I. Nature of the programming exercise

1. The country programme for Haiti has been prepared on the basis of a series of discussions among the UNDP field office in Port-au-Prince, the Ministry of Planning and the technical ministries which have a direct interest in the programme. The outcome of these discussions was, to a major degree, influenced by the technical recommendations of specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system, regarding the continuation of existing activities and the initiation of new activities in their respective sectors of technical competence. The resulting document was also reviewed in its draft form by these United Nations system agencies as well as the local representatives of other donors of multilateral and bilateral aid programmes in Haiti. Thus, the country programme reflects a composite of interests arising from a continuing series of sectoral and multi-sectoral deliberations.

II. Relation of the country programme to national development objectives

2. The country programme for Haiti relates directly to national development objectives as established in the Government's Five-Year Plan (October 1981-September 1986). Among the major priorities directly addressed by projects included in the country
programme are: achievement of future food self-sufficiency and increase of production of export crops; protection and conservation of land and water resources; development of mineral deposits to help meet the balance of payments deficits and reduce dependence on external assistance; reform of the educational system to make it more responsive to development needs; improvement in planning and training of human resources to create jobs and fulfill present and future skill requirements; reduction of birthrate and infant mortality rate and the achievement of a more balanced geographical distribution of population; improvement of urban slum areas and modernization and expansion of the telecommunications and the civil aviation facilities.

3. With reference to these objectives, the Government expects UNDP to pay an important role with respect to strengthening public institutions charged with planning and execution of programmes, undertaking pilot activities needed to establish appropriate national policies and stimulating development investment on a regional and national scale.

4. Since the country programme addresses a number of the development priorities contained in the Five-Year Plan, it is timed to coincide as closely as possible with the duration of the period and it is therefore submitted to the Governing Council for approval at this time.

III. Contents of the country programme

5. During the next cycle serious efforts will be made to improve the participation of the population in the economic development of the country. A new educational programme, geared to development, will be established and supportive actions will also be undertaken to improve the skills of the rural populations through agriculture and vocational training, and the organization and management of co-operatives. Labour-intensive projects will also be identified to make full use of the human resources available in the country. All these actions are geared to ensure a productive participation of the population and eventual self-reliance.

6. The last two years of the present cycle have been kept largely unprogrammed in order to retain better flexibility and timing in formulating grass-roots projects with maximum impact on the rural populations and investment-oriented projects which may lead to substantial financial assistance in the rural sector. The sectoral breakdown of UNDP resources is contained in the annex of the country programme document.