GOVERNING COUNCIL

Organizational meeting for 1989

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 8th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 24 February 1989, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. PIBULSONGGRAM (Thailand)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL IN 1989 (continued)
(DP/1989/L.3/Rev.1)

1. The PRESIDENT recommended that the Vice-President from Switzerland (Mr. Langenbacher) should be designated Chairman of the Budget and Finance Committee; that the Vice-President from Ghana (Mr. Kufuor) should be designated Chairman of the Drafting Group; that the Vice-President from Romania (Mr. Popescu) and the Vice-President from Ecuador (Mr. Salazar-Sancisi) should be designated to conduct the consultations on other specific subjects, including the review of the Working Group of the Committee of the Whole and the venue and timing of Council sessions; and that the Vice-President from Ecuador (Mr. Salazar-Sancisi) should assist in conducting the proceedings of the Council and the Committee of the Whole, as necessary.

2. It was so decided.

3. The PRESIDENT, stressing that the timetable in document DP/1989/L.3/Rev.1 should be considered provisional only and should be applied flexibly, said that if he heard no objections, he would take it that the Council wished to approve the provisional agenda as orally amended.

4. It was so decided.

5. The PRESIDENT said, in connection with the decision just adopted, that he had been informed that an understanding had been reached on how to proceed with the informal consultations with respect to the role of UNDP in the 1990s. The Bureau was being asked to convene one informal meeting, open only to government delegations, and UNDP and agency representatives, for the week of 3 April, and a second informal meeting at the end of April. The Bureau would take the necessary steps to convene those meetings.

QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE WORKING GROUP OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (continued)
(DP/1989/3)

Election of members of the Working Group of the Committee of the Whole

6. The PRESIDENT recalled that agreement had been reached in informal consultations that the Council would elect a new membership of the Working Group at the current organizational meeting, on the understanding that the actual tenure of the elected members would depend on the outcome of the review of the mandate of the Working Group, which would be carried out by the Council in June. The African Group had submitted the candidacies of Burkina Faso, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Liberia and Zaire; the Asia, Pacific and Yugoslavia Group, China, Fiji, India, Pakistan and Yugoslavia; the Latin American and Caribbean Group, Brazil, Cuba, Ecuador and Peru; the Western European and other States, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Finland, Italy, Norway, the United Kingdom and the United States;
and the Eastern European Group, Poland and the Union of Soviet Socialist
Republics. Since each of those Groups had nominated the appropriate number of
candidates, he would take it that the Council wished to elect them by acclamation.

7. It was so decided.

8. Mr. BROWN (Associate Administrator), introducing document DP/1989/3, said that
paragraphs 9 and 10 should be deleted, and drew special attention to paragraphs 5
to 8.

9. Mr. OULD CHEIKH EL GAOUTHE (Observer for Mauritania), Mr. GOPINATHAN (India)
and Mr. KELLAND (Observer for Denmark) suggested that the consultations referred
to in paragraph 8 should be conducted by the President and the Bureau, with the
assistance of the Administrator, as necessary.

10. The PRESIDENT said he would take it that the Council wished to take note of
document DP/1989/3 and to request the Administrator to proceed with the preparatory
arrangements for the review of the Working Group of the Committee of the Whole as
outlined in that document, on the understanding that the consultations referred to
in paragraph 8 would be conducted by the President and the Bureau, assisted, as
necessary, by the Associate Administrator.

11. It was so decided.

OTHER MATTERS

12. The PRESIDENT called upon the Associate Administrator to make a statement on
Namibia.

13. Mr. BROWN (Associate Administrator) said that there was acute awareness within
the United Nations system and the international donor community of the need for
co-ordinated action to organize development assistance in an independent Namibia.
It had also been agreed that for the United Nations to promote the orderly transfer
of power to a new independent Government, it had to undertake studies on the
financial, economic and social aspects of the arrangements for independence. UNDP
and the office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Namibia
had therefore agreed that UNDP would send a data collection and reconnaissance
mission to Namibia to identify the financial, economic and social areas in which
there was a gap in available information, to collect other information in those
areas as available, and to determine what specialists were needed to assemble
information to fill the gaps. The mission would seek out all available information
from existing sources, and its main objective would be to provide the Government of
an independent Namibia with as much information as possible to enable it to take
important decisions in providing essential services and drafting a development
programme.

14. UNDP had agreed to allocate funds for the economic review from the Namibia
IPF. Its mission would be attached to the mission of the Special Representative of
the Secretary-General for Namibia. It would depart for Namibia in April 1989. UNDP would keep all relevant United Nations bodies and the donor community fully informed of its intentions and how it would proceed, and would make the results of its mission available to other agencies and interested donors. It was suggested that the IPF for Namibia should be placed on the agenda of the June 1989 session.

15. The PRESIDENT said that if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to take note of the statement of the Associate Administrator.

16. It was so decided.

CLOSURE OF THE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

17. The PRESIDENT declared the organizational meeting closed.

The meeting rose at 3.40 p.m.