



**Governing Council
of the
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Development Programme**

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GOVERNING COUNCIL

Thirty-sixth session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 39th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 30 June 1989, at 10.30 p.m.

President: Mr. PIBULSONGGRAM (Thailand)

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The meeting was called to order at 11.35 p.m.

The meeting was suspended at 11.35 p.m. and resumed at midnight

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 (continued)

1. The PRESIDENT noted that, since there had been no consensus on changing the name of the Governing Council, he would report to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, that the name of the Governing Council should remain the same.

2. It was so decided.

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

Agenda item 3

3. Mr. KUFUOR (Ghana), Chairman of the Drafting Group, read out the text of the draft decision on micro-capital grants, as follows:

"The Governing Council,

"Having considered the proposal of the Administrator on establishing a new special fund for micro-capital grants, contained in his report on the United Nations Development Programme and world development by the year 2000 (DP/1989/14),

"1. Decides to refer consideration of the proposal to the Governing Council at its thirty-seventh session (1990);

"2. Requests the Administrator to prepare a report for the consideration of the Council to contain information, inter alia, on ongoing projects of a similar nature supported by the United Nations Development Programme, including the experience and the advantages and disadvantages of using non-governmental organizations in this field, and the experience of the United Nations Volunteers programme in that respect, and the administrative and financial arrangements associated with the Microfund which might be needed for this purpose."

4. The draft decision on micro-capital grants was adopted.

5. Mr. KUFUOR (Ghana), Chairman of the Drafting Group, introducing the draft decision on promotion of sustainability (DP/1989/L.16/Add.33), indicated that the title should be changed to "Promotion of national capacity: highly qualified staff", and that the final word of the text, "sustainability", should be replaced by "national capacity".
6. The draft decision in document DP/1989/L.16/Add.33, as orally revised, was adopted.
7. Mr. KUFUOR (Ghana), Chairman of the Drafting Group, introduced the draft decision, on the role of the United Nations Development Programme in the 1990s (DP/1989/L.16/Add.34), pointing out that it was the product of arduous negotiations and represented a delicate balance between the interests of all the regional groupings.
8. Mr. HAEMMERLI (Secretary of the Council) read out a number of amendments to the draft decision. In the first preambular paragraph, the roman numeral in brackets should be "(XXV)", not "(XXXV)". In the fifth preambular paragraph, the word "its" in the fourth line should be replaced by "the Council's". In section I A, paragraph 7 should be numbered paragraph 5, and the other paragraphs of that section renumbered accordingly. In section II, the words "as laid out in the Consensus of 1970" in the second preambular paragraph should be deleted. In section V, the following text should be added as a separate paragraph:
- "Requests the Administrator to include in his annual report to the thirty-seventh session of the Governing Council the conclusions that can be drawn from the triennial review and other sources for the role of the United Nations Development Programme in the 1990s."
- In the annex, the footnote should read "These data will be available on request of Member States".
9. Mr. KRAMER (Canada) asked whether the definite article "the" in the fifth preambular paragraph would be changed to the indefinite article "an", as the said international development strategy did not yet exist.
10. Miss HASSAN (Observer for Egypt) said that since the strategy was being worked on that justified the use of the article "the".
11. Mr. KRAMER (Canada) said that in the interest of a consensus, his delegation would not object further, but that it was not the practice of economic bodies at the United Nations to presuppose the existence of a strategy before the fact.
12. Mr. AL FAIHANI (Observer for Bahrain) pointed out that delegations had not had sufficient time to consult their Governments and, therefore, the draft decisions were being adopted in violation of the 24-hour rule.
13. Miss HASSAN (Observer for Egypt), referring to section V, said that it was her delegation's understanding that the "other sources" mentioned in the new paragraph would be sources from within the United Nations system.

14. The PRESIDENT said that the sources could be inside or outside the United Nations system. The Council wished to remain open to any information that could assist it in its consideration of the question.

15. The draft decision in document DP/1989/L.16/Add.34, as orally amended, was adopted.

16. Mr. CHEKAY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the draft decision did not fully reflect his delegation's views on the role of United Nations technical assistance. However, his delegation had joined in the consensus in recognition of the growing interdependence of the nations and peoples of the world. He requested a Russian translation of all of the draft decisions adopted.

17. Mr. ROHNER (Switzerland) said that the consensus should be viewed as a continuing process. It was to be hoped that a spirit of understanding would prevail throughout that process.

18. Mr. KRAMER (Canada) agreed that the consensus decision should be viewed as a point in a continuum. It represented a reasonable foundation for further progress.

19. Mr. EL-FORGANI (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) noted with satisfaction the spirit of consensus which had led to the adoption of the decision and expressed the hope that that spirit would continue to prevail.

20. Mrs. DUDIK-GAYOSO (United States of America) agreed with the representatives of Switzerland and Canada that the draft decision represented the first step in a process. As such, it set forth areas of agreement and areas where UNDP programmes could be made more effective. Her delegation looked forward to working closely with UNDP in order to achieve that goal. Her delegation wished to express its appreciation to Mr. Brown, the departing Associate Administrator, for his work, help and guidance.

Agenda item 4

21. Mr. KUFUOR (Ghana), Chairman of the Drafting Group read out the text of the draft decision on the Working Group of the Committee of the Whole, as follows:

"Recalling its decisions 85/17, 86/1 and 87/20 on the Working Group of the Committee of the Whole,

"Recalling its decision 87/50,

"Having considered the reports of the President of the Governing Council made to the Committee of the Whole,

"1. Decides to extend the Working Group, on an experimental basis, until June 1990;

"2. Decides that the membership of the Working Group will be composed of all the members of the Governing Council and open to participation by all members of the Programme;

/...

(Mr. Kufuor, Ghana)

"3. Reaffirms the mandate of the Working Group as stated in decision 85/17 and, in particular, the need to avoid any discussion of a policy nature, but to discuss only operational and technical matters."

22. Mrs. DUDIK-GAYOSO (United States of America) said that the proposal was acceptable, but that the informal setting in which Working Group meetings were conducted was extremely important and should be maintained.

23. Mr. KUFUOR (Ghana), replying to a question from Miss HASSAN (Observer for Egypt), confirmed that the wording "open to participation by all members of the Programme" meant that non-members of the Council could participate as observers.

24. The draft decision on the Working Group of the Committee of the Whole was adopted.

CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

25. The PRESIDENT reiterated the significance of the Council's decisions for the Programme, UNFPA and the technical co-operation activities of the Organization noting, as the Administrator had done, that the discussion of the role of UNDP in the 1990s had been the centrepiece of the current session.

26. He thanked members of the Council for the seriousness of purpose and spirit of co-operation which they had demonstrated at the current session, which had led, in particular, to the adoption of the draft decision on the future role of UNDP.

27. He looked forward to convening informal consultations with the Bureau, as called for in section IV of the draft decision on the role of the United Nations Development Programme in the 1990s and to hearing the Council's views on how future sessions could proceed most effectively. His own impression was that the agenda was too full. A veritable avalanche of documents had arrived late. Perhaps all items did not require policy direction from the Council. Some might best be considered in informal settings.

28. In the informal consultations, easing the Council's work-load would be a key question. One solution would be to limit the plenary debate to major policy issues for which high-level participation was warranted. The bulk, if not all, of the matters relating to technical questions could be covered in informal discussions, perhaps during intersessional periods. Such matters could then be submitted to the Governing Council only at the decision-making stage.

29. He wished to express his gratitude to the Administrator, members of the Bureau, the Secretariat staff and, in particular, to Mr. Brown for his contribution to the work of UNDP and its Governing Council over the past 11 years.

The meeting rose at 12.50 a.m.

