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COUNTRY AND INTERCOUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS

THIRD COUNTRY PROGRAMME FOR ALBANIA

Note by the Administrator

I. PROCESS OF THE PROGRAMMING EXERCISE

1. The utilization of fourth cycle IPF resources will be in accord with the 1986-1987 National Development Plan. This Plan was the result of an intensive five-yearly exercise involving all sectors and levels of the national economy. In the course of defining the Plan, the authorities made a comprehensive analysis to determine the external co-operation required to implement it. This thorough planning process has facilitated the formulation of the country programme, while obviating the needs for sectoral studies as part of its preparation.
2. The Science and Technology Committee, attached to the Council of Ministers, is the advisory and co-ordinating body for all scientific and technological matters concerning the preparation and execution of the National Development Plan. Consequently, the Committee is also responsible for the substantive co-ordination of all external co-operation in support of the Plan. Staff from its International Organizations Department participated in the elaboration of the country programme, together with representatives of the Foreign Ministry, which constitutes the formal link with UNDP.
3. UNDP participation in the exercise was of an advisory nature and was utilized extensively by the authorities. The Government and UNDP carried out a joint analysis of the second country programme to gain lessons for the new one. A review of tools used and results achieved, including tripartite reviews, internal and in-depth evaluations, monitoring visits and reports was made at the outset of the programming exercise. Conclusions drawn were reflected in a note from the Resident Representative, the intent of which was to ensure programme quality, while

recognizing that programme substance was to be based on the priorities of the National Development Plan. The Resident Representative's note summarized the continued dialogue between the Government and UNDP. It reflects UNDP concerns to maintain at all times a high degree of relevance to the needs of the country, by proposing approaches and methods best suited to specific local conditions and requirements. In this context, it was also strongly suggested that the country programme be designed in such a way as to constitute a frame of reference for other potential sources of technical co-operation.

4. While well aware of the readiness of the United Nations system to co-operate in the country programming exercise, the co-ordinating authorities considered that the national planning mechanisms fully satisfied the Governing Council's concern with regard to the responsiveness of the programme to the needs of the country itself. Agency participation was therefore not requested in the initial stages of the programming effort but their views were elicited by circulating among them the draft country programme document. The authorities expect that, as in the past, the agencies will have an important role to play in the formulation of project documents and, in some cases, the implementation of preparatory assistance.

## II. THE THIRD COUNTRY PROGRAMME

5. The main Government objective is to boost production and gradually to achieve self-sufficiency in the production of basic items, and to link various sectors of the economy making maximum use of local resources. To assist Government efforts to attain this objective, emphasis was placed in the previous cycle on the provision of scientific and technical training and equipment, which are necessary to respond to the needs of an expanding economy. The results were impressive as the projects had a considerable impact on strengthening the scientific and technological infrastructure of the country. The new programme seeks to consolidate and build upon this successful experience. Additional training and provisions for the use and maintenance of established equipment will provide optimal service to the productive sectors, in addition to teaching and research. The areas chosen are those which will allow a maximum transfer of technologies for the immediate benefit of the productive sectors and which will, over the longer term, allow even further upgrading of the scientific and technological infrastructure in a continuous effort to preserve and strengthen self-reliance through expanded teaching and research. To achieve this central objective, a combination of new projects, with consolidation and expansion phases for ongoing ones, was chosen.

6. For the UNDP contribution to the new country programme, ratios of expenditures similar to those of the third cycle are foreseen, i.e., around 60 per cent for equipment; 20 per cent for training; and the balance for short-term consultancies and sub-contracts. Total anticipated expenditure for the programme, by both the Government and UNDP, is anticipated at \$20 million, UNDP inputs therefore amounting to some 20 per cent of total expenditures, as during the third cycle.

7. Equipment constitutes a crucial element for technical co-operation, complementing the considerable effort of the Government in terms of personnel and infrastructures. The purpose of equipment, combined with training and advice, is

to strengthen teaching and applied research, thus building national capacities and advancing the degree of national self-reliance. None of the proposed equipment constitutes investment for production.

8. The proposed use of resources is considered consistent with the current level of development, and promises a high degree of efficiency in the light of expressed Government priorities. It is understood that during project formulation, adequate justification will be provided for all equipment, in terms of its intended, concrete contribution to the achievement of established objectives, in accordance with Governing Council guidelines.

### III. MANAGEMENT OF THE COUNTRY PROGRAMME

9. For the methodology to be utilized by the Government and UNDP to monitor programme implementation effectively, a minimum of six country visits per year by UNDP programme staff is envisaged, in conjunction with project formulation and/or evaluation missions as well as tripartite reviews. A mid-term programme review in the course of 1989 is also scheduled. In addition, while the co-ordinating authorities are being encouraged to strengthen their substantive involvement in project formulation and monitoring, the executing agencies are also called on to increase the frequency of visits between national project staff and agency backstopping personnel.

### IV. RECOMMENDATION BY THE ADMINISTRATOR

10. The Administrator recommends that the Governing Council approve the country programme for Albania.

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