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UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

Report of the AdministratorCorrigendumPage 12Paragraph 24 should read

24. Since 1972, UNDP has assisted Governments in the preparation and organization of "round table conferences" with their development partners with a view to obtaining increased international support for the development of LDCs concerned on the basis of a clearer understanding of their problems. UNDP has been actively associated with the preparation of the country papers for discussion at these conferences, has participated in the conferences and offered advice to LDC Governments concerning follow-up. Such over-all donor conferences have been held in Lesotho in 1972, 1975, 1977 and 1979, in Rwanda in 1972 and 1977, in Burundi in 1978 and in Central African Republic and Djibouti in 1980. In addition, two sectoral conferences concerning the development of agriculture were held for Burundi in 1979 and for Lesotho in 1980. These donor conferences were convened and chaired by each LDC Government and were able to bring together a large group of donor Governments and agencies to discuss frankly the major development constraints and to agree on action to assist these countries more effectively. Similar conferences are planned for Benin, Cape Verde, Comoros, Guinea, and Mali, as well as for Equatorial Guinea, Sao Tome and Principe; the latter two countries are treated "as if" they were LDCs. It is apparent that the concept of donor conferences as a means of improving co-ordination of external assistance has some appeal to Governments. It has provided better co-ordination of donors' programmes with government plans, and through United Nations system assistance, it has been possible to strengthen the Governments' planning capacity for presentation of projects to donors. UNDP has also organized effective donor meetings in co-operation with UNEP around the theme of desertification. Furthermore, UNDP has organized a multidonor approach to the financing of river basin programmes in Africa, many of which involved several LDCs. This experience of organizing donor meetings for LDCs will continue to be at the disposal of LDCs and the donor community in the coming years.