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Agenda item 3

INTERIM FUND FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT

Progress report of the Administrator

Summary

At its twenty-sixth session in June 1979, the Governing Council was informed verbally by the Administrator of the progress made by UNDP in contributing to the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, held in Vienna 20-31 August 1979.

This note outlines the developments with regard to Science and Technology for Development which have taken place since the report of the Administrator to the Council and describes the relevant decisions reached by the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session (resolution 34/218).

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(a) Developments with regard to science and technology for development

1. In accordance with a decision of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference, UNDP, in common with similar efforts by other organizations of the United Nations system, prepared a report on Science, Technology and World Development (A/CONF.81/BP/UNDP) which was circulated to participants in Vienna. This paper presented a summary of UNDP's experience with Science and Technology for Development in the different regions of the world and at the global level, and in a wide range of sectors, and it also contained a number of suggestions both as to how UNDP itself might strengthen its Science and Technology related activities, and for enhanced action on a wider international scale. This paper comprised contributions from many units of UNDP, and reflected consultations and comments from many sources, including experts from developing and developed countries, and, particularly, the Specialized Agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system.
2. At the Vienna Conference itself, a number of important agreements were reached, relevant to UNDP, and these were subsequently endorsed by the General Assembly after further negotiations. In particular, the Vienna Conference, in the Programme of Action it adopted (A/CONF.81/16, para. 117), recommended the establishment of an Interim Fund for Science and Technology for Development, to be administered by UNDP.
3. The Conference called on the Administrator, in consultation with the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, to prepare an initial prospectus for the Interim Fund for submission to the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session. After consultations with the Specialized Agencies and other relevant organizations of the United Nations system, the draft of the prospectus was amended and received **general endorsement at an Interagency Meeting** convened by the Director-General in late October 1979. The draft initial prospectus was then submitted to the General Assembly in a report of the Secretary-General (A/34/587).

(b) Action taken by the General Assembly

4. On 19 December, the General Assembly adopted resolution 34/218 which, endorsing the Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development, made decisions in the following main areas:
 - the establishment of an Intergovernmental Committee for Science and Technology for Development;
 - the establishment of a Centre for Science and Technology for Development within the United Nations Secretariat;
 - arrangements for co-ordination within the United Nations system;

- the preparation of a basic study of the activities, mandates and working methods of all the various organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, in the field of Science and Technology for Development;
- the establishment of Global Financial Arrangements, both long-term arrangements to start in January 1982 and Interim Arrangements for the two-year period, 1980-1981.

5. Besides the important decision to establish a new Intergovernmental Committee which shall, inter alia, formulate policy guidelines for the harmonization of policies of the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system with regard to scientific and technological activities, and the provisions made to improve co-ordination, the decisions on Global Financial Arrangements are of particular and immediate importance to UNDP.

6. Pending the establishment of the long-term arrangements for the financing system for Science and Technology for Development, an Interim Fund has been created, in accordance with provisions set out in paragraphs 8-11 (VI) of the resolution. The Interim Fund is to be sustained by voluntary contributions. The General Assembly has agreed that the target for voluntary contributions for the two-year period, 1980-1981, should be no less than \$250 million, and that, during the interim period, to the extent that such funds are fully committed and taking fully into account the needs of the developing countries, the \$250 million figure will be reviewed by the Intergovernmental Committee with the aim of raising additional resources for the Interim Fund.

7. The General Assembly further decided that the Interim Fund, which shall be created on an identifiable and separate basis, shall be administered by the UNDP under policy guidelines established by the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session, and also under the guidelines set by the Intergovernmental Committee when it starts its meetings. It also decided that the Interim Fund shall be administered and managed in accordance with the provisions of the Annex to the resolution, which contains the initial prospectus for the United Nations Interim Fund, and urges that the necessary arrangements be made to ensure that it becomes operational at the earliest possible time.

8. The creation of the Interim Fund is clearly a matter of significance to UNDP itself, and the Administrator has taken a number of steps to ensure, both in the preparation of the initial prospectus, and in the subsequent designing of procedures and arrangements for the Interim Fund which is now in hand, that the Fund will be able to co-operate in the most effective ways both with UNDP and with the other relevant organizations of the United Nations system.

9. It may be helpful to identify the following specific provisions of the Annex of General Assembly resolution 34/218 where the Governing Council is called upon to play a role in the administration of the Interim Fund:

- paragraph 20 provides that the Administrator shall submit, during the interim period, annual reports, to the Governing Council of UNDP on the operation and management of the Interim Fund;

- paragraph 22 provides that the Administrator shall administer the Interim Fund under the policy guidance of the General Assembly and the Intergovernmental Committee, and under the operational management of the Governing Council;

- paragraph 37 provides that the Administrator shall submit for approval to the Governing Council of UNDP projects to be supported by the Interim Fund resources in the amount of \$2 million or above, on the basis of guidelines established by the Intergovernmental Committee. Until such time as the Intergovernmental Committee adopts additional policy guidelines, the Administrator is to follow the policy guidelines set forth in the General Assembly resolution and its Annex;

- paragraph 38 provides that the Administrator shall submit to the first regular session of the Intergovernmental Committee proposals on methods for the approval of projects to be adopted by the Governing Council of UNDP;

- paragraph 39 provides that, subject to the provisions of the Annex with regard to eligibility, the Administrator shall be authorized to approve projects to be supported by the Fund below the amount of \$2 million, and shall report in each case to the Governing Council of UNDP;

- paragraph 40 provides that the Governing Council of UNDP shall take final decisions on the projects and programmes recommended by the Administrator in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 37 cited above, in the light of the guidelines established by the General Assembly and the Intergovernmental Committee and of the directives which will be established by the Intergovernmental Committee, and shall authorize the Administrator to conclude the appropriate agreements;

- paragraph 47 provides that the Administrator shall report to the Governing Council and to the Intergovernmental Committee on the status of projects and programmes supported by the Interim Fund;

- paragraph 50 provides that the financial rules and regulations governing the Interim Fund shall be those of the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations Development Programme. Any amendments which may be necessary to take account of the special requirements of the Interim Fund's operation shall be drafted by the Administrator and submitted for consideration to the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme, which shall report accordingly to the Intergovernmental Committee and the General Assembly;

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- paragraph 52, authorizing the establishment of a Programme Reserve for the Interim Fund, provides that the Administrator shall report to the Governing Council and to the Intergovernmental Committee on his decisions with regard to its use and on the results achieved.

10. In accordance with the provisions of the General Assembly, a Pledging Conference for the Interim Fund will be called by the Secretary-General and is scheduled to take place in late March in New York. Governments will be notified formally of this Pledging Conference through the appropriate channels.

11. The Intergovernmental Committee is to hold a one-week session, devoted to organizational matters and other issues of a particularly urgent nature, from 28 January to 1 February 1980, and its first regular session from 22 to 30 May. The Administrator will report verbally to the Governing Council at its February meeting on any relevant developments at the January session of the Intergovernmental Committee.

12. The Administrator recommends that an item on the Interim Fund for Science and Technology for Development should be added to the agenda of the twenty-seventh session of the Governing Council under which he will report on the further developments which have taken place, and to enable the Governing Council to take any action which may be necessary in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 34/218.

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