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COUNTRY AND INTERCOUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS

Consideration and approval of country programmes

THIRD COUNTRY PROGRAMME FOR ARGENTINA

UNDP assistance requested by the Government of Argentina
for the period 1982-1986

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1/ The previous country programmes for Argentina were issued in documents DP/GC/ARG/R.1 and DP/GC/ARG/R.2.

INTRODUCTION

A. Methodology and criteria used in preparing the third country programme

1. The third country programme of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for Argentina was prepared by the Planning Department of the Office of the President of the Republic, in its capacity as the national agency for internal co-ordination of international technical co-operation, with the collaboration and advice of the office of the UNDP Resident Representative in Argentina.
2. The preparation of the third programme (1982-1986) of technical co-operation formally began with the submission by UNDP of the note by the Resident Representative in May 1981. It contained an analysis of the second country programme (1977-1981) and put forward for the Government's consideration the new procedures for the submission of country programmes. It also contained a number of remarks concerning the resources and components of the third programme and the design of the projects contained therein.
3. The Government, through the Planning Department, had the responsibility of identifying the technical assistance needs at the national level, in contact with the various sectors. This contact took the form of a document prepared by the Department - guidelines for the formulation and submission of technical co-operation projects to be executed with funds from the third UNDP programming cycle (1982-1986), which was sent in November 1980 to all the official national and provincial agencies.
4. That document contained various sections which analysed the concept of technical co-operation, set forth the various services which UNDP could provide, gave a brief history of UNDP assistance to the country and explained the general and specific criteria that would be observed when the projects comprising the third programme were approved. The document also contained a "Guide for the formulation of project documents", consisting of drafting instructions based on UNDP rules.
5. A voluminous response was received from the various national sectors, with requests exceeding \$100 million. A selection of the various priority fields of action was then carried out, using the criterion of concentrating UNDP assistance in those sectors which were expected to have greater catalytic effect and offered comparative advantages over other sources of funds, whether national or international.
6. Account was also taken of the following general criteria for the formulation of the third country programme:
 - (a) To seek to acquire knowledge and technology which the country lacks in order to promote the training of its human resources;
 - (b) To conduct activities that would have a real impact on the economy and national well-being and would stimulate both the public and the private sectors;

(c) To project the impact of international technical co-operation at the provincial and regional levels; and

(d) To give due attention to the past allocation of resources among the various sectors.

7. In connexion with the formulation and execution of specific projects, it was borne in mind that:

(a) The objectives and proposed activities must be relevant for the purpose of attaining the national development objectives;

(b) The agencies submitting requests must possess the physical infrastructure and national staff needed to ensure the effective transfer of technology; and

(c) In those cases where new phases of projects already included in previous cycles were submitted, it was necessary to specify self-contained objectives and activities and which yield new, significant results in terms of national objectives.

8. The Government views international technical co-operation as a whole, irrespective of the nature of its sources, whether bilateral or multilateral and whether action is at the national, regional or subregional level. Consequently, in formulating the third country programme, it considered the complementarity of those sources always in terms of the national development priorities and the importance of strengthening local capacity in the acquisition, purchase or transfer of technology.

B. Analysis of the second country programme (1977-1981)

9. The second country programme began in January 1978, coinciding with the last four years of the second programming cycle (1977-1981). The indicative planning figure (IPF) for this period amounted to \$20 million.

10. The year 1977 was a transition period during which the Planning Department proceeded to define the general policies for utilizing international technical assistance funds, and it therefore conducted a review of ongoing projects in order to bring them into line with the Government's new policies and priorities.

11. The second country programme had the following specific objectives: (a) improvement of the national capacity for scientific research and technological development; (b) expansion and improvement of transport and communications infrastructure; (c) strengthening of the self-sufficiency of the national institutions that support the production sector; (d) further training and planning of human resources; and (e) raising of production and improvement of living conditions in relatively less-developed areas.

12. It should be noted that the inclusion of definite objectives in the country programme greatly facilitated the over-all orientation of the activities enumerated therein and their subsequent evaluation.

13. With a view to attaining those objectives, at the beginning of the second cycle the programme included 37 projects, 19 of which dated from the previous period. As compared with the first programming cycle, this meant a sharp reduction in the number of ongoing projects, with the result that resources were concentrated on those regarded as warranting priority.

14. Despite the fact that - as indicated in the previous paragraph - a high percentage of available funds had already been earmarked, nearly all the projects identified in the country programme could be implemented. For that reason, it was necessary, on the one hand, to exercise proper control of the availability of inputs and, on the other, to mobilize other sources of funds in the United Nations system, such as those provided under the regional programme and the regular programmes of the agencies. In addition, in certain cases additional contributions were made by the Government through the system of cost-sharing.

15. In this connexion it should be noted that, with respect to financial execution, from 1979, there was a gradual increase in the rate of implementation of the second country programme, enabling the funds allocated for the second cycle to be fully utilized.

16. An analysis of the objectives of the second programme for Argentina indicates that they were attained through the execution of the specific projects, an excellent rate of implementation of the projected activities being achieved.

17. In connexion with the objective of improving scientific and technological capacity, mention should be made of the success achieved in those projects oriented towards applied scientific research, such as the progress made in agriculture, with the development of a new pest-resistant variety of alfalfa, and the research carried out with a view to developing a vaccine against Argentine haemorrhagic fever. This objective of the country programme was also achieved through projects involving the application of the latest techniques and procedures to the solution of specific problems or involving the advanced training of human resources, as reflected in the successes achieved in the area of agricultural resources with the use of remote sensing, in the petrochemical field with the handling of technologies for the Bahía Blanca complex and, lastly, with the establishment of the career of nuclear engineering.

18. With regard to the objective relating to the expansion and improvement of transport and communications infrastructure, it is important to note those projects aimed at increasing the operational capacity of the national institutions responsible for such activities, including the National Telecommunications Laboratory (LANTEL), the National Civil Aviation Institute (INAC), the National Corporation for Post and Telecommunications (ENCOTEL), the National Nautical School, and the National Airworthiness Board.

19. This objective was also attained through the work carried out in connexion with the studies on improving navigation on the Paraná and Paraguay rivers, the completion of the feasibility study on redesigning the port facilities at Bahía Blanca and the provision of advisory services to the Transport Planning Board for the formulation of a national transport plan.

20. In connexion with the objective of self-sufficiency of the national institutions that support the production sector, mention should be made of the assistance provided to the National Institute of Industrial Technology (INTI) through the short-term use of high-level experts for most of the centres in the system. Co-operation was also received by the National Securities Commission in evaluating the legal system pertaining to securities and by the Ministry of Labour with a view to establishing an occupational hygiene and safety centre. At the provincial level, it is useful to note the achievements in the field of small and medium-sized industry in Santa Fé province with the establishment of the Technical Advisory Board, which is giving increasing assistance to industry in the province.
21. While the objective of further training and planning of human resources was achieved through all the activities carried out under the country programme, attention should be drawn specifically to the activities conducted in the field of human resources and public administration, aimed at formulating promotion and training programmes in areas which the national Government considered critical.
22. Finally, mention should be made of the success achieved in those projects of the second programme which were designed to raise production and improve living conditions in relatively less-developed areas. Activities already initiated in the previous cycle were completed: they concerned the introduction of production systems geared to the north-western region of the country, and the foundations for a possible investment project were laid. In the same region, a co-ordinated system of diagnosis, research and extension was established and is making a successful contribution to reducing the incidence of animal diseases in the region and to raising cattle production.
23. It is also important to note the effect achieved in that region of work carried out in the water resources sector, practical solutions being found to the problems of infrastructure in the provinces of the region with a view to increasing the area of the land usable for agriculture.
24. During the second cycle, a feasibility study was also begun for mining of the copper deposits in Bajo La Alumbreira, in Catamarca province, which will be opened for bids next year.
25. Although not all the objectives were attained, it is interesting to note also the experiment carried out with the Housing Department in the fields of housing programming, technology and production, and sectoral policy, in which considerable impact was achieved at the provincial level in the application of appropriate technology in various regions of the country.
26. Finally, it should be noted that, as envisaged, a number of the projects formulated have made it possible to identify investment possibilities, as in the case of agriculture in north-western Argentina, or to carry out feasibility studies, as in the case of Bajo La Alumbreira, the ports at Bahía Blanca, and water resources.
27. With regard to the execution of the second programme, it should be noted that, given the high level of the country's human resources and applying UNDP policies in this regard, in most cases, project management was assumed by national officials.

28. The last point to be borne in mind is the important fact that, during the past period, project evaluation, supervision and control, both by the Government and by UNDP, were intensified, with a consequent benefit, not only in financial terms, but also with regard to substantive aspects.

C. Time-table and funds envisaged for the third programme for Argentina

29. The third country programme began in January 1982, for a period of five years, with an illustrative IPF of \$20 million. Of that figure, only 80 per cent could be programmed initially.

30. The Argentine Government adopted the principle of continuous programming, having decided to formulate a multiannual programme that would reflect objectives and activities without tying up all the funds in specific projects. Consequently, tentative programming will be carried out during the initial stage in the amount of approximately \$11 million. The distribution of funds was in keeping with the principles of rational and reasonable expenditure, so as to avoid the dispersal of activities and over-diffusion in the use of funds. Furthermore, in the distribution of funds it was borne in mind that, where it is appropriate to use funds from the national budget, technical co-operation funds will not be used.

31. As indicated earlier, the demand for resources for UNDP technical co-operation projects greatly exceeded the available funds, with the result that it was not possible to respond to all requests, although they were directed towards solving the country's critical development problems.

32. This situation, which had arisen in earlier programmes, was intensified in respect of the third programming cycle, owing to the fact that the IPF is the same as that previously assigned to the country, which amounts to a reduction in real terms.

33. In order to avoid the indefinite postponement of many of these requests and to increase the total volume of available funds, the Government requested the national agencies receiving technical co-operation to make additional contributions through the cost-sharing system.

34. In addition, it will be necessary to resort to other sources of co-operation, whether bilateral or multilateral, and to the regular programmes of the United Nations specialized agencies.

D. Additional resources of the agencies in the United Nations system

35. As in the past, it is hoped to continue to receive assistance from the agencies in the system through their regular programmes.

36. The assistance furnished by the Technical Co-operation Programme (TCP) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has been of

outstanding importance through its small-scale, short-term activities. By means of these projects it has met unexpected needs, supplementing other forms of assistance and serving as a catalyst to stimulate a flow of resources to the agricultural sector amounting to approximately \$500,000.

37. During the present cycle it is hoped that FAO assistance will continue to be received for the development of cattle raising in Mendoza province, the production of seed in Río Negro province, irrigation in the Chubut Valley, etc.

38. In addition, during the previous cycle assistance was received under the Special Industrial Services programme (SIS) of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) in the production of fertilizers for Neuquén province, as well as specific assistance that was later channelled into a national project at the Iron and Steel Institute. The Government intends to continue using this service: a new project has been approved for industrial kaolin prospecting in Santa Cruz province.

39. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), also through its regular programme, has been giving technical assistance to the country in the fields of literary translation, preservation of cultural monuments, anthropological research, etc. Special mention should be made of the project on the prevention of drug abuse which the National Board of Secondary and Higher Education (DINEMS) has been executing since 1977 and which continue during the present cycle.

40. Under the United Nations regular programme, a regional project "Water data bank" (ARG/79/X03) is being executed. Under this project, assistance is being given to the country in the form of international expert advisory services and the provision of computer teams. Furthermore, the United Nations has been providing the country with experts, who will continue to be required during this cycle under the interregional advisers programme.

41. Since 1978, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has been supporting multidisciplinary studies on the environmental implications of the project "Multipurpose water development of Salto Grande". This project will continue to be executed until the end of 1982, supplementing the activities to be carried out in this sector under the third country programme.

42. During the present period, it is envisaged that activities will continue under the project for integrated research and training in the Andean region which UNEP is executing in conjunction with the programme "Man and the biosphere" (MAB) of UNESCO and the University of Córdoba. It is also hoped to include a series of projects requested by the National Space Research Commission, relating to non-conventional energy and the environment.

43. Lastly, it should be noted that there will be continuing recourse to technical assistance from the agencies in the United Nations system through short-term missions by their regional advisers and funding of the participation of Argentine officials and specialists in courses, seminars, symposia, working groups, conferences, etc.

44. In order to meet a greater number of requests, the Government will supervise the use of various funds established pursuant to decisions adopted in international forums. In that connexion, mention should be made of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration, the Interim Fund for Science and Technology for Development and the Energy Fund for Exploration and Pre-investment Survey.
45. The Argentine Government has submitted two proposals to UNFPA relating to assistance to the Population Policy Board and to a study on maternal and child mortality. It is awaiting the decision of the Fund for the execution of these projects.
46. The United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration is implementing the project "Mineral prospecting in Chubut province" through a contribution of \$940,000. Since the investigations carried out yielded a positive result, the UNDP Governing Council has just approved an additional contribution of \$650,000 which will enable work to continue until the middle of 1982.
47. With regard to the Interim Fund for Science and Technology for Development, Argentina has submitted a top-priority request for a national project "Energy conservation in the food industry". Together with Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Uruguay, it has also submitted to the Fund a proposal for a regional project "Technical assistance in non-destructive tests" as a continuation of work under the national project in previous cycles.
48. The United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control (UNFDAC) has contributed \$30,000 to the Permanent Secretariat of the South American Agreement on Psychotropic Substances, located in Buenos Aires, for the purpose of organizing a Documentation Centre on Drug Dependence, and it is hoped that such assistance will continue to be received during the present cycle.

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES AND PROGRAMMES TO BE SUPPORTED BY UNDP

A. Development prospects

(a) Summary of the country's socio-economic situation

49. The economic and financial situation of Argentina, which will be summarized hereunder, should not be seen as representative of its development potential. With its privileged position among the countries of Latin America and an estimated per capita income of \$US 1,910, the most important thing for properly identifying the features of UNDP assistance is not an analysis of economic aspects which are of a temporary nature.

50. On the contrary, greater account should be taken of the prospects for structural changes arising from the latest policy guidelines and the needs of the economy as a whole.

51. The average annual rate of growth in Argentina's gross domestic product (GDP) for the period 1975-1980 was 1.88 per cent. Over the same period gross domestic investment grew at a cumulative annual rate of 5.57 per cent. In 1979 such investment accounted for 22.4 per cent of GDP, rising to 23.8 per cent in 1980.

52. Over-all consumption grew at a cumulative annual rate of 1.44 per cent over the period. In 1975 it accounted for 82.1 per cent of GDP, falling to 80.2 per cent in 1980.

53. The external sector registered significant changes over the period 1975-1980. While exports accounted for 7.2 per cent of GDP in 1975, in 1980 they increased to 11.2 per cent as a result of a growth in actual volume. The share of imports in GDP rose from 9.2 per cent in 1975 to 15.1 per cent in 1980.

54. The percentage of consumption, investment, exports and imports to GDP can be seen from the following table:

	Consumption/GDP	Gross Domestic Investment/GDP	Exports/GDP	Imports/GDP
1978	73.9	21.3	12.8	7.9
1979	77.2	22.4	11.6	11.1
1980	80.2	23.8	11.2	15.1

(b) Over-all development objectives

55. The country's economic policy guidelines must be seen in the context of the over-all objectives which it is hoped will bring a socio-economic situation that ensures national decision-making capacity and the full self-realization of Argentines. For this purpose, the State will have to retain control of the vital areas of security and development and support private enterprise and capital, both national and foreign, as necessary conditions for smooth-running participation in the process of rational exploitation of the country's resources.

56. The achievement of general well-being through organized and productive work, with equal opportunities and proper sense of social justice, accompanied by the planning of an education system suited to the country's needs and effectively serving the nation's objectives, will make it possible to raise and consolidate the values and the economic and cultural aspirations of Argentines.

57. Efforts will be directed to strengthening and integrating the nation once and for all through just, harmonious and balanced regional development which should provide a firm foundation for the promotion of co-operation and solidarity with other States, particularly those with which Argentina traditionally has cultural links as a result of their common origin and goals. This makes it possible for Argentina to strengthen its role in the concept of nations, while fully maintaining its capacity for self-determination and sovereignty.

58. The implementation of measures beginning on 24 March 1976 brought immediate change in economic goals - since the country was plunged into a crisis unparalleled in its history - gradually transforming its actual economic and social structure.

59. The actions taken then, and still in force, take the form of a series of general guidelines for national economic policy which may be summarized as follows:

- (a) Slow-down of inflation compatible with the maintenance of economic activities;
- (b) Control and reduction of the budgetary deficit;
- (c) Reactivation of the productive apparatus;
- (d) Stimulus to productivity;
- (e) Realistic agricultural policy;
- (f) Reactivation of public works;
- (g) Promotion of investment;
- (h) Efficiency of public services and State enterprises;
- (i) Creation of a proper marketing system;
- (j) Stimulus to traditional and non-traditional exports;
- (k) Tax reform.

60. In view of the particular circumstances prevailing in Argentina before 1976, the above-mentioned guidelines were directly applied in promoting economic order, intensifying the process of recovery as a matter of priority as a stimulus to sustained and balanced growth.

(c) Sectoral guidelines of economic policy

61. The immediate objectives which follow from the guidelines of economic policy were applied to all sectors of production, special emphasis being placed on those mentioned hereunder which, as we shall see later, were chosen for specific projects requested from UNDP.

62. Within the agricultural sector, a clear, precise and inescapable objective is to proceed actively to promote relatively less-developed areas (an effort common to all sectors). For this purpose, the extension of agricultural land and the growth of productivity for the whole sector must be based on an improvement in infrastructure, especially storage and marketing. One way of bringing this about is to implement appropriate measures consisting of a stable system of relative prices leading to a better allocation of productive resources.

63. Another specific aim of governmental policy is to increase the productivity of the industrial sector. Research and the development of new technologies and the use of technologies suited to the country's conditions are significant aspects of strategy in this sector. Parallel with this, the Government will develop competitive export-oriented industrial activities using local raw materials and will promote agro-industrial activities and the establishment of industries in relatively less-developed areas.

64. A realistic minerals policy based on a complete survey of existing resources and prospecting for new deposits will likewise make possible a sustained rate of growth in the production of strategic and critical minerals.

65. In the energy field, the promotion of the development and use of renewable energy sources is aimed at the execution of projects designed to satisfy the future needs created by the development of productive capacity. Likewise, the decision to step up exploration and exploitation of hydrocarbons on land and on the Argentine continental shelf goes far beyond catering for economic development; it represents a sovereign act for the full utilization of national resources.

66. Transport and communications are also outstanding features of development. This necessitates the development in this sector of an infrastructure designed to promote territorial integration, higher productivity and easy marketing. For this purpose, a substantial improvement in the efficiency of the goods and passenger transport system is a priority, at the same time as promoting co-ordination and dove-tailing of various modes of transport. In communications, the Government will improve the efficiency and quality of the system, choosing the most advanced technologies at the lowest cost.

67. A significant aspect of the economic policy launched in 1976 is the containment of inflation and the firm intention to reduce it to the average levels of the developed countries. The direct outcome will be to bring a higher standard of living and genuine well-being to the population. Through the increase in economic activity it will be possible to ensure profits for the various factors commensurate with their productivity. The stated objective of promoting economic decentralization in all sectors, throughout the nation, will make it possible, initially, to give practical form to some of the priority guidelines referred to.

B. Development objectives and UNDP assistance

(a) General context

68. The country programme for the third programming cycle (1982-1986) reflects the national policy guidelines laid down for the second country programme (1977-1981), as stated earlier.

69. To the extent that the third programme is aimed at furthering the country's efforts to achieve its general development objectives, there is no significant change in the objectives contained in the second programme.

70. Thus, the objectives of this programme, which reflect the Argentine Government's determination with respect to the priority areas in each of the sectors in which UNDP has been requested to concentrate its technical assistance efforts, are as follows:

- (a) Improvement of the national capacity for technological development;
- (b) Improvement of transport and communications services;
- (c) Self-sufficiency of the national institutions that support the production sector;
- (d) Further training and planning of human resources; and
- (e) Raising of production and improvement of living conditions in relatively less developed areas.

(b) Description of specific third country programme objectives

(i) Improvement of the national capacity for technological development

71. This objective will be attained by continuing the activities begun under the projects on agricultural estimates (ARG/81/002), assistance to the Bahía Blanca petrochemical complex (ARG/75/021) and nuclear engineering (ARG/78/020), which begin a new phase in this cycle.

72. The project on agricultural estimates (ARG/81/002) is aimed at strengthening the capabilities of the National Space Research Commission and the Ministry of Agriculture in order to optimize the processing of agricultural estimates through the use of remote sensing. In addition a seminar will be held on the use of remote sensors in prospecting for non-renewable natural resources.

73. The project on assistance to the Bahía Blanca petrochemical complex (ARG/75/021) will continue to provide direct support for the companies at that complex, in addition to which it will lay particular emphasis on the training of the professional and technical staff necessary for operation of the complex and the new technologies which it exploits.

74. The nuclear engineering project (ARG/78/020) will continue to provide support for the training of specialists in nuclear engineering to provide an appropriate post-graduate degree capability.

75. Similarly, this objective will embrace two new projects. One, on food technology (ARG/81/015), will be oriented towards research and the devising of techniques adapted to the demands of buyers' markets and the selection of manufacturing methods and new processing techniques. The other, on water resources data (ARG/81/018), will assist in the planning of natural resources development, making available to decision-making bodies an automated numerical and document information system.

76. The resources allocated to help attain this objective amount to \$2,880,000, which represents 26 per cent of the figure programmed.

(ii) Improvement in transport and communications services

77. In order to continue to contribute to the strengthening of this vital sector in the country's development, new phases will be implemented of the projects on the Nautical School (ARG/78/018 and ARG/81/019), the National Civil Aviation Institute (ARG/81/009), airworthiness (ARG/78/017 and ARG/81/007), and message switching (ARG/78/019), which, while maintaining the objectives already established in the previous cycle, will continue to develop activities in their respective fields.

78. The resources allocated to help to attain this objective amount to \$2,040,000 which represents 18 per cent of the figure programmed.

(iii) Self-sufficiency of the national institutions that support the production sector

79. One of the major difficulties which the Government must surmount is to find a way to match research and development activities with the needs of the production sector. To this end particular attention is being devoted to small and medium-sized industry with a view to promoting regionally balanced economic and social development. The first step is to strengthen advisory centres and to encourage the procuring of appropriate technology, while the second step is to transmit knowledge to the private sector. This will lead to organic development and structural modernization, by introducing the industrial innovations necessary to improve efficiency and competitiveness. To achieve this end consideration is still being given to assistance to small and medium-sized industry in Santa Fé province through the Technical Advisory Board of the province's Ministry of Economic Affairs.

80. Among the basic activities, the iron and steel industry raises the need for keeping abreast of current technologies and their future potential, with the aim of selecting the most appropriate solutions for the country to make the total production cycle more cost effective. Moreover the iron and steel industry cannot avoid increasingly frequent and sophisticated changes imposed by scientific and technological progress. The above, together with the capital intensive nature of the industry, the huge quantities of natural resources it consumes, the relatively

low selling price of its products and increasing demands for higher quality to meet new uses have made it necessary to include a project aimed at improving the efficiency of the country's iron and steel industry, dealing simultaneously with technological problems relating to raw materials, reduction, steel mills and rolling.

81. The resources allocated to help achieve this objective come to \$1.6 million which represents 14 per cent of the amount programmed.

(iv) Further training and planning of human resources

82. Since the Government's general policies are still geared to ensuring that human resources are raised to the highest level of employment and productivity, continuation of the activities carried out within the framework of the project entitled "Human resources and hygiene centres" (ARG/81/008 and ARG/77/003) remains a matter of priority. The project will also include activities designed to secure adequate rationalization and productivity by developing programmes to prevent industrial accidents and to improve conditions of hygiene in the workplace.

83. Concerning the need to provide further training for national human resources and in order to take account of the surveys conducted by national universities and research institutes that revealed the existence of a large unmet demand for training, a project entitled "Training SELPA" (ARG/81/017), will be implemented; it relates to multidisciplinary training at the post-graduate level. The project is designed to contribute to Argentina's technological development by providing training and specialized training for high-level human resources capable of creating, adapting, improving and transferring technological know-how to specific industrial and agricultural activities.

84. Although Argentina had conducted numerous training experiments in the field of economic development, what is needed now is an interdisciplinary approach to the problem taking account not only of economic factors but also of socio-cultural, political, scientific and technological, environmental, institutional factors and so forth. The Ministry of Planning has therefore seen a need for a training and updating programme in the area of planning and integrated development of the planning system at the central as well as sectoral levels.

85. The resources allocated to help achieve this objective come to \$1.9 million which represents 17 per cent of the amount programmed.

(v) Raising of production and improvement of living conditions in relatively less-developed areas

86. The Government's objective is to encourage development in the relatively less-developed areas so as to make use of natural, human and economic resources and raise the standard of living of rural populations in depressed socio-economic areas and, to that end, to harmonize provincial development policies.

87. Accordingly, given the positive results of the activities being carried out in the north-eastern part of Argentina as regards planning and development of water resources (ARG/78/005), a project will be included (ARG/81/006) covering the entire northern part of the country; its aim will be to raise the standard of living of the rural population by carrying out operations which will lead to a better and speedier utilization of water and soil resources.

88. Within the framework of that objective, the activities initiated under the project "Bajo La Alumbreira" (ARG/77/008 and ARG/81/005) will be pursued in order to explore the copper deposits further with a view to determining the feasibility of exploiting them.

89. The programme includes a project (ARG/81/016) the purpose of which is to increase agricultural production in Río Negro province based on diversification of production, increased production efficiency and expansion and opening of new markets.

90. It also includes a project (ARG/81/012) to promote protection of arid areas by encouraging the rational exploitation of renewable resources and raise the standard of living of the inhabitants of these depressed areas. The project will seek to bring about understanding of the ecological and socio-economic processes which condition the deterioration of the eco-systems (and which lead or can lead to desertification) and which are responsible for social and economic backwardness.

91. Bearing in mind the fact that, aside from the aspects relating to the generation of hydro-electricity and to navigation, the bi-national Salto Grande Complex also has development implications for the region - conservation of the fish resources and use of water for irrigation and domestic purposes - the Government has prepared a project so that, once the infrastructural work is completed, the Joint Technical Commission may embark on a study of the production potential of the areas of influence when irrigation is used.

92. The resources allocated to help achieve this objective come to \$2,750,000 which represents 25 per cent of the amount programmed.

C. Links with intercountry and global activities

93. Within the framework of the nineteenth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA), UNDP called representatives of countries to a special meeting to determine priorities for the regional Programme for Latin America (1982-1986).

94. Argentina was represented at that meeting and note was taken of the fact that it was important that the programme should take account of the substantive development needs of the nations and of the region. Argentina therefore intends to participate actively in the preparation and implementation of the programme.

95. With regard to the resources of the Regional Programme, it must be remembered that, given the inadequate funds allocated to the region, ways will have to be found to minimize the cost of project execution and to use installed regional capacity with respect to national centres and institutes whose scope is multinational.

96. To that end, when considering regional projects, Argentina will take into account its own country programme and will take into account regional projects when considering its country programme so as to relate the two, take advantage of its experience and avoid a duplication of efforts.

97. With regard to the third programme which is currently being implemented, Argentina has endorsed 17 projects. The Government will continue to participate actively in the following projects: regional post-graduate training programme in the biological sciences (RLA/78/024); Inter-American Telecommunications Centre (RLA/77/010); INFOPECSA (RLA/79/058); Postal Specialization Courses (RLA/77/009) and the Inter-American Centre for Research and Documentation on Vocational Training (RLA/79/032).

98. The Regional Employment Programme for Latin America and the Caribbean (PREALC), which UNDP is supporting through project (RLA/79/006), has been consulted on various occasions during the second programming cycle and has sent a number of advisory missions to the national project on human resources (ARG/81/003). It will continue to be used for operations scheduled for the second phase of the human resources project.

99. With regard to the interregional and global programmes, Argentina will continue to participate in the various projects by sending representatives and delegates to the meetings and providing information to visiting missions.

D. Principal features of the third country programme

100. As was pointed out in the introduction, the strategy followed in formulating the third country programme will incorporate the conclusions drawn from the evaluation of earlier country programmes, particularly with regard to the concentration of resources on projects expected to have greater catalytic effect, while taking into account the comparative advantages of the UNDP contribution over other sources of funds, whether national or international.

101. To this end, the Argentine Government firmly intends to assume increasing responsibility for the management of the country programme by distributing UNDP resources according to Argentina's development objectives.

102. This intention can also be seen in the Government's decision to move gradually to direct execution of projects, since Argentina has agencies whose administrative and technical capacity is equal to the task.

103. Indeed, the greater degree of relative development achieved by Argentina and its agencies means that the assistance requested should be of the highest level and that, accordingly, projects should not be drawn up on the basis of traditional models but rather should take account, as necessary, of the programme of new dimensions for technical co-operation.

104. To this end, it should be pointed out that already during the previous programming cycle, nearly all project managers were Argentine nationals.

105. These mechanisms will be used increasingly during the present programming cycle since, in addition to reflecting the level of development Argentina has attained, they contribute to a better utilization of scarce resources.

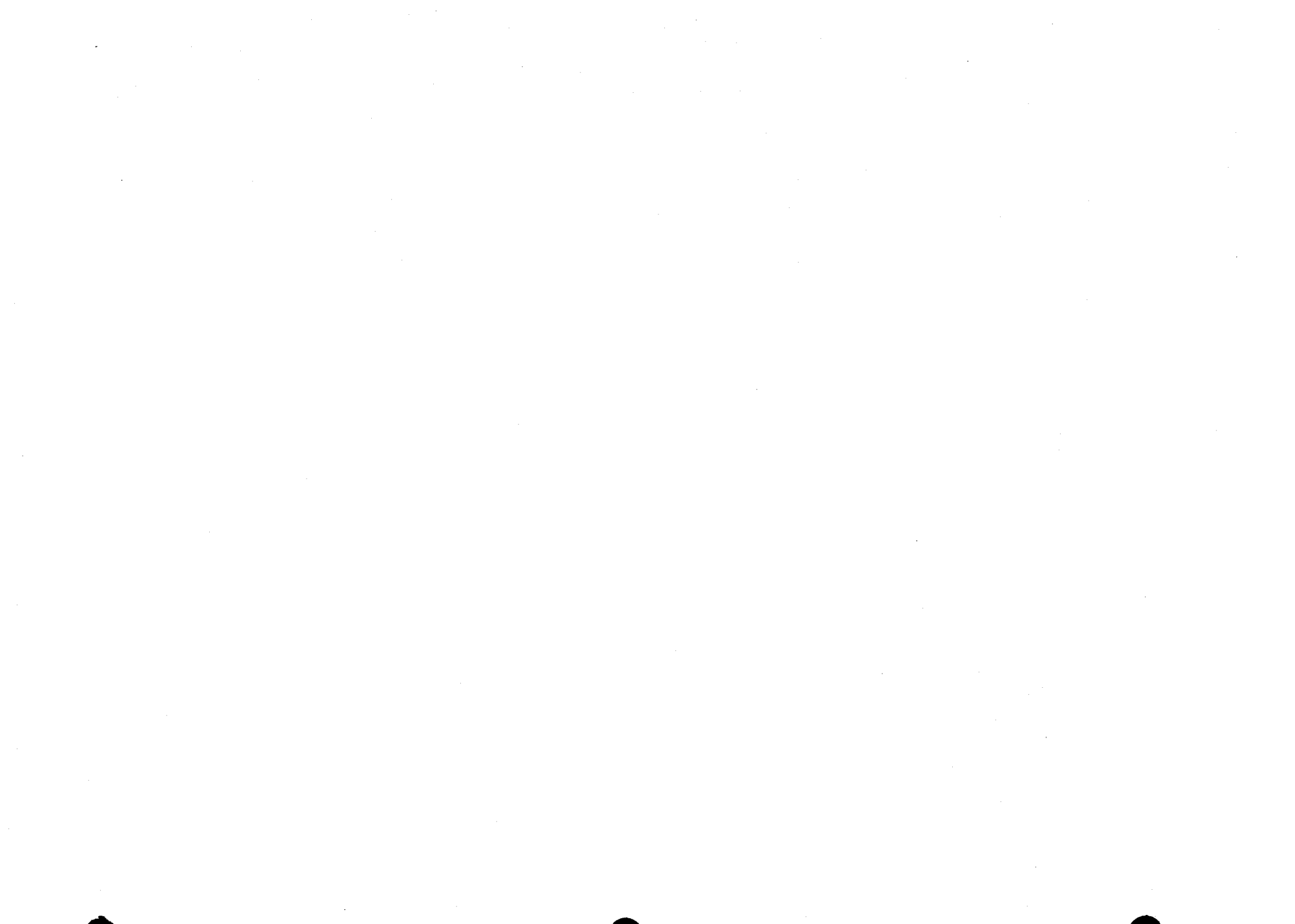
106. Concerning the latter, it should be pointed out that the agencies which received assistance during the second programming cycle and for which a second phase has been approved, will have to try to take over the financing of some of the inputs provided by UNDP by means of the cost-sharing mechanism.

107. As was pointed out in the introduction, in order to make the country programme more flexible and to ensure that the technical co-operation provided by UNDP is in keeping with Argentina's pace of development, the Government has endorsed the principle of continuous programming.

108. It should be pointed out that, in preparing this programme the Government has taken into account the activities carried out by the regional, interregional and global programmes and the possibilities of using specific United Nations funds established pursuant to decisions adopted in international forums.

109. Pre-investment is an important issue in the third country programme; some of the projects which have been approved are directly or indirectly designed to generate investments.

110. Finally, it should be pointed out that, in view of the level of human resources and the degree of development of many of the existing national institutions the Argentine Government attaches importance to the subject of technical co-operation among developing countries (TCDC). The Government is seeking, as it did during the second programming cycle, and as it has done ever since the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries held in Argentina, to increase that type of activity both at the regional and at the interregional level in order to achieve the targets set forth in the Buenos Aires Plan of Action.



Annex I

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

	\$
A. <u>Resources</u>	
(a) IPF and other resources	
(i) Illustrative IPF for programme period	16 000 000
(ii) Carry-over from previous IPF cycles	--
(iii) Other resources (government cost-sharing)	2 000 000
(b) Provision for adequate programming	--
	<hr/>
TOTAL	18 000 000
B. <u>Use of resources</u>	
(a) Programmed	
(i) Ongoing projects	1 273 069
(ii) New projects and new phases included in the country programme	12 097 075
(iii) Earmarked for specific objectives and activities for which projects are to be worked out (continuous programming at a later stage)	4 629 856
	<hr/>
Subtotal	18 000 000
(b) Reserve	--
(c) Unprogrammed balance	--
	<hr/>
TOTAL	18 000 000
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Annex II

FINANCIAL DISTRIBUTION OF PROGRAMMED RESOURCES, BY SECTOR

SECTOR	Total projects		Total sector IPF
	\$US	IPF	
02 General development, policies and planning			
(a) <u>Ongoing projects</u>			
None			
(b) <u>New projects and new phases</u>			
Training SEPLA (ARG/81/017)		100 000	100 000
03 Natural resources			
(a) <u>Ongoing projects</u>			
Water resources (ARG/78/005)		30 000	
Bajo La Alumbreira (ARG/77/008)		5 000	
(b) <u>New projects and new phases</u>			
Water resources (ARG/81/006)		800 000	
Bajo La Alumbreira (ARG/81/005)		300 000	
Arid areas (ARG/81/012)		700 000	
Remote sensing seminar (ARG/81/013)		30 000	
Salto Grande (ARG/81/014)		150 000	2 015 000
04 Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries			
(a) <u>Ongoing projects</u>			
NOA Pathology (ARG/75/023)		51 000	
NOA Agricultural (ARG/76/003)		38 000	
(b) <u>New projects and new phases</u>			
Agricultural estimates (ARG/81/002)		400 000	
Río Negro (ARG/81/016)		800 000	1 289 000

SECTOR	Total projects		Total sector IPF
	\$US	IPF	
	Cost-sharing	IPF	
05 Industry			
(a) <u>Ongoing projects</u>			
Bahía Blanca petrochemicals (ARG/75/021)		10 000	
Argentine Iron and Steel Institute (ARG/80/001)		16 000	
(b) <u>New projects and new phases</u>			
Bahía Blanca petrochemicals (ARG/81/003)	344 200	900 000	
Santa Fé industry (ARG/81/004)	150 000	700 000	
Argentine Iron and Steel Institute (ARG/81/010)	500 000	900 000	
Food technology (ARG/81/015)		700 000	3 226 000
06 Transport and Communications			
(a) <u>Ongoing projects</u>			
Nautical school (ARG/78/018)		45 000	
Airworthiness (ARG/78/017)		128 800	
Message switching (ARG/78/019)		90 000	
(b) <u>New projects and new phases</u>			
Nautical school (ARG/81/019)		700 000	
Airworthiness (ARG/81/007)	450 000	750 900	
INAC (ARG/81/009)	15 000	450 000	2 164 700
10 Health			
(a) <u>Ongoing projects</u>			
Haemorrhagic fever (ARG/78/009)		32 000	
(b) <u>New projects and new phases</u>			
None		---	

SECTOR	Total projects \$US		Total sector IPF
	Cost-sharing	IPF	
12 Employment			
(a) <u>Ongoing projects</u>			
Hygiene Centre (ARG/77/003)		27 300	
(b) <u>New projects and new phases</u>			
Human Resources and Hygiene Centre (ARG/81/003)		<u>700 000</u>	727 300
16 Science and Technology			
(a) <u>Ongoing projects</u>			
Nuclear engineering (ARG/78/020)		800 000	
(b) <u>New projects and new phases</u>			
Water data processing (ARG/81/012)	272 000	50 000	
Training (ARG/81/011)		<u>1 100 000</u>	1 950 000
TOTAL	1 866 200		11 504 000
GRAND TOTAL	31 370 000		

