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PROGRAMME PLANNING

Country programmes

FOURTH COUNTRY PROGRAMME FOR THE LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA

Note by the Administrator

I. PROCESS OF THE PROGRAMMING EXERCISE

1. The country programme exercise was preceded by a joint United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)/Libyan Arab Jamahiriya review of all United Nations programmes in the country carried out in February 1985 in conjunction with the mid-term review of the UNDP third country programme. The meetings were chaired by the Director-General of the Department of United Nations and International Organizations with the participation of all sectoral ministries and UNDP staff. This review has resulted in better understanding between the parties of current programmes and activities and has served as a basis for the preparation of the fourth country programme.
2. The country programme exercise proper started at the end of January 1986 with a general meeting chaired by the Secretariat for Planning and was followed by sectoral discussions during the months of February/March 1986 with the participation of all ministries concerned and UNDP officials. As a result of these consultations, priorities have been established and development objectives have been identified for technical assistance from the United Nations system.
3. Further detailed discussions on individual projects were held between technical secretaries and the UNDP field office, assisted by a staff member from headquarters who visited Libya in November 1986. Furthermore, a three-day review meeting on the United Nations system operational activities in Libya was organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to assess the assistance provided by the United Nations system to the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and to suggest possible improvement of the modalities of co-operation.

4. A one-year extension of the ongoing programme was proposed and approved to enable the field office to complete the preparation of the country programme. Finally, a consultant visited Libya in July 1987 to review and finalize the country programme document.

II. THE FOURTH COUNTRY PROGRAMME

5. In accordance with government strategy to increase domestic production, enhance the productivity of its labour force and improve the qualitative aspects of its managerial and organizational capability, the Government has selected two main themes for the new country programme; the development of human resources and the diversification and improvement of production. The first theme will cover activities in planning, with specific emphasis on project preparation and, in the social sector, on increased participation of women in the reoriented development process. Improvement of productivity of the country's manpower will concentrate on increasing and diversifying agricultural and industrial production. The second theme will also include vocational training, fisheries and ground-water resources.

6. It is also expected that the country programme will contribute to the strengthening of self-reliant capabilities, emphasizing the qualitative rather than the quantitative aspects of investments. In the agricultural and industrial sector, growth is expected from quick-yielding programmes. More efficient management and improved maintenance of capital assets have also become critically important elements of the future development strategy. An increasing number of Libyan nationals have to be trained in technical fields, as well as in managerial aspects to facilitate the substitution of foreigners by Libyans at all levels.

III. MANAGEMENT OF THE COUNTRY PROGRAMME

7. During the previous cycle, there was a marked increase in trust fund arrangements with the specialized agencies, outside the country programme framework. The co-ordinating role of UNDP assumed marginal importance since the indicative planning figure (IPF)/cost-sharing expenditures in 1982-1986 represented a very small percentage of the estimated \$230 million trust-fund expenditure; the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya was thus deprived of UNDP experience in programming and monitoring the United Nations system technical co-operation activities. In order to ensure new optimal utilization of national and external resources, the Government will be providing a larger percentage of programmed resources through cost-sharing arrangements. Taking into account the need for strengthening the co-ordination of technical co-operation activities within the backstopping services to trust fund activities, it is considered desirable to further enhance the collaborative efforts between the Government, the agencies and UNDP.

8. Based on the experiences of the previous country programme, issues related to project design, timely delivery and cost will be given special attention in the present country programming cycle. It has also been recognized by the parties concerned that the full utilization of the IPF resources and the timely payment of cost-sharing contributions are vital to the successful implementation of the programme.

9. Amongst the proposed new modalities for technical assistance are an increased participation of Libyan expertise, the utilization of short-term advisory services, of United Nations volunteers and, in appropriate cases, of the Government execution. The Government has also expressed preference for highly specialized short-term consultants rather than traditional long-term experts.

IV. RECOMMENDATION OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

10. The Administrator recommends that the Governing Council approve the fourth country programme for the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

