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PROGRAMME PLANNING AND PREPARATION FOR THE
THIRD PROGRAMMING CYCLE, 1982-1986

Extension of Country Programmes

Note by the Administrator

1. In section III of the Administrator's report on the implementation of revised country programming policies and procedures for the third programming cycle (DP/518) which discusses the time frame of country programmes, the opinion is expressed that greater flexibility should be allowed in the timing of individual country programmes in order to meet different requirements of individual Governments. More recently, proposals have reached the Administrator from Governments which would allow the extension of their country programmes beyond the approved duration. The reason for these requests was the wish of the Governments concerned to synchronize country programmes with their national plans or to hold over the formulation of a new country programme until a new national plan with changed objectives and priorities had been adopted.
2. Present legislation on country programming, including the Consensus, does not provide for the extension of country programmes. While the Administrator is of the opinion that programme extensions should be allowed in order to resolve genuine problems that arise from time to time, he considers it important that an understanding be reached on the conditions to be met for their approval. The criteria governing programme extensions should be carefully considered to avoid excessive and unnecessary use of the facility which would jeopardize the basic concept of country programming.
3. For this reason, the Administrator proposes for the Council's consideration the following criteria and procedures for the extension of country programmes:
 - a) If delays are encountered in the submission of a new country programme due to (i) the pending establishment of national development objectives and priorities in which the new programme will be based; (ii) organizational or other changes within Government; (iii) emergencies affecting the day to day operations of Government; and/or (iv) other important reasons not foreseen by the Government when the current

country programme was prepared, the current programme may be extended beyond its scheduled duration, provided its objectives as approved by the Governing Council remain the same;

(b) Extensions of country programmes up to one year may be approved by the Administrator, who will inform the Governing Council of such approval;

(c) Proposals for a predictable extension of a country programme by a period of more than one year, but not exceeding two years, will be approved by the Governing Council on the basis of a country programme extension proposal to be prepared by the Government and submitted by the Administrator together with his recommendation to the Governing Council for its consideration and approval;

(d) If the time to be covered by the additional programme is predictable but exceeds two years a new country programme document should be prepared and submitted for the Council's approval;

(e) If the duration of the extension cannot be determined because of circumstances beyond the control of the Government concerned, such as natural or man-made disasters, the Governing Council will authorize the Administrator upon his request to approve assistance to projects requested by the Government on a case-by-case basis until a new country programme can be submitted, or for a limited duration to be indicated by the Council.

4. The Administrator recommends that if the Council agrees with his proposals, its decision be included in those taken on the proposals contained in document DP/518.

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Table showing expected scheduling of
country programme preparation and approval

Category	Envisaged time lag between end previous programme and beginning new one	Approval delay	Number of programmes
1. Country programmes ending December 1980 for which new programmes are to be approved in June 1982	1 year	6 months	2(+2 tentative)
2. Country programmes ending December 1981 for which new programmes starting in January 1982 are to be approved in June 1982	0	6 months	38(+28 tentative)
3. Country programmes ending December 1981 for which new programmes are to be approved in June 1983	1 year	6 months	7
4. Country programmes ending December 1982 for which new programmes are to be approved in June 1983	0	6 months	6
5. Countries, which for various reasons have failed to submit a new country programme on time	over 2 years	over 2 years	13