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PROGRAMME PLANNING

Country and intercountry programmes and projects

THIRD COUNTRY PROGRAMME FOR ALBANIA*

Programme period	Actual resources programmed	$
January 1987-December 1991	IPF for 1987-1991	5 638 000
	Third cycle balance	1 062 000
	Total	6 700 000

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* Detailed listings of projects and other related data prepared as part of the country programming exercise are available on request. These listings include: (a) ongoing projects; (b) proposed projects; (c) distribution of resources by objective; (d) planned activities of funds and field programmes reporting to the Administrator; and (e) distribution of new programme by sector.

I. DEVELOPMENT TRENDS, STRATEGIES AND PRIORITIES

A. Current economic trends

1. During the preceding five-year period (1981-1985), the Albanian economy progressed on its course of diversified development, relying exclusively on domestic resources and basing its approach on acceleration of the socialist industrialization of the country, the strengthening and intensification of agriculture, the scientific and technical revolution and the improvement of socialist production relationships, with a view to ensuring a continued rise in the material well-being and cultural level of the working masses.

2. During the period of the 1981-1985 five-year plan, overall industrial production increased by 26 per cent from its level during the preceding period (1976-1980), while overall agricultural production increased by 13 per cent. Growth rates in the mining industry were more marked, reaching 38 per cent for natural gas, 48 per cent for coal, 37 per cent for copper and over 100 per cent for ferro-nickel. Electric power generation was 46 per cent higher than it had been during the period covered by the previous five-year plan, and increases were also achieved in production of rolled steel (44 per cent), blister copper (25 per cent), and copper wire and cable (approximately 100 per cent). Industrial production in the engineering sector increased by approximately 50 per cent, while the production of machines and equipment recorded an increase of 54 per cent.

3. During the same period (1981-1985), approximately 5,500 large- and small-scale public works were constructed and delivered ready for use. The "Enver Hoxha" hydroelectric power station became operational, new railway lines were opened connecting the national network with Yugoslavia to the north and the major port of Vlora in the south-west, and new mines and ore concentration plants, dozens of factories and production units, both for light industry and for the food industry, and several animal husbandry centres were completed. The area of irrigable land increased by 31,000 hectares and now accounts for almost 60 per cent of the arable land area. Tens of kilometres of road were built, as well as a number of facilities for social and cultural purposes, 80,000 residential apartments and houses in urban and rural areas, etc.

4. All social and cultural sectors continued to develop. The number of schoolchildren and students during the school year 1985-86 rose to 744,000. The number of beds in medical care centres increased. The mortality rate for infants under one year of age was 40 per cent lower than it had been in 1980. The three millionth Albanian citizen was born at the beginning of 1986.

5. The level of scientific work also improved. In the geological sphere, important ore reserves were discovered, a number of ore concentrators were set up and new types of steel and chemical products were perfected. The fact that new plants and hybrids were created locally made it possible to produce tens of thousands of quintals of selected seeds, which helped to improve agricultural production. In the building sector, all projects are drawn up by the same institutions which plan the major hydrotechnical works.

B. National development strategies

6. The economic development of Albania under the 1986-1990 five-year plan will be achieved through development of the industrial sector and intensification of the agricultural programme, while continuing the technical and scientific revolution and increasing the efficiency of social production.

7. In the industrial sphere, the energy sector, mining and processing activities and the chemical and food industries will continue to progress. There will be constant application of advanced technologies, with a view to consolidating the economy's scientific and technological base. The development and intensification of agriculture will ensure growth in agricultural production and animal husbandry.

8. The full use of production capacities and of scientific and technical developments, including advanced technologies, will be the principal objective, with a view to ensuring the rational and efficient use of natural resources, available funds and investments.

9. The improvement of teaching, of the culture of the working masses and of the health service will remain a component of the country's development strategy. Priority will be given to scientific activity through the application of advanced technologies. Scientific studies and research which are carried out must lead to a perceptible improvement of current technologies and so instigate new trends suited to the specific circumstances of the country.

10. Albania's development strategy is designed to ensure the production of all primary products through reliance on its own resources and the closest possible co-ordination between the different sectors of the economy. The industrial sector will have to play an increasingly substantial role, while the principal objective remains that of meeting requirements for agricultural products. These two sectors share the objective of establishing an advanced technology base in order to facilitate interaction between them, as well as with other sectors of the economy. Outside co-operation is useful for the accomplishment of this task, but it must not give rise to any dependence. In this context, UNDP and the United Nations system in general can provide a valuable contribution to the attainment of certain objectives of the development strategy.

. Albania is currently participating in four regional projects: the reduction seismic threats in the Balkan region, the MEDARABTEL project and the European telecommunication project, as well as the project on development of the olive tree the Mediterranean region, which has been of benefit to Albania although it joined the project later than other countries.

. The Government believes that it should, in the future, take part in these projects and in other regional programmes in the fields of energy, environmental protection, science and technology, and possibly others.

C. Technical co-operation priorities

13. With regard to technical co-operation, Albania will continue during the next cycle, as it did during the last programme, to give priority to scientific and technical training so as to reach a more advanced technological level. It should be noted that the activities provided for under this programme are an integral part of the country's development plan and are therefore perfectly co-ordinated.

14. To this end, Albania wishes to benefit from the appreciable experience of the United Nations system with a view both to improving the standard of science teaching provided in its higher education establishments to bring it as far as possible up to contemporary standards, and to developing in the interest of the country's development, in accordance with the general targets it has set itself, its science and research activities as well as activities in the field of public health, ranging from primary health care for mothers and children to the application of advanced radiotherapy.

15. The areas selected are closely interrelated; they concern the priority production sectors of industry, mining, energy and agriculture, which are all base on the utilization of national resources and will take environmental protection requirements into account wherever possible.

16. The Government will provide its full support for the attainment of these objectives. State investment in each of the projects under the programme describe below will be far greater than the UNDP contribution, which may usefully be supplemented by co-operation from the other organizations of the United Nations system, including the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the United Natio Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Fo and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), all of which have already participat through their regular programmes.

17. During the implementation of the programme, the co-operation of the United Nations Fund for Science and Technology for Development may be needed in order tc obtain other sources of co-financing for activities connected with the main programme objectives. The technical expertise of the United Nations Environment Programme may also be of benefit.

D. Aid co-ordination arrangements

18. The Committee for Science and Technology is responsible for the general co-ordination of the programme with UNDP, while the Department of International Organizations in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs ensures official liaison with t United Nations system. Representatives of these two institutions have taken pa in all activities and discussions relating to the formulation and implementatio the programme, including tripartite meetings.

19. During the implementation of the 1982-1986 country programme, the Government, through the institutions mentioned above, ensured co-ordination between the various projects, while considering them from the outset to be interdependent parts of a whole.

20. The same approach, with interdependent projects, has been adopted for the country programme for the period 1987-1991, prepared by the Committee for Science and Technology in co-operation with the Department of International Organizations and other national institutions concerned.

II. THE COUNTRY PROGRAMME

A. Evaluation of the ongoing programme

21. The indicative planning figure (IPF) for the programme covering the period 1982-1986 was set by the Governing Council at $10,250,000, 80 per cent of which was authorized for programming, plus a carry-over from the previous cycle amounting to $4,325,000, bringing the total to $14,575,000. The programme was drawn up in the light of the IPF and, particularly, the investments guaranteed by the State, and was approved in May 1982. With the reduction of UNDP resources to 55 per cent, the funds available were brought down to $9,963,000, and the number of projects to be executed during the programming period was reduced accordingly.

22. These objectives were respected during the execution of the programme. Although some delays were incurred as a result of the systematic, thorough-going work involved in drafting and approving the project documents, they did not by any means exceed the generally acceptable deadlines for the conduct of the programme.

23. The programme was executed as planned, and total expenditure during the programme period amounted to some 90 per cent of resources. The balance - the bulk of the sum allocated for one project for which the document was not approved until February 1986, as well as small sums for other projects - will be used during the next programme.

24. Projects on which work began earlier were discussed at one or more tripartite meetings; recommendations were made on two important projects on the occasion of two missions to evaluate the programme as a whole. At each review, the success of the programme was clearly demonstrated and recommendations were made for its continuation. By and large these recommendations met with a favourable response from the country's representatives and the international organizations responsible for programme execution. Both parties took note of the action required by the recommendations.

25. The funds allocated to each project were in general satisfactory. The Government increased its own counterpart contribution in order to assist in the attainment of project objectives. The efforts made by the agencies responsible for executing the various projects and the programme as a whole were appreciated.

26. Approximately 95 per cent of the funds available for the last programme were allocated to the following projects:

The data-processing network development project is in its final phase in modern premises built with State funds. The entry into service of the complete data-processing network will help to rationalize the work of the country's scientific, technical and industrial establishments;

The two projects for Tirana University and the Higher Agricultural Institute have been carried out successfully. The level of teaching and scientific research in some faculties has already risen. It is becoming possible to undertake scientific studies in hitherto unexplored fields. Such studies will contribute towards increasing production in various sectors;

All the technical studies relating to the telecommunications project have been completed and the contracts for the Albania-Italy and Albania-Greece radio-relay systems have been signed. The installation of equipment is to be completed and final tests are to take place in 1988;

Activities under the automatic regulation of industrial processes project started in 1986.

27. In addition, other training programmes are being carried out in accordance with the requirements of various sectors.

28. Generally speaking, the experience gained during the implementation of the 1982-1986 programme will also ensure the successful conduct of the next programme and will enable still better results to be obtained.

B. New programme proposal

29. The choice of sectors for the programme of co-operation with the United Nations system is based on the main areas of the national development plan for the years 1986 to 1990 and takes account of immediate perspectives. These areas have been chosen because it was thought that co-operation with United Nations agencies could enable more rapid attainment of the desired objectives.

30. The areas most suitable for co-operation are thought to be the following:

(a) Further raising the level of teaching in higher educational establishments, thus contributing to industrial and agricultural development;

(b) Development of applied research in various economic sectors; and

(c) Application of some new technologies and further improvement of the health service.

31. In selecting projects for the proposed co-operation programme, account was taken of an order of priorities and of the fact that the implementation of these

projects is guaranteed since the national institutions concerned are important bodies in the educational and scientific fields, and direct investments are to be included in the national plan with a view to improving the quality of their activities. Furthermore, the fact that Albania discharged its obligations under the last programme within the prescribed time-limits proves its confidence in the satisfactory execution of the programme conducted in co-operation with UNDP.

Higher education

32. Raising the level of science teaching in higher schools with a view to improving the level of laboratory work forms part of the first objective in the attainment of which the Government wishes to co-operate with organizations of the United Nations system. Within the context of the rapid development of the economic sector, special attention will continue to be given to higher education. For this purpose, the Government hopes to receive a UNDP contribution for the period 1987-1991 so as to benefit from UNDP's world-wide experience in order to train metallurgical engineers, geologists, petrochemists, mineralogists, civil engineers, and plant protection and animal breeding experts in the context of the country's specific conditions.

33. Within this priority objective, the improvement of the level of the country's scientific activities will contribute to the increasingly successful solution of economic problems; the co-operation of UNESCO and FAO including their own resources, would be particularly desirable in this connection, while earmarking UNDP funds (an IPF of $2,300,000 for 1987-1991, including a reserve of $100,000) for the second phases of the following two projects:

Improvement of science teaching in some faculties of the Enver Hoxha University of Tirana

34. The project provides for the modernization and consolidation of theories and practice of university training and scientific activities in the following fields and in accordance with the following objectives:

(a) Metallurgy: In-depth studies of casting methods, electro-metallurgical treatment of non-ferrous metals, pyrometallurgical and hydrometallurgical treatment of ores, etc.;

(b) Oil and natural gas: more extensive research and application of methods of defining the conductivity of porous environments, the structure of spaces within them, the rheological properties of oil and its bonds with other components, the thermodynamic and hydrodynamic behaviour of deposits, etc.;

(c) Seismology: study and improvement of advanced geophysical and seismic methods of prospecting for oil and natural gas;

(d) Concentration of the country's ores: determination of the most effective methods;

(e) Geology: studies and applications of methods and laboratory and field testing of physical and mechanical properties of rocky and loose ground with a view to resolving problems which may arise in planning major hydrotechnical structures in mining ores in road-building, industrial, harbour and housing construction, etc.;

(f) Building: finding solutions to problems of planning, testing and erecting structures subjected to static and seismic forces;

(g) Mechanical construction: studies of the characteristics of mechanical constructions, working régimes, etc.;

(h) Chemistry: raising the level of practical laboratory work done by the majority of the university's students;

(i) Part of the funds earmarked for this project will be allocated to consolidating the results obtained to date with a view, in particular, to ensuring the utilization, satisfactory operation and maintenance of equipment.

Improvement of the scientific level of teaching in certain faculties of the Higher Institute for Agriculture at Kamza, Tirana

35. The project envisages the modernization and strengthening of university training, in accordance with the following objectives:

(a) Plant physiology: to develop agricultural production through research, with a view to the creation of high-yielding plants and crops;

(b) Animal reproduction: to promote research in this field, study and implement up-to-date methods making it possible to increase the reproduction rate of animals;

(c) Plant protection: to improve the scientific level of studies on plant disease and agents harmful to plants.

Science and technology

36. The second objective for which the Government wishes to secure the co-operation of UNDP ($2,250,000 of the 1987-91 IPF, including a reserve of $200,000) is the enhancement of scientific and research activities in particular sectors, as well as the application of new technologies appropriate to the country's development prospects.

37. Modernization of the economy also presupposes the use of more modern production methods and the introduction of new technologies, some of which are seldom applied in Albania. For this purpose, the Government has a programme for the implementation of which all the necessary measures have been covered in the State plan. In certain fields where local experience would be unavailable or insufficient, as for example in the use of nuclear methods and laser beams for improvement of the productivity level, or of remote data transmission and processing systems, etc., technical co-operation with the specialized agencies of the United Nations will be useful.

38. Apart from the new projects mentioned below, it is envisaged that co-operation with the Information Centre will continue, with a view to consolidating results, enhancing services to the country's scientific institutions and ensuring the proper use and maintenance of locally available equipment.

Nuclear research reactor

39. This project was envisaged under the last programme. Albania's Nuclear Physics Institute and IAEA have co-operated for many years, and officials of the Institute regularly take part in the various meetings organized by the Agency. Albania has been provided with fellowships and has also received equipment.

40. The application of nuclear-analysis techniques and methods has been useful for the identification of valuable natural resources in the country, particularly in the sectors of biology, health, metallurgy, etc. The Institute has already learned how to apply certain methods of research in agriculture, geology, hydrogeology, etc.

41. The Government believes it to be essential that it should have a neutron source in order that it may extend the application of nuclear-analysis techniques and the use of radioactive tracers to different fields. The construction of a research reactor with a maximum power of 200 kW is envisaged under the project. The reactor must be able to operate with not very enriched uranium. The staff must be trained in reactor technology. Neutronography and the production of short-lived isotopes will enable the staff of the Institute to apply nuclear techniques to other development fields.

42. IAEA will contribute to the nuclear research reactor project. IAEA will also continue its activities in Albania, such as those relating to the protection of people and the environment against ionizing radiation, the use of nuclear analytical techniques, and the use of environmental isotopes in hydrology and agriculture and as tracers for industrial purposes.

43. Application of nuclear analytical techniques would enable Albania to launch a more appropriate programme in other branches of medicine, agriculture and industry. Plant improvement, rationalization of water and fertilizer use in agriculture, dosimetry in radiotherapy and the preparation and use of radio-pharmaceuticals, etc., could all be covered by the programme, which would also help to raise the level of teaching at the university. Some of these activities could be introduced with a minimum amount of additional equipment.

Laser beam laboratory

44. At the current stage of Albania's economic and scientific development, the application of laser techniques is considered to be a necessity. For that purpose, the Government has established a scientific group, attached to the Academy of Sciences, whose members will be trained locally and abroad.

45. The laboratory must be provided with sufficient basic equipment for the initiation of instruction in laser techniques, with a view to facilitating analysis of the composition of ores, hydrocarbons of heavy oils, sulphur, etc., and study of the different geological groups of minerals, etc.

Experimental laboratory project for the study of foodstuff technology

46. This project relates to the methods of analysis and processing of primary food products of vegetable and animal origin, as well as their residues, with a view to retaining elements useful to man and to animals and finding ways of conserving foodstuffs. These activities are currently carried out in Albania by the Light Industry and Food Research Institute, within which it is foreseen that the experimental laboratory will be established.

Telecommunication laboratory project

47. Albania's experimental radio-relay links with Italy and Greece constitute an important component of the Government's plans to extend the telecommunication network. Telecommunication development prospects in Albania make it essential that a laboratory should be established to carry out detailed studies with a view to ensuring the scientific planning of postal and telecommunications development, the specification and standardization of equipment in the national network, the proper overall functioning of the installations, etc. The laboratory will also serve as a base for the training of staff.

Remote data-processing project for the hydro-electrical development of the River Drin reservoirs

48. A number of high-capacity hydro-electric power plants have been built or are currently under construction along the Drin, which is the largest river in Albania. Those plants are the country's main sources of hydro-electrical power.

49. The optimal development of this form of power, which is from a renewable source, calls for the collection, transmission and remote processing of hydro-meteorological data (climate and water).

Health care

50. Albania attaches special importance to public health care. Health services and the standard of medical treatment are improving steadily, and the number of health care centres is increasing. Co-operation with the United Nations system will be used to strengthen primary health care services and introduce more advanced radio therapy methods, including the programme for cancer control.

51. The Institute of Oncology, one of the central health care institutions, is equipped with only a few machines that do not enable it to treat tumours adequately. With regard to that delicate area of medical research and studies, the Government is considering the possibility of raising the standard of the Institute, in co-operation with WHO, and using the UNDP contribution ($700,000 from the 1987-1991 IPF, including a reserve of $100,000).

52. A number of central health care institutions have close relations with WHO, and collaboration between them has made it possible to secure grants for specialized study as well as various items of medical equipment, thereby expanding the range of diagnostic and therapeutic methods available, even in respect of cases that were previously considered difficult to treat. It is envisaged that such co-operation will continue.

53. The regular IAEA programme already includes a project for the protection of people and the environment against radiation. Under that programme, a radiation protection service is to be set up in Albania to supervise all professionals using X-ray and radioisotope equipment. Dosimetry in radiotherapy, as well as the preparation and use of radio-pharmaceuticals for medical treatment and radio-immunization equipment, might be considered as objectives to be achieved with the assistance of IAEA.

54. Lastly, in the area of primary health care, UNFPA has offered to co-operate, with the participation of WHO, in matters pertaining to mother and child care.

C. Unprogrammed reserve

55. Part of UNDP's contribution ($635,000) is to be set aside as a provision for unplanned projects, including fellowships for the training of senior personnel in various areas of specialization.

Annex

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

I. ACTUAL RESOURCES TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT FOR PROGRAMMING		
A. UNDP-administered resources	Dollars	Dollars
Third cycle IPF balance	1 062 000	
Fourth cycle IPF	5 638 000	
Subtotal IPF		6 700 000
Special Measures Fund for Least Developed Countries		
Special programme resources		
Government cost-sharing		
Third-party cost-sharing		
Operational funds under the authority of the Administrator		
UNDP special trust funds		
Subtotal, UNDP non-IPF funds		
B. Other sources		
Funds from other United Nations agencies or organizations firmly committed as a result of the country programming exercise		
Parallel financing from non-United Nations sources		
Subtotal, other sources		
TOTAL ACTUAL RESOURCES TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT FOR PROGRAMMING		6 700 000
II. USE OF RESOURCES		
Ongoing projects	3 165 000	
New project proposals	2 500 000	
Programmed reserve	400 000	
Subtotal (Programmed resources)		6 065 000
Unprogrammed reserve		635 000
TOTAL RESOURCES (Programme + Reserve)		6 700 000
