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COUNTRY AND INTERCOUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS

Consideration and approval of country programmes

THIRD COUNTRY PROGRAMME FOR ECUADOR

Note by the Administrator

| <u>Programme period</u> | <u>Illustrative IPF for 1982-1986</u> |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1982-1986 | \$15 million |

 I. Nature of the programming exercise

1. The programming exercise was formally launched with the submission of the Resident Representative's note to the authorities of the National Development Council (CONADE), setting forth over-all guidelines to serve as the point of departure for ongoing discussions.
2. In order to ensure that technical co-operation from external multilateral and bilateral sources is used in a co-ordinated and effective fashion in support of the priorities set forth in the National Development Plan, the Government has set up

1/ The Administrator's notes on previous programmes for Ecuador were issued under document symbols DP/GC/ECU/R.1/RECOMMENDATION and DP/GC/ECU/R.2/RECOMMENDATION.

machinery within CONADE for programme and project formulation, follow-up, evaluation and co-ordination. It was in the context of this machinery that the technical assistance requirements of the various sectoral ministries were collated and analysed.

3. The office of the Resident Representative contributed significantly to the preparation of the third country programme, which brings together the inputs of the specialized agencies of the United Nations system and of UNDP headquarters. Close co-operation was sought with ongoing programmes and projects in the region funded by various agencies of the system.

4. The third country programme, which covers the five-year period 1982-1986, draws on the experience gained during the first two programming cycles and reflects the priorities established in the 1980-1984 National Development Plan. Following the concept of continuous programming, the programme has been given the necessary flexibility so that, as execution proceeds, it can be adapted to whatever needs and priorities may be defined by the Government. For this reason, the technical co-operation requirements have been specifically defined for the first three years of the cycle, leaving a reserve from the illustrative indicative planning figure (IPF) with which to cater to whatever priority needs may emerge after 1985 when the next National Development Plan will come into force.

II. Relationship between the country programme and the objectives of the National Development Plan

5. The priority objectives of the 1980-1984 National Development Plan are as follows: strengthening of the democratic system, economic development, social justice and national defence. The third country programme for Ecuador ties in with the first three objectives.

6. In order to achieve the first of these objectives, the Plan proposes a series of reforms, programmes and projects, as well as specific measures by means of which it will be possible gradually to shape the kind of society which is conducive to the operation of the democratic system. In support of this objective, UNDP assistance will be directed towards the achievement of a sustained process of modernization and consolidation of the State.

7. In connexion with the second objective - economic development - the Plan envisages (a) the necessary measures to bring into production hitherto unexploited natural resources, particularly energy resources; (b) priority attention to the agricultural sector; (c) the rationalization of the use of physical space; (d) the refinement of public administration; and (e) the promotion of vocational training and scientific research. To this end, the main objective of the projects to be financed by UNDP is to train the human resources needed for programmes in priority economic and social sectors and to make the most of natural resources.

8. The measures proposed in the Plan to achieve social justice are as follows:

(a) To give underprivileged social groups a greater share of national wealth and income;

(b) To improve the people's quality of life, attaching high priority to the provision of education, housing and health services; and

(c) To support community-based organization as a means of actively involving people and promoting a new sense of the value of indigenous cultures. In support of this objective, the projects included in the third country programme will be directed towards the improvement of some basic services such as housing, the existence and quality of which is perceived by the people as a major benefit.

9. It is felt that the following five structural reforms - tax, administrative, agrarian, educational and political - must be undertaken to ensure more effective programme and project execution in the areas targeted for the achievement of the above-mentioned objectives.

III. Content of the country programme

10. In the context of the Government's priority objectives, UNDP co-operation for the period 1980-1984 envisages the implementation of 22 projects, only one of which will continue into the last two years of the cycle; they cover the following areas:

(a) Development policy and planning. Projects: operational planning; assistance to pre-investment activities; strengthening of the administrative capacity of the public sector in priority development sectors; statistics; data processing; social planning and social development programmes; public policies; support for the national planning system;

(b) Natural resources. Project: uranium exploration;

(c) Agriculture, forestry and fishing. Projects: assistance to the Ministry of Agriculture for an integrated agricultural programme; strengthening of the agricultural planning system; development of appropriate technologies for marginal rural sectors; integrated rural development; assistance to the National Development Bank;

(d) Industry. Projects: assistance to the industry and crafts sector; formulation of a master plan for the development of the tourist industry;

(e) Transport and communications. Projects: assistance to the telecommunications centre; aeronautical infrastructure and training;

(f) Overseas trade. Project: assistance to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the economic aspects of overseas trade;

(g) Education. Project: upgrading of the human resources of the National Institute for Basic and Advanced Teacher Training;

(h) Employment. Project: development of the suburban areas of Guayaquil through job creation;

(i) Culture. Project: conservation of the cultural heritage; and

(j) Science and technology. Project: social planning and social development programmes.

11. The third country programme is largely composed of ongoing projects. Only 4 of the 19 projects currently identified for the first three years of this programming cycle will actually commence in or after 1982.

12. The projects included in this programme focus mainly on human resource training in priority economic and social sectors, on the selective, short-term strengthening of institutions in certain basic areas where experience is lacking to handle new or experimental technologies, and on the provision of basic services to the underprivileged social classes.

13. The sectoral breakdown of resources is shown in the annex to the country programme document.
