



GOVERNING COUNCIL  
Twenty-eighth session  
June 1981  
Agenda item 4

PROGRAMME OF IMPLEMENTATION

Action taken in response to decisions adopted by the Governing Council  
at its twenty-seventh session

Report of the Administrator

Summary

This report covers three decisions adopted at the twenty-seventh session of the Governing Council:

- (a) Development co-operation procedures (80/26);
- (b) Role of qualified national personnel in the social and economic development of the developing countries (80/8); and
- (c) Restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system(80/28)

Although the report is essentially for the information of the Governing Council, Section III, which respond to General Assembly resolution 35/80 on the role of qualified national personnel in the social and economic development of the developing countries does require a decision by the Governing Council concerning the course of action proposed by UNDP (paragraphs 11 and 12), and the administrative and financial resources required to carry it out. The Administrator is asking the Governing Council to approve the allocation of \$80,000 during 1981-1982 for this purpose.

### Introduction

1. In approving the provisional agenda for the twenty-eighth session (decision 80/55), the Governing Council provided for the consideration under item 4 of a progress report on action taken in response to the decisions adopted by the Council at its twenty-seventh session. This report deals with three decisions which are not covered separately in other reports:

(a) Development co-operation procedures (80/26);

(b) Role of qualified national personnel in the social and economic development of the developing countries (80/8); and

(c) Restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system(80/28).

A. Development co-operation procedures (80/26)

2. Decision 80/26 requested the Administrator:

(a) To include the findings of his report on more uniform or standard procedures to facilitate the administration of development co-operation (DP/468) as part of UNDP's recommendations to the United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries to be convened in September 1981; and

(b) To pursue follow-up action through the appropriate machinery of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) as necessary.

3. The Administrator's report cited above concluded, based on a survey of UNDP field offices, that the problem of varied procedures is most severe among low-income and least developed countries. It is appropriate, therefore, that in compliance with decision 80/26 UNDP's report to the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries will contain recommendations designed to contribute to the harmonization of aid procedures. In particular, the report, which is available to the Governing Council as an information document highlights such elements as UNDP's multi-year IPF framework, the country programming process, efforts to achieve co-ordination of the United Nations system's operational activities as a result of the restructuring decisions, as well as experience with specific policies and procedures for LDCs which might be utilized by other donor organizations. In its contribution to the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, and following a review of the issues related to more uniform procedures as a means of easing administrative burdens and improving development co-operation resource flows, UNDP reported that: "to assist in resolving implementation problems at the operational level which are of concern to developing countries, and to the extent recipient Governments are prepared to finance such programmes from their indicative Planning Figures (IPFs), UNDP is prepared to give special consideration to efforts designed to improve and strengthen the national administrative, financial and technical skills and capacities required to manage external development assistance."

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4. In this connexion, many LDCs face severe shortages of adequately trained personnel throughout their Government's machinery for development planning and management purposes. Accordingly, UNDP has made a special effort to assist the Governments concerned to enhance their planning capabilities and thus to increase the possibilities of their submitting bankable projects to external donors.

5. Concerning follow-up action through the appropriate ACC machinery, the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session adopted resolution 35/81 Comprehensive policy review of operation activities for development, which, inter alia, invited United Nations organizations "... to achieve maximum uniformity and harmonization of administrative, financial, budgetary, personnel and planning procedures and to improve the project procedures in the execution of operational activities for development of the United Nations system." The Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation will be reporting to the General Assembly this year on progress in enhancing over-all efficiency in operational activities for development. In this regard, members of the ACC will be requested to furnish information on action taken in response to resolution 35/81. The UNDP contribution to the Director-General's report will discuss the implications of the survey which was undertaken as part of the search for more effective ways of improving development co-operation at the operational level, and will include supplementary material as a draft compendium on aid procedures recently furnished by the OECD. A synthesis of replies will be prepared by the substantive secretariat of Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions/Operations on behalf of the Director-General, and will be reviewed during the first regular session of CCSQ(OPS) in June 1981.

6. Since the Administrator believes that UNDP as a major funding organization for technical co-operation in the United Nations system, has a particular responsibility, to assist in resolving implementation problems at the operational level, the UNDP input to the Director-General's report will also elaborate upon the on-going exercise, which is being undertaken in collaboration with interested Agencies, to improve project design and implementation through the streamlining of project document, (DP/558). UNDP assigns high priority to this effort which is fully supported by Agencies. Simultaneously, UNDP has been examining the extent to which the proposed simplified formats for IPF-financed projects and the formats for projects financed by other funds administered by UNDP can be standardized, along with other procedures related to the project cycle. While the various funds, because of their specific mandates and legal status, have certain special requirements, the objective is to standardize to the greatest extent possible the project documentation used within UNDP, including that of the special purpose funds. For this reason, UNDP has set a goal for 1981 to further standardize and streamline procedures.

B. Role of qualified national personnel in the social and economic development of the developing countries (80/8)

7. The issues discussed in this section were first addressed in General Assembly resolution 33/135. The Governing Council at its twenty-seventh and twenty-eighth sessions reviewed two reports (DP/409 and DP/443) which were subsequently transmitted to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council. These

reports had been prepared by UNDP acting as lead organization within the United Nations system. Since the reports covered all major development sectors and contained extensive recommendations addressed to Governments as well as to Agencies, they had been prepared in close collaboration with the competent United Nations system organizations.

8. At its thirty-fifth session, the General Assembly commended the main report (DP/443) and its recommendations to the attention of the developing countries and invited the competent organizations of the United Nations system to give due attention to the relevant recommendations "... with a view to contributing, within their established procedures and possibilities, to the implementations of the recommendations."<sup>1/</sup> In addition to invitations addressed to developed and developing countries to increase and improve policies and programmes for training qualified national personnel, the resolution in paragraph 6, invites, recipient Governments and the Governing Council of UNDP" to take into account the urgent need for qualified national personnel while identifying intercountry projects in the third programming cycle, 1982-1986."

9. Furthermore, the same resolution, in paragraph 7, requests the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation " ...to make the necessary arrangements, within existing possibilities, for a periodic dissemination of information on the national experience of countries with different socio-economic systems in training qualified national personnel and enhancing their role in national social and economic development." Subsequently, the Director-General requested UNDP to act again as the lead agency for the necessary follow-up work envisaged by the resolution as well as to prepare a report to be submitted to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session through the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1982. UNDP expects to carry out this work in close consultation with the concerned organizations of the United Nations system.

10. This further request by the Director-General raises administrative and financial implications which had been anticipated by the Secretary-General. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedures of the General Assembly, the Second Committee was informed that UNDP would be asked to act as the lead agency and that UNDP had indicated that it would inform the Governing Council at its twenty-eighth session of the possible resource requirements that could arise from the relevant arrangements envisaged.<sup>2/</sup>

11. Consequently, the Administrator wishes to inform the Governing Council that in order to implement the relevant provisions of resolution 35/80 the following action would be required:

(a) An inventory should be prepared of information which is currently being collected by the United Nations system and which deals with the training and utilization of qualified national personnel, including annual reports, periodicals and newsletters;

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<sup>1/</sup> Resolution 35/80, paragraph 3.

<sup>2/</sup> See A/C.2/35/L.32.

(b) On the basis of this inventory, a determination should be made as to how current information systems could be improved and co-ordinated in order to ensure the periodic dissemination of information through an appropriate mechanism.

(c) These steps would be undertaken in closest collaboration with the organizations of the United Nations system, individually as well as collectively through the appropriate machinery of the ACC. Relevant consultations would also be carried out with interested Governments. Following this work in 1981 and early 1982, a report would be prepared for submission to the Governing Council at its twenty-ninth session in 1982 for subsequent transmission to the General Assembly through ECOSOC. This report should also contain indications on future requirements for further implementation of the General Assembly resolutions in this area.

12. In order to carry out this work, UNDP estimates that in addition to using existing resources it will be necessary to contract for 12 to 15 man-months of consultancy services and to provide adequate administrative support, including travel costs and production of documentation. It is estimated that it will cost \$80,000 to undertake this task. The Governing Council is invited to approve the allocation of this amount in order to ensure the implementation of resolution 35/80.

C. Restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations System (80/28)

13. The Council, in decision 80/28, requested that it be kept informed of subsequent action to implement the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions. The Governing Council has been informed with respect to the implementation of resolution 32/197 on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system at each successive session since adoption of the resolution<sup>3/</sup>. (Last year, the Administrator presented an oral report.)

14. Several documents being submitted to the current session of the Governing Council provide additional information and contain new proposals for ensuring further implementation of the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions concerning the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system including those provisions in resolution 32/197, 34/213 on the operational activities of the United Nations system, and 34/206 on regional co-operation. For instance progress reports as well as relevant recommendations are included in the documentation submitted under agenda items 4 and 5. In particular, the Administrator's annual report for 1980 and the report on programme planning at the country and intercountry levels, the latter report responding to decisions 80/7 and 80/9 of the Council's twenty-seventh session provide the Governing Council with information in this regard.

15. In connection with intercountry programming, the General Assembly in its decision 35/440 took note of the report of the Secretary-General on implications of General Assembly resolutions 32/197 and 33/202 for the regional commissions<sup>4/</sup>. The report contained, inter alia, the Administrator's proposals on the collective

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<sup>3/</sup> See DP/408.

<sup>4/</sup> A/35/546.

involvement of the developing countries in the setting of priorities for regional programmes during the third programming cycle, as endorsed by the Governing Council in its decision 80/9 and by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1980/65. The General Assembly by its decision also invited the regional commissions to consider further at their 1981 plenary sessions, the implications for their role and functions under earlier resolutions on restructuring, in the light of the report of the Secretary-General.

16. In resolution 35/83 on UNDP, the General Assembly noted with appreciation the measures taken by the Governing Council and the Administrator to improve the quality and efficiency of programme operations and to enhance proper harmonization and complementarity in the technical co-operation activities of the organizations of the United Nations system. In the same resolution, the General Assembly noted with approval Governing Council decision 80/44 concerning agency support costs and the recommendation that the Executing Agencies of the Programme should review their operational support systems, working methods, arrangements and staffing with a view to bringing about significant reductions in over-all support costs. This latter action responds to resolution 32/197, paragraph 28(d).

17. Last year, the Administrator informed the Governing Council of General Assembly resolution 34/213 on the functions and designation of Resident Co-ordinators. This resolution also requested the Secretary-General to proceed with the designation of Resident Co-ordinators, with the consent of the Governments concerned, taking fully into account the provisions of paragraphs 3 - 7 of the resolution and in accordance with article 101, paragraph 3 of the Charter of the United Nations. In accordance with the provisions of this resolution and with procedures agreed to by all concerned, a number of designations of Resident Co-ordinators have been made over the last few months. This represents an important step in the implementation of the new system of field representatives for operational activities of the United Nations system as a whole.

18. As concerns further steps taken by the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session, it is relevant to report the adoption of resolution 35/203 by which the responsibilities of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation were reaffirmed. Under the direction of the Secretary-General, he will be responsible for establishing policy related guidelines for all activities undertaken by the United Nations' services and organizations in the economic and social fields, in order to ensure their coherence, co-ordination and efficient management.

D. Recommendation

19. In the light of the foregoing, the Administrator recommends that:

The Governing Council,

a) Takes note of the Administrator's progress report on implementation of Governing Council decisions 80/26, 80/8 and 80/28 adopted at the twenty-seventh session and of the progress achieved in the implementation of General Assembly resolution relating to the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system;

- b) Requests the Administrator to pursue, through the appropriate machinery, consultations on more uniform procedures to facilitate the administration of development co-operation, with special emphasis on the least developed countries;
- c) Authorizes the Administrator to implement the proposal contained in paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 35/80 on the role of qualified national personnel in the social and economic development of the developing countries, and to disseminate information on the national experience of countries in training qualified national personnel and to enhance their role in national social and economic development as contained in paragraph 11 above, and to this end to utilize Programme resources in the amount of \$80,000; and
- d) Requests the Administrator to submit the report called for in paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 35/80 through the Governing Council at its twenty-ninth session.

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