the way in which it was addressing the vast and complex problems of drought and desertification. Under no circumstances should the Office's financing or functioning be affected by any restructuring.

Agenda item 10

25. Mr. SOARES DE LIMA (Brazil) said that he wished to become a co-sponsor of the draft decision in document DP/1989/L.16/Add.21 relating to the special plan of economic co-operation for Central America.

26. The draft decision in document DP/1989/L.16/Add.21 was adopted.

27. Mr. GRAHAM (United States of America), reiterating his Government's position that there must be clear linkage between the provision of economic assistance under the special plan of economic co-operation for Central America and the implementation of the democratization provisions under the Esquipulas II agreements, said that, despite efforts to reach a compromise text, the draft decision just adopted did not meet his delegation's requirements. Any economic assistance to the region, especially as called for in paragraph 3 of the draft decision, could be effective only if the Central American beneficiary countries had made meaningful progress towards democratization and had carried out liberalizing, market-based economic reforms. While the United States had no intention of blocking consensus on agenda item 10 (b) (i), his delegation felt compelled to dissociate itself from consensus on the draft decision.

28. The other draft decision relating to agenda item 10 was adopted.

Agenda item 11

29. The PRESIDENT proposed that the title of the draft decision in document DP/1989/L.16/Add.26 should be changed to read: "UNDP: 40 years of technical co-operation".

30. It was so decided.

31. The draft decision relating to agenda item 11, as orally amended, was adopted.

32. Mr. DRAPER (Administrator) said that the Administration had taken careful note of all comments made during the Council's deliberations and would make every effort to implement the decisions that had been adopted.

33. The Council had worked intensively on complex, substantive issues. The level of participation in the high-level segment had been particularly impressive, and many original ideas had emerged. The Committee of the Whole, the Budgetary and Finance Committee and the Drafting Group had all formulated important recommendations with far-reaching consequences. The centrepiece of the current session had, of course, been the consideration of UNDP's role in the 1990s and the decisions taken in that regard would determine its course well into the future.

34. Mr. POPESCU (Romania) resumed the Chair.

OTHER MATTERS

(b) ISSUES OF CONCERN TO THE GOVERNING COUNCIL ARISING FROM GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION AT ITS FORTY-THIRD SESSION AND FROM OTHER ORGANS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM IN 1988 (continued)

(iii) ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE GOVERNING COUNCIL: VENUE, CHANGE OF NAME AND TIMING OF SESSIONS

35. The PRESIDENT reported that, as a result of the consultations held with the members of the various regional groups pursuant to General Assembly resolution 43/199, it appeared that there was no consensus to convene all future sessions of the Governing Council and of its subsidiary bodies at Headquarters and, indeed, that most members were in favour of maintaining the current annual alternation of sessions between New York and Geneva.

36. Mr. CRUSE (France), observing that the cost argument for holding all sessions at Headquarters was not valid, said that the question of venue was basically a political one of keeping the balance between the two United Nations poles. Furthermore, when meeting in Geneva, delegations were free of any mission responsibilities and could devote themselves entirely to their work in Council. France would be totally opposed to any change in the status quo.

37. The PRESIDENT said that he would take it that the Council wished to report to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, on the results of its consideration of the question of the Council's venue.

38. It was so decided.

39. The PRESIDENT recalled that consultations had also been held on the question of changing the name of the Governing Council, and it appeared that there was no consensus for changing the name of the Council. He would take it, if he heard no objection, that the Council wished so to report to the General Assembly.

40. Mr. BABINGTON (Australia) registered his delegation's concern over the fact that it had never been consulted on the change of name. It would have favoured a new name reflecting the fact that it was the Governing Council for UNFPA as well as UNDP.

41. Mr. OULD CHEIKH EL GHOUTH (Observer for Mauritania) said that his delegation had proposed a change of name to reflect UNDP's responsibility for UNFPA and the international community's interest in population questions. He asked that the matter be put now before the Council, so that any objections to the change of name could be formally registered.

42. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council should defer a decision on its report to the General Assembly regarding the change of name in order to give the observer for Mauritania time to consult with the President of the Council.

43. It was so decided.

44. The PRESIDENT said that in respect of the timing of Council sessions the administration would do its best to ensure that as much time as possible elapsed between sessions of the Council and those of the Economic and Social Council. That would be done with due regard for the unique requirements of the Governing Council, especially in respect of documentation and the reports required from executing and participating agencies.

MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COUNCIL IN 1990

45. The PRESIDENT said that the UNDP Administration proposed the following dates for the meeting of the Governing Council in 1990: organizational meeting, New York, 20 February 1990; special session, New York, 21-23 February 1990 and thirty-seventh session, Geneva, 28 May-22 June 1990. If he heard no objection he would take it that the Council agreed to that proposal.

46. It was so decided.

47. The PRESIDENT said that the following items were proposed for the draft provisional agenda for the thirty-seventh session of the Governing Council in 1990: (1) opening of the session, (2) election of officers, (3) adoption of the agenda and organization of work, (4) high-level segment: policy review, (5) fortieth anniversary of UNDP, (6) programme implementation, (7) programme planning, (8) arrangements for the fifth programming cycle, (9) United Nations Population Fund, (10) United Nations technical co-operation activities, (11) other funds and programmes, (12) financial, budgetary and administrative matters, (13) other matters, (14) date and provisional agenda for the thirty-eighth session. If he heard no objection he would take it that the Governing Council agreed to that proposal.

48. It was so decided.

49. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council should encourage the Administration to continue its efforts to improve, reduce and rationalize the Council's

(The President)

documentation, as requested, and that it should request the Administrator to do his best to reduce further the volume of the documentation to be submitted in 1990. Documents should be distributed in good time in all official languages of the Council. If he heard no objection he would take it that the Council agreed with his suggestions.

50. It was so decided.

REPORT OF THE BUDGETARY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE (DP/1989/BFC/L.2 and Add.1 and annex, Add.2 and annex, Add.3-4, Add.5 and annex, Add.6-8, and DP/1989/BFC/L.3 and Add.1)

51. Mr. LANGENBACHER (Switzerland), Chairman of the Budgetary and Finance Committee, introducing the report of the Budgetary and Finance Committee (BFC), said that delegations had shown a spirit of co-operation and had adopted the recommendations by consensus. The most important item on the agenda had been the budget estimates for 1990-1991 and the review of project services and development support services.

52. Mrs. ZACHOROWSKA (Poland), Rapporteur read out the addenda to the report of the Budgetary and Finance Committee that had been approved since the issuance of the documents before the Governing Council and said that the final version would appear in document UNDP/1989/76.

53. The PRESIDENT said that if he heard no objection he would take it that the draft decisions proposed by the Budgetary and Finance Committee were adopted.

54. It was so decided.

55. Mr. CRUSE (France) said that he had joined in the consensus on the assumption that authorizing the Administrator to resort more to consultant services or experts available locally or regionally was not tantamount to approving the establishment of new development support services, for such authorization was merely temporary. He had raised objections, both in plenary and in the Budgetary and Finance Committee, to the establishment of such services and that objection should be reflected in the report.

56. Mr. HOPLAND (Norway) drew attention to DP/1989/BFC/L.2/Add.5/annex, paragraph 19, which assumed that the role and functions of the Office for Project Services would be addressed within the context of the forthcoming report on an appropriate funding strategy for UNDP. Since the Funding Strategy would be part of the decision on the future role of UNDP, which would be dealt with in plenary later on, he took it that the recommendation in paragraph 19 was adopted subject to the later adoption of the Funding Strategy.

57. The PRESIDENT said that in accordance with the usual practice of the Council, the complete report of the Budgetary and Finance Committee, containing all oral amendments adopted in the course of its meeting, would be incorporated in the complete version to be circulated in document UNDP/1989/76.

The meeting rose at 5.30 p.m.