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**PARTICIPATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME IN  
THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE SECOND UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON  
THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES**

Report of the Administrator

SUMMARY

The present report is in response to Governing Council decision 88/30 of 1 July 1988, which in paragraph 3 requests the Administrator to submit a report to the Council at its February 1989 session on the proposed participation of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in the preparation for the second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), which is to be hosted by the Government of France in Paris, 3-14 September 1990. There are two aspects of UNDP participation in the preparation of the Conference: (a) the request for UNDP to report to the initial preparatory meeting for the Conference on its past and future role in support of LDCs; and (b) the support to be provided by UNDP to LDCs "to ensure that they are able to participate fully in the preparations, including preparatory meetings, for the 1990 United Nations Conference, and in the Conference itself", as called for in paragraph 1 of Governing Council decision 88/30.

The organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system have been requested in paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 42/177 of 11 December 1987 to submit, before the first preparatory meeting, reports containing a review of the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action (SNPA) for LDCs for the 1980s within their fields of competence and proposals for further action as input to the preparations for the Conference. The Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), in his capacity as Secretary-General of the Conference, has requested United Nations organs, organizations and bodies to submit their contributions to the UNCTAD secretariat by the end of

January 1989. These contributions will be made available to the Meeting of Governmental Experts of Donor Countries and Multilateral and Bilateral Financial and Technical Assistance Institutions with Representatives of LDCs scheduled for May 1989. The present report (particularly chapters I and III) provides an overview of progress made and proposals for the future which is elaborated upon in the Administrator's report to UNCTAD.

Chapter I of this report provides background on the role of UNDP towards LDCs in the 1980s, in the light of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries, adopted by the first United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries in September 1981. Chapter II describes the proposed assistance by UNDP to LDCs to enable them to participate fully in the Conference and its preparations. Chapter III describes possible UNDP initiatives in support of a further SNPA for the LDCs for the 1990s.

I. THE ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME TOWARDS  
THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES IN THE 1980s: BACKGROUND

1. In reporting to the Council on the proposed participation of UNDP in the preparations for the 1990 Conference on the least developed countries, a first element is a review of the implementation of the SNPA in the UNDP fields of competence, to provide an indication of the themes to be highlighted in the Administrator's report for the Conference to be submitted to UNCTAD by the end of January 1989.
2. The strong emphasis of UNDP on support for the implementation of the SNPA is reflected in the third (1982-1986) and fourth (1987-1991) programming cycles. LDCs 1/ have benefited from the allocation formulas for basic indicative planning figure (IPF) resources which have stressed greater support for lower income and smaller countries. This basic resource allocation has been supplemented by additional resources for particular geographic or economic handicaps which particularly hamper the development of LDCs. In addition, an extra allocation, based on the assignment of three "supplementary points" to each LDC, results in a further substantial increase in IPF resources for most LDCs. Beyond the IPF resources, the Special Measures Fund for the Least Developed Countries (SMF/LDC) and the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) have been used virtually exclusively for LDCs. Taking the main programme resources of UNDP (including SMF/LDC) and adding UNCDF, the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO), United Nations Volunteers (UNV), and the Netherlands Trust Fund, one finds that the 41 LDCs accounted for 45 per cent of all disbursements from these sources in 1986 and 43 per cent in 1987. No less than 50 per cent of these resources is budgeted for LDCs in 1988. This represents one of the strongest focuses on LDCs of any of the global bilateral or multilateral donor programmes, and is an especially appropriate use for multilaterally subscribed grant funds for technical co-operation (in the case of IPF resources) and for grant capital assistance funds (in the case of UNCDF).
3. The extra allocation to each LDC of three supplementary points since the second programming cycle (1977-1981) has increased the total IPF allocation to the 41 LDCs by an estimated \$274 million for the fourth programming cycle. This represents a gross increase of about 30 per cent attributable to this explicit allocation mechanism, and a substantial, but somewhat smaller, net increase. 2/
4. Table 1 gives comparative data for the largest bilateral and multilateral donor Official Development Assistance (ODA) programmes, showing the differing degrees of concentration on the LDCs. Table 2 gives similar comparative data for technical co-operation grants. Multilateral programmes are generally more heavily concentrated on LDCs than are bilateral ones; those of Ireland, Italy, Switzerland and all those from the Nordic countries are exceptions.

Table 1. Official Development Assistance in 1986 from bilateral and multilateral donors: a/ net flows to 40 LDCs b/ compared to all developing countries

<u>DAC bilateral donors</u>	<u>Net disbursements of ODA</u> (millions of United States dollars)		<u>LDC percentage share of total ODA</u>	
	<u>To all developing countries c/</u>	<u>To LDCs</u>	<u>By donor</u>	<u>Of total to all LDCs</u>
	Canada	687	217	31.6
France	3 589	615	17.1	7.1
Germany, Federal Republic of	2 229	570	25.6	6.6
Italy	1 332	737	55.3	8.5
Japan	3 614	578	16.0	6.7
Netherlands	1 004	299	29.7	3.5
Norway	391	183	46.8	2.1
Sweden	607	220	36.3	2.5
United Kingdom	815	226	27.7	2.6
United States	6 546	862	13.2	9.9
Others	<u>1 689</u>	<u>463</u>	27.4	<u>5.3</u>
Subtotal	22 503	4 970		57.3
 <u>Multilateral donors</u>				
African Development Bank	269	166	61.6	1.9
Asian Development Fund	410	185	45.0	2.1
EEC	1 433	510	35.6	5.9
IDA	3 326	1 235	37.1	14.2
IFAD	287	101	35.4	1.2
UNDP	617	257	41.6	3.0
United Nations technical assistance	118	42	35.7	0.5
UNICEF	284	106	37.1	1.2
UNHCR	369	160	43.4	1.8
World Food Programme	646	240	37.1	2.8
Others	<u>634</u>	<u>187</u>	29.3	<u>2.2</u>
Subtotal	8 393	3 189		36.7
OPEC, bilateral	<u>1 976</u>	<u>518</u>	26.2	<u>6.0</u>
Total	<u>32 872</u>	<u>8 677</u>	22.1	<u>100.0</u>

a/ Based on OECD/DAC net disbursement data, excluding unallocated flows.

b/ Excluding Burma, which was classified as an LDC by the General Assembly in December 1987.

c/ Excluding unallocated flows.

Table 2. Technical co-operation grants in 1986 from bilateral and multilateral donors: a/ flows to 40 LDCs b/ compared to all developing countries

<u>Bilateral donors</u>	Disbursements of technical co-operation grants (in millions of United States dollars)		LDC percentage share of total technical co-operation grants	
	To all developing countries c/		By donor	Of total to all LDCs
		To LDCs		
France	1 664	234	14.1	11.5
Germany, Federal Republic of	940	240	25.5	11.8
Italy	382	175	45.7	8.6
Japan	609	48	7.9	2.4
Netherlands	296	90	30.5	4.4
Norway	43	18	41.4	0.9
Sweden	88	33	37.2	1.6
United Kingdom	276	102	37.0	5.1
United States	1 237	290	23.4	14.3
Others	464	122	26.3	6.0
Subtotal	5 999	1 352		66.6
<u>Multilateral donors</u>				
UNDP d/	583	226	38.7	11.1
Others	1 049	453	43.2	22.3
Subtotal	1 632	679		33.4
Total	7 631	2 031	26.6	100.0

a/ Based on OECD/DAC data, excluding unallocated flows.

b/ Excluding Burma, which was classified as an LDC by the General Assembly in December 1987.

c/ Excluding unallocated flows.

d/ Includes all UNDP disbursements that are allocated by country, except for UNCDF disbursements, which are classified as capital grants rather than as technical co-operation grants.

5. Based on 1986 data, UNDP provides only 1.9 per cent of total ODA to all developing countries; the UNDP share rises to 3.0 per cent in the case of ODA flows to LDCs. In terms of technical co-operation grants to all developing countries, the UNDP share expands to 7.6 per cent; and in the case of technical co-operation grants to LDCs, the UNDP contribution, at 11.1 per cent, is almost on a par with the three largest bilateral programmes - those of France, Germany and the United States. This major role as a donor of technical assistance to LDCs strongly supports UNDP aid co-ordination efforts for these countries.

6. UNDP has been at the forefront of one of the most important achievements of the SNPA, i.e., the improved co-ordination of aid to the LDCs during the 1980s, including, particularly, the organization of round-table meetings for some 23 of the LDCs and the full participation of UNDP in World Bank-sponsored Consultative Group arrangements involving 10 other LDCs. Indeed, UNDP now has the lead role in co-ordinating technical co-operation at World Bank Consultative Group meetings, as well as at UNDP-sponsored round-table meetings.

7. UNDP has in the past three years established a new, more effective format for the LDC round-table meetings which it sponsors. This new format for individual country round-table meetings involves a cycle of meetings, starting with the round-table conference, properly speaking, usually held in Geneva and limited to the major donors for a particular LDC and to a small delegation of key LDC Government officials. The conference aims at a thorough exchange of views on overall government policies, plans and programmes, donor aid policies, and an assessment of the overall needs for external support. After the round-table conference, a larger meeting, open to all donors, including United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), is sometimes held in the LDC concerned, in order to share with a broader audience the decisions reached in Geneva. Finally, a few sectoral or special-subject meetings are held in the LDC itself among all concerned donors and multilateral agencies along with the LDC Government's own specialists on the particular subject, with the aim of exchanging information on a strategy, establishing priorities, co-ordinating plans and projects, and overcoming bottlenecks. The new format for round-table meetings has now been put in motion in 16 least developed countries.

8. LDCs and the donors have urged UNDP to take a leading role in Consultative Group meetings. A formal agreement was reached with the World Bank in 1988, whereby technical co-operation would be a special item on the agenda of all Consultative Group meetings and UNDP is responsible for assisting the Government of each LDC concerned in preparing its presentation to the Consultative Group on this subject. UNDP has so far assisted in seven Consultative Group meetings for LDCs in 1988 in this respect.

9. The national technical co-operation assessment and programmes (NaTCAP) process, now under way for several African LDCs, and similar overall technical assistance co-ordination efforts at the country level in other regions, should prove to be an effective mechanism to co-ordinate and programme technical assistance. It should also prove to be an important input to the round-table/consultative group co-ordination processes. Finally, UNDP has increased its efforts to assist the LDC Governments in the co-ordination of donor activities in

the field, through the activities of the Resident Representative as well as through the implementation of various projects.

10. During the 1980s, UNCDF, which specializes in small grant capital assistance projects, i.e., those under \$5 million, and which is devoted almost exclusively to LDCs, has grown considerably in size and effectiveness: net disbursements of fund resources grew to \$38.7 million in 1987, and new project commitments approved in 1987 (including co-financing arrangements) came to \$58.5 million.

11. SMF/LDC has been given a new, sharper focus, based on proposals by the Administrator which were endorsed by the Governing Council in its thirty-second session (1985). The Governing Council accepted two main priority areas for the SMF/LDC. The first is the strengthening of national capacity to: (a) conduct macro-economic structural and policy analyses for policy reform, planning, programming and management; (b) conduct technical co-operation needs assessments; (c) formulate human resources development strategies and plans; and (d) conduct action-oriented feasibility and viability studies to substantiate national development programmes and projects. The second priority area is the strengthening of non-governmental economic activity in LDCs such as grass-roots programmes, income-generating activities in the rural sector, the strengthening of extension and support services, and implementation of structural adjustment with a direct effect on the productive capacity of the poorer segments of the population. Amounts allocated to SMF/LDC since June 1986 under this new focus for its activities totaled \$40.8 million as of the end of 1988.

## II. ASSISTANCE BY THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME TO THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES IN THEIR PREPARATION FOR THE 1990 UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

12. In its resolution 40/205 of 17 December 1985, the General Assembly decided to carry out a global review and appraisal of the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action (SNPA) for the 1980s for the LDCs at a high level in 1990. In its resolution 42/177 of 11 December 1987, in furtherance of this decision, the General Assembly decided to convene the Second United Nations Conference on the least developed countries at a high level in 1990 to review progress at the country level thus far in the decade; to review progress in international support measures and particularly in official development assistance; and to consider, formulate and adopt appropriate national and international policies and measures for accelerating the development process in LDCs during the 1990s in accordance with their long-term national social and economic objectives. The General Assembly accepted the generous offer by the Government of France to host the Conference. It also decided to designate UNCTAD as the focal point for the preparations for the Conference, and requested the Secretary-General to designate the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to serve as Secretary-General of the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and, in that capacity, to make all necessary arrangements for the holding of the Conference. Paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 42/177 also requests "all concerned organs, organizations and bodies" of the United Nations system to submit reports reviewing the implementation of the SNPA and proposals for further action; paragraph 5 calls for the "full mobilization and

co-ordination" of the United Nations system in the preparations for the Conference. Preparations for the Conference will also include studies and documents to be carried out using the staff resources of UNCTAD. However, in addition to all of these inputs, extrabudgetary resources will be required as was stressed in paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 42/177, and in decision 88/30 of 1 July 1988 of the Governing Council.

13. Governing Council decision 88/30 requests the Administrator, in close consultation with the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, "to assist the least developed countries to ensure that they are able to participate fully in the preparations, including preparatory meetings for the 1990 United Nations Conference, and in the Conference itself" and to provide such assistance from SMF/LDC. In response to this decision of the Governing Council, UNCTAD and UNDP have reviewed the preparatory activities for the Conference mandated in General Assembly resolution 42/177. The resolution calls for two preparatory meetings, one for one and a half weeks in the spring of 1989 and one for two weeks early in 1990 and sets out their terms of reference; it also requests the Secretary-General to "obtain, as has been the past practice, extrabudgetary resources to ensure the effective participation of the representatives of the least developed countries through provision of the resources necessary to finance the travel expenses of at least two representatives from each least developed country" to attend the two formal preparatory meetings referred to above. Moreover, as was the case at the first LDC Conference in 1981, resources will be needed to cover the costs of at least three representatives from each LDC to ensure full and effective participation of these countries at the second Conference in September 1990. In addition, resources have already been obtained by UNCTAD, or are being sought, for specialized studies and meetings of importance for the preparation of the Conference, e.g., disaster preparedness, NGOs, women in development, entrepreneurship, and trade and co-operation with socialist countries; two specialized meetings in preparation for the Conference already took place in 1988 - the Meeting of Eminent Persons financed by the Government of the Netherlands, and an international round-table meeting on the socio-economic development of LDCs financed by the Government of Greece. Finally, but of prime importance, extrabudgetary resources are very much needed to complement resources available to UNCTAD to assist LDCs in the preparation of their individual country presentations to the Conference and to its preparatory committee, assessing progress, constraints and policies, and support required to complement national efforts in the 1990s.

14. As a result of the consultations between UNDP and UNCTAD, and in view of General Assembly resolution 42/177 and Governing Council decision 88/30 and after consultations with major bilateral donors, the Administrator has decided to make extrabudgetary resources available to UNCTAD from SMF/LDC funds in order to (a) support the efforts of LDCs with UNCTAD help in preparing their individual country presentations to the Conference; (b) provide travel and per diem costs for two representatives from each LDC to attend the two formal preparatory meetings mandated in General Assembly resolution 42/177; and (c) to provide travel costs for two representatives from each LDC to the Conference itself. The preparatory activities envisaged for the Conference requiring extrabudgetary support are described in detail below, with an indication of those parts which will be covered by a UNDP-assisted project financed from SMF/LDC and to be executed by UNCTAD as



the lead agency for the second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries. The activities proposed under this project are elaborated in sections A and B below (with an indication of parts of these activities to be funded from non-UNDP sources); section C describes other preparatory meetings, some of which have already been financed by other donors; section D indicates other specialized studies and activities in preparation for the Conference; and section E gives an indication of regional activities in preparation for the Conference.

A. Advisory assistance for the preparation  
of country economic memoranda

15. Each LDC will be required to submit a country presentation to the UNCTAD Intergovernmental Group on least developed countries (acting as the preparatory committee for the Conference) and to the Conference itself. The country presentation, which should be no longer than 20 pages will include the following elements:

(a) An assessment of the socio-economic progress of the LDC concerned in the light of national policy reforms introduced and international support measures provided since 1981;

(b) Constraints on growth over the medium term including, inter alia, problems of access to external resources and markets, technical know-how, strengthening domestic resource mobilization, increasing supplies of services and inputs such as food, housing, energy and capital goods;

(c) National policy measures contemplated by the Government to overcome the above constraints so as to accelerate growth in the 1990s;

(d) International support measures needed to complement national efforts in the 1990s.

16. A checklist of the elements of these country presentations is shown in annex I. In round-table countries, the documents and experience of the meetings will provide a firm basis for preparing these presentations.

17. To assist individual LDC Governments in the preparation of this presentation and to assure their uniformity, UNCTAD is expected to provide about 24 man-months of specialists from the resources available to its Special Programme for Least Developed, Land-Locked and Island Developing Countries. However, these resources will not be adequate and will need to be supplemented. UNDP will therefore provide financing to cover an additional 24 man-months of short-term consultancy, plus travel costs for consultants and UNCTAD headquarters specialists.

B. Participation of 42 least developed countries in the  
two major preparatory meetings of the Conference and  
in the Conference itself

18. The meetings concerned are described below.

1. Meeting of governmental experts of donor countries and multilateral and bilateral financial and technical assistance institutions with representatives of the least developed countries

19. This meeting is scheduled to be convened from 22 to 31 May 1989 in Geneva. The terms of reference, as set out in General Assembly resolution 42/177, are as follows:

- (i) Assessment of progress in the socio-economic situation of LDCs during the 1980s in the light of ongoing national and international measures;
- (ii) Consideration of LDC requirements of particular relevance to their development and which call for strengthened efforts during the 1990s;
- (iii) Consideration and identification of appropriate national and international measures for accelerating the development process in LDCs during the 1990s.

UNDP will finance the participation of two representatives each from 42 LDCs for a period of 10 days, including per diem and travel. In addition, there is the possibility that a meeting of experts will be convened to follow up on specific issues raised at this donor/recipient meeting. This would require further elaboration before the issues are presentation to the UNCTAD Intergovernmental Group on least developed countries in March 1990, with financing to be provided by UNDP to cover the costs of travel and per diem of approximately 15 participants, other than representatives of donor Governments.

2. Intergovernmental Group on the Least Developed Countries: Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

20. This group will be convened from 26 March to 6 April 1990 in Geneva to consider the following matters as set out in General Assembly resolution 42/177:

- (a) Substantive preparation for the Conference on the basis of the report of the meeting of governmental experts of donor countries and multilateral and bilateral financial and technical assistance institutions with representatives of LDCs, and of all other relevant inputs;
- (b) Provisional agenda for the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries;
- (c) Provisional rules of procedure of the Conference;
- (d) Organization of the work of the Conference.

Financing is to be provided by UNDP for the participation of two representatives each from 42 LDCs, including travel costs and per diem.

### 3. Participation of least developed countries in the 1990 Conference

21. Finance for the cost of travel of three representatives from each LDC is being sought from extrabudgetary sources, in keeping with the type of travel support provided to LDCs for the first Conference. UNDP will finance the cost of travel of two out of the three representatives being sought for each of the 42 least developed countries. Additional funding will therefore need to be provided from other sources for the travel of one additional representative from each LDC and for per diem for all three representatives from each LDC.

#### C. Participation in other preparatory meetings

22. In addition to the two major preparatory meetings and the Conference itself, described in section B above, UNCTAD has scheduled other expert meetings in preparation for the Conference (two of which were held in 1988), all of which will involve participants from LDCs. Travel and per diem for these expert meetings has been provided by bilateral donors in several cases and remains to be funded in other cases.

##### 1. Meetings funded by bilateral donors

23. An international round-table meeting on the socio-economic development of LDCs was held in Athens on 18-19 April 1988. It was hosted by the Greek National Organizing Campaign within the framework of the European Public Campaign on North-South Interdependence and Solidarity.

24. As part of the preparations for the Conference, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, in close collaboration with the Government of the Netherlands convened a Meeting of Eminent Persons in The Hague on 15 and 16 September 1988. This meeting, bringing together 24 high-level experts on development problems invited in their personal capacity, provided an opportunity for the elaboration of innovative ideas and proposals as inputs to the preparatory process. The meeting focused on the identification of constraints and bottlenecks which have hindered LDC development efforts during the 1990s, and on national and international measures required to accelerate the LDC development process in the 1990s, including areas and problems which call for strengthened national and international efforts during the 1990s.

25. The important role of entrepreneurship in accelerating development has been recognized in the Final Act of UNCTAD VII, which called on LDCs, inter alia, to "develop institutional arrangements to improve the efficiency of the public sector and encourage indigenous entrepreneurship". Consequently, a high-level experts meeting on the enterprise sector in the development of LDCs is being organized by UNCTAD through a special contribution made by the Government of Finland. It is to take place in April 1989 and will focus on ways and means of developing indigenous enterprises, including those in the rural sector, and on the participation of women in enterprises.

26. A high-level experts' meeting focusing on trade and technical and economic co-operation between LDCs and the socialist countries of Eastern Europe is proposed to be held in Moscow in the latter half of 1989 in close collaboration with the USSR Government.

## 2. Further meetings

27. UNCTAD is planning to organize three additional meetings in preparation for the Conference, in the subject areas of NGOs, women in development, and disaster preparedness, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary support (which will be used mainly for the travel and per diem of the expert participants.

28. Meeting of NGOs to assess their potential contribution to LDCs during the 1990s. The LDC Governments and donors were called upon in the Final Act of UNCTAD VII to encourage active participation of the local population through non-governmental entities. The NGOs of the donor countries were invited to reinforce their role in consciousness-raising in their countries of origin and in mobilizing increased private and public resources for the benefit of LDCs. There are problems of co-ordinating the resource flows to ensure that there is full information about them and that they support agreed priorities. As part of the preparations for the 1990 Conference, the UNCTAD secretariat in close collaboration with an NGO or group of NGOs, is planning to convene a three-day meeting during the first half of 1989, on the role of NGOs in the development of LDCs. This meeting will be organized by UNCTAD subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

29. Study of ways and means of integrating women into development. UNCTAD is commissioning a study on ways and means of strengthening the role of women in the development of LDCs and will organize a meeting of high-level experts from LDC and non-LDC countries and institutions in 1989 in order to assess the contribution of women in the development of LDCs and to recommend measures to enhance their role. This meeting will also be organized by UNCTAD subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

30. Disaster preparedness for LDCs. In collaboration with UNDRO and other relevant United Nations agencies, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development will be undertaking a study on natural disasters, focusing on those with the most devastating effects. The study will examine the measures taken by LDCs to cope with such emergencies and make recommendations on how LDCs could improve their disaster management capacity and what additional international support measures need to be rendered. The study will serve as the substantive document for a meeting of approximately 15 high-level experts which will be convened towards the end of 1989 to discuss the administrative and physical infrastructures for disaster preparedness in LDCs and to identify areas for possible improvement. The recommendations and conclusions emanating from this meeting will be presented to the preparatory committee for the LDC Conference in March 1990. This meeting, too, will be organized by UNCTAD subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

31. Other specialized studies and activities. In addition to the substantive preparation by UNCTAD of documents for the two major preparatory meetings for the Conference itself, and for many of the other meetings described above, other specialized consultant studies are being formulated for the Conference and will be funded from UNCTAD resources or from bilateral donors. For example, UNCTAD expects to carry out, as part of its global review for the Conference, an in-depth study of the operation of existing co-ordination arrangements for LDCs - both Consultative Groups and round-table meetings - to be carried out by high-level experts. Such useful evaluation already has full UNDP support. Furthermore, the secretariat for the Conference is planning to launch a public information effort to strengthen public awareness of the Conference and its objectives. Such activities will depend on the availability of extrabudgetary support.

32. Preparations at the regional level. Preparations for the Conference have also been initiated at the regional level. The Conference of Ministers of African LDCs, at their eighth meeting, held in Niamey on 13 and 14 April 1988, decided to devote their ninth meeting, to be held in 1989 to the preparations for the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries. Subsequently, in its resolution 643 (XXIII) 15 April 1988 on the preparation for the Second United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries, the Economic Commission for Africa called upon all African LDCs to undertake an evaluation of the progress made in the implementation of the SNPA and to participate actively in the preparatory meetings for the Conference. The Conference of Ministers requested African and international organizations, especially ECA, UNCTAD and the Organization of African Unity (OAU) to provide all necessary technical assistance to the African LDCs in the evaluation of progress made in the implementation of the SNPA and in the formulation of the new strategy to be presented to the Conference. Donor countries and international financial institutions were urged to accord high priority to the preparatory meetings and to participate in them at high level.

33. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), in its resolution 272 (XLIV) of 20 April 1988 on the United Nations Conference on the least developed countries, inter alia, called upon all members and associate members of the Asia and Pacific region to participate actively in the preparatory process to ensure the success of the Conference. All Governments, intergovernmental and multilateral development institutions and others concerned were called upon to co-ordinate closely with UNCTAD in making adequate preparations for the Conference, and to participate effectively in the preparatory process. In accordance with this resolution, an in-depth review of the causes and consequences of the slow economic growth in LDCs of the ESCAP region during the 1980s will be prepared for consideration by an expert group meeting to be convened in October 1989. This meeting is to be followed by an intergovernmental meeting in February 1990 to consider and to work out recommendations and proposals for national and international action to accelerate the development process of those countries in the 1990s.

### III. POSSIBLE UNDP INITIATIVES FOR AN SNPA FOR THE LDCs FOR THE 1990s

34. A further element of UNDP participation in the preparation for the Conference concerns reporting to the initial preparatory meeting on the future role of UNDP with regard to LDCs and on possible policy initiatives to improve LDC economic and social performance during the 1990s. Suggested initiatives to be considered include the following:

(a) Possible increase in IPF resource allocation to LDCs for the fifth programming cycle by 10 or 15 per cent in real terms;

(b) Strengthened role for UNCDF by a concerted effort to achieve a substantial increase in annual contributions, recognizing the special importance of small grant capital assistance projects for LDCs;

(c) New identity and focus for SMF/LDC, in line with the wishes expressed by major donors, and in light of the new UNDP Management Development Programme initiative;

(d) Improvements in the aid co-ordination process, in particular through more frequent round-table meetings for LDCs (every two years on average), a stronger emphasis on the role of these donor/LDC consultations within the framework of the new SNPA resolution itself, and full recognition that effective round-table meetings or Consultative Group meetings offer the best hope over the long term for improving country performance and expanding donor support for each LDC, in the light of its own special circumstances;

(e) Reinforcement of UNDP priorities in LDCs for projects aimed at building up and strengthening the capacity of the institutions responsible for economic management and aid co-ordination.

#### Notes

1/ As of December 1987, the General Assembly added Burma to the list of the least developed countries, bringing that list to a total of 41 countries. Based on a recommendation by the Economic and Social Council, the General Assembly is expected to add Mozambique to the list in December 1988, for a new total of 42 countries. For its part, UNDP has treated a few other countries, in allocating UNDP resources, "as if" they were least developed, these include Angola, Senegal, and Nicaragua.

2/ If the three supplementary points were not allocated to LDCs, the IPF allocation would then be reduced by \$274 million, but that sum would then be reallocated among all countries based on the remaining criteria for supplementary shares, and a part of this sum would thus be reallocated to LDCs.

Annex

CHECKLIST OF SUBJECTS THAT MAY BE INCLUDED IN COUNTRY PRESENTATIONS  
FOR THE PREPARATORY MEETINGS OF THE SECOND UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE  
ON THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES a/

- I. Assessment of progress in the country's socio-economic situation during the 1980s in the light of ongoing national and international measures, main challenges ahead and requirements for the 1990s
  - A. Overall economic growth
  - B. Sectoral development
    1. Food, agriculture, forestry and fishing
    2. Mining, if applicable
    3. Manufacturing
    4. Service industries (including transport, communications, tourism and domestic trade)
    5. Human resource development (including specific references to women, health, education, technology and entrepreneurship)
    6. Environment and disasters
  - C. Trade and payments
  - D. Domestic financial resource mobilization
- II. Macro-economic policies and reforms (including structural adjustment programmes) during the 1980s
  - A. Fiscal policy
  - B. Monetary policy
  - C. Investment and savings policies
  - D. Trade and payment policies
  - E. Institutional measures taken to enhance the efficient use of aid
  - F. Measures to improve the efficiency of public enterprises
  - G. Measures to strengthen non-governmental development organizations, e.g., institutional arrangements for co-ordination of their activities and dovetailing of these activities with national planning priorities

- III. Review of international support measures during the 1980s: adequacy, problems encountered, and problems outstanding
- A. Volume of ODA and other external assistance flows, including external financial support received for adjustment measures and for specific stabilization and structural adjustment programmes, if appropriate
  - B. Forms and terms of aid and other aid modalities, in particular programme aid, sectoral aid, and local and recurrent cost financing
  - C. Aid procedures
  - D. Aid co-ordination, including the role of country review meetings in facilitating an increased flow and a more efficient utilization of assistance and in promoting donor-recipient dialogue with respect to development priorities
  - E. Debt relief
  - F. Compensation for export shortfalls
  - G. Access to markets
- IV. National and international measures required in the 1990s
- A. National policies and measures envisaged to accelerate the development process during the 1990s, with particular reference to areas where special efforts are required
  - B. International policies and measures needed to support the national ones during the 1990s, with particular reference to those which call for strengthened efforts

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a/ This checklist was circulated to each LDC by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD in a note verbale dated 28 July 1988.