

Distr.
GENERAL

TD/B/LDC/GR/Misc.1/Add.3
26 May 1995

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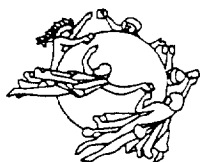
High-level Intergovernmental Meeting
on the Mid-Term Global Review of the
Implementation of the Programme of Action
for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s
New York, 26 September 1995

CONTRIBUTIONS BY ORGANIZATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

Contribution by the Universal Postal Union */

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Programme of action for the least developed countries (LDCs)

I. Introduction

1 The UPU Congress, held in Seoul in August–September 1994, took note of the activities undertaken by the UPU on behalf of the LDCs during the period 1990–1994 (see **tables 1–3** in annex 1 to this memorandum) and adopted resolution C 64 (annex 2).

2 Congress resolution C 64 instructed the UPU bodies:

- to take the necessary measures for the Union to be able to continue providing development aid to the postal services of the LDCs;
- to devote to the countries in that category as large a portion as possible of UPU resources;
- to follow closely the development of the general situation of the Post in the LDCs and to submit a report thereon to the next Congress;
- to help the LDCs to increase their ability to obtain additional revenue from activities such as philately, international accounting and the new services.

3 The same decision also instructs the Director-General of the International Bureau:

- to continue paying more marked priority attention to the postal needs of the LDC administrations;
- to propose to the bodies of the UPU a programme of activities based on the priority sectors and specific needs of the countries concerned, in particular in the areas in which growth of sources of revenue is possible.

II. Programme of action for the LDCs 1996–1999

4 With a view to ensuring better implementation of the programme of action for the LDCs in the 1990s, the UPU's priorities for the period 1996–1999 will be as follows.

4.1 It is worth mentioning that the LDCs are classified in the first category of developing countries benefiting from the aid of the UPU.

A. Development of human resources

5 UPU assistance in human resources and training for the postal administrations of the LDCs is aimed at providing these countries with the means necessary to enable them to define and introduce effective systems for the recruitment, training and management of personnel capable of undertaking activities to develop and modernize the postal services.

6 Training is an essential component in the development of postal services, in the sense that it precedes such development while preparing for it, as well as accompanying it while adapting it to on-the-spot realities.

7 In this respect, the UPU intends to introduce a modular training system within the training structures of the countries in question. The system concerned is intended:

- to develop and strengthen countries' local capacities in training and human resources;
- to permit the transfer of knowledge and know-how in the area of training and to reduce technical assistance costs in the long term.

B. Introduction of a system of evaluation and quality control

8 For the quality of service programme developed by the UPU to be introduced in the postal administrations of the LDCs, increased assistance is required.

9 Activities for the LDCs are being undertaken by Regional Advisers and quality specialists in the analysis of the functioning of postal establishments with a view to introducing the improvements necessary to implement the above-mentioned programme.

10 Once established, the quality programme will enable beneficiary countries, thanks to the use of modern techniques and tools, to evaluate and measure performance in their services.

C. Supply of data-processing equipment

11 The UPU technical assistance programme for LDCs also consists in providing data-processing equipment in order to improve operational exploitation of the global network, particularly in the area of tracking and tracing postal items from the countries in question.

12 In addition to supplying LDCs with data-processing equipment, the UPU also organizes for personnel from beneficiary countries workshops to train specialists in electronic data interchange (EDI).

D. Strengthening commercial and management capacities

13 By means of group training activities and consultancy missions, the UPU is promoting assistance intended to develop local capacities in modern management fields.

14 The introduction of modern financial management techniques will make it possible to improve debt collection levels. Similarly, market and marketing studies will make it possible for the administrations in question to identify customer needs and to promote certain Post-promotional products, such as philately, as well as develop new products.

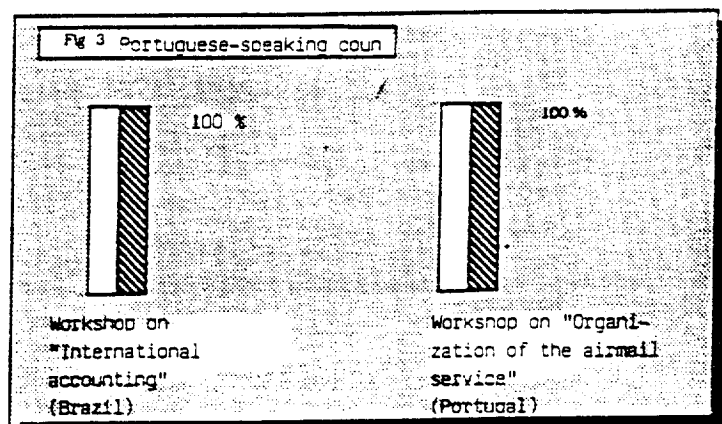
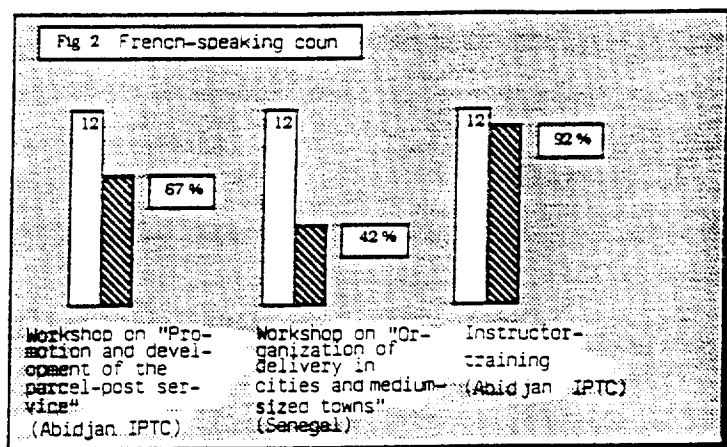
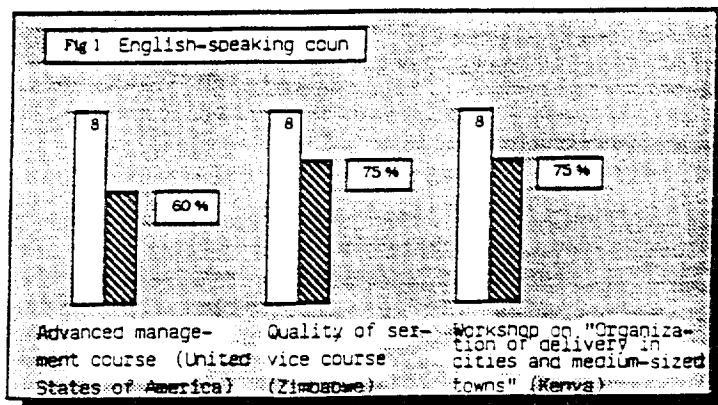
III. Conclusion

15 It is clear from the above that the LDCs are accorded first priority for UPU technical assistance activities. In this connection, it should be pointed out that the share of aid allocated to the LDCs under UPU resources increased from 27 percent in 1980 to 39.7 percent in 1989 and to 55 percent in 1994 as a percentage of total assistance to developing countries.

It is evident that the upward trend of aid to the LDCs will certainly continue over the next five years.

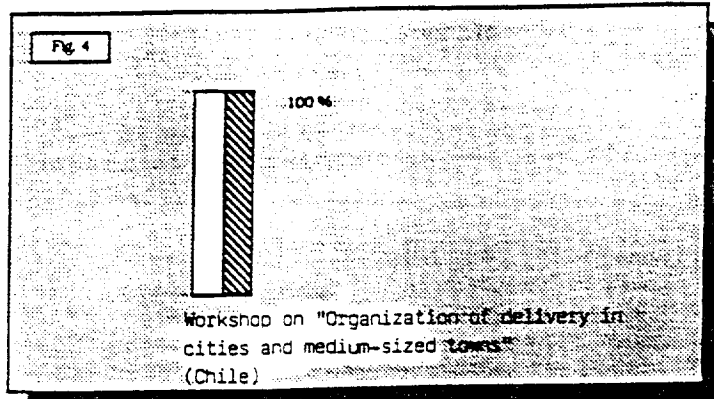
Table 1: Percentage of LDCs which took part in group training activities in 1991

1 AFRICA

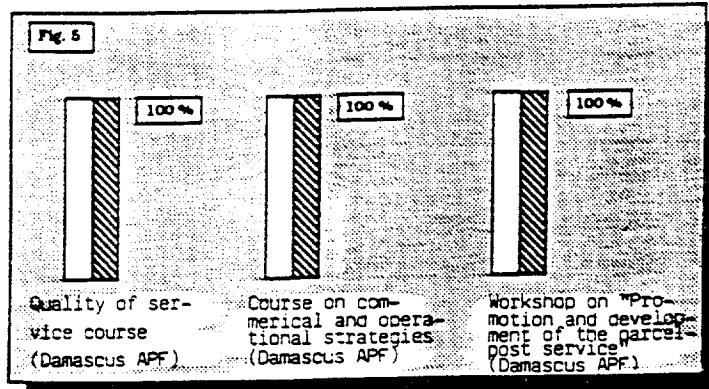


□ Total number of LDCs in the region/sub-region concerned
 ▨ Number of LDCs receiving fellowships

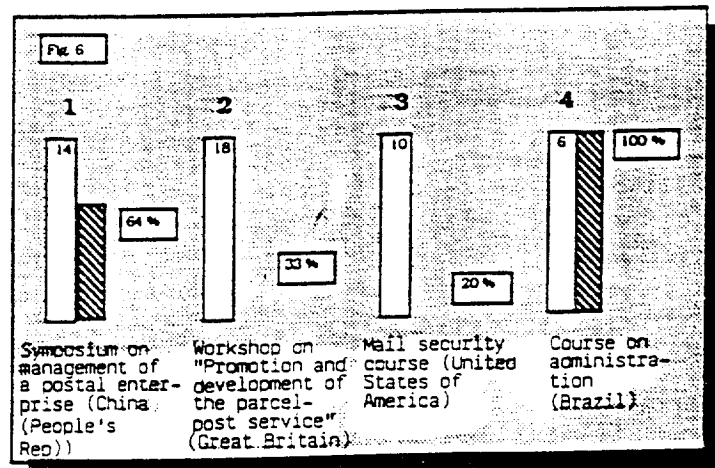
2 LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN



3 ARAB COUNTRIES



4 INTERREGIONAL



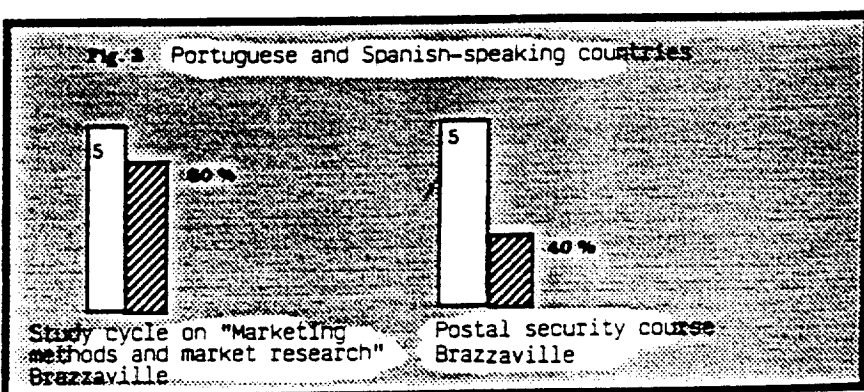
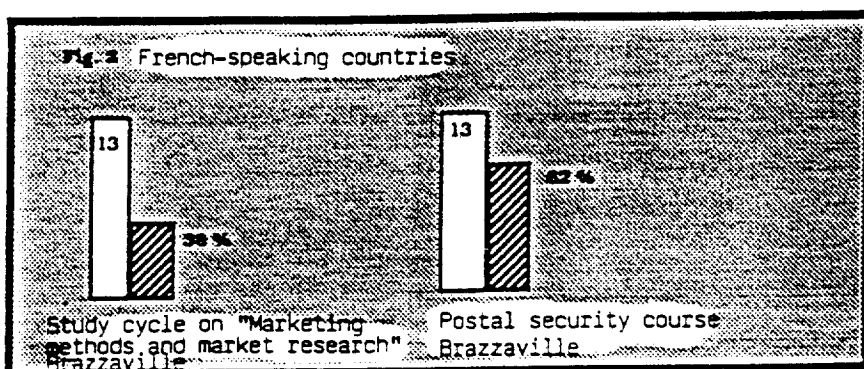
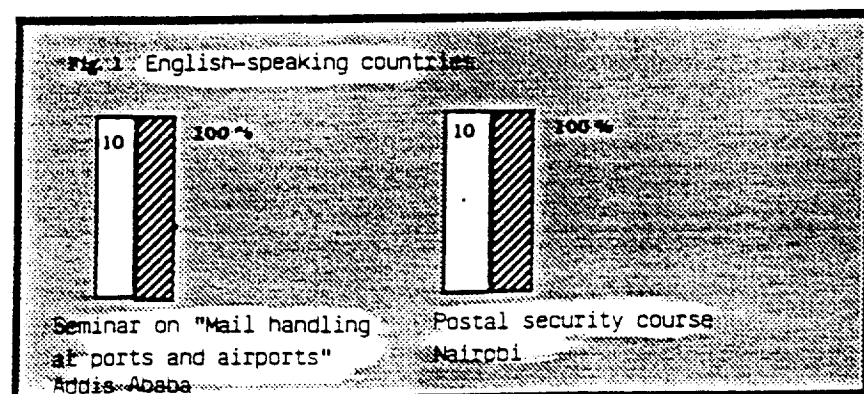
The interregional group training activities shown above were organized for the following countries:



- 1 French-speaking African countries, countries of Latin America/Caribbean and Asia.
- 2 English-speaking countries of Africa and Asia/Pacific.
- 3 English-speaking countries of Asia/Pacific and the Caribbean.
- 4 Six LDCs in Africa and Latin America/Caribbean.

Table 2: 1992 UPU group training activities

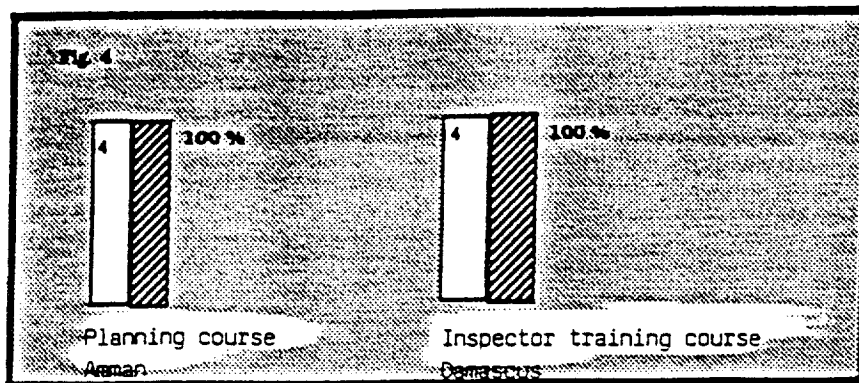
Percentage of LDCs which took part in group training activities in 1992

1 AFRICA

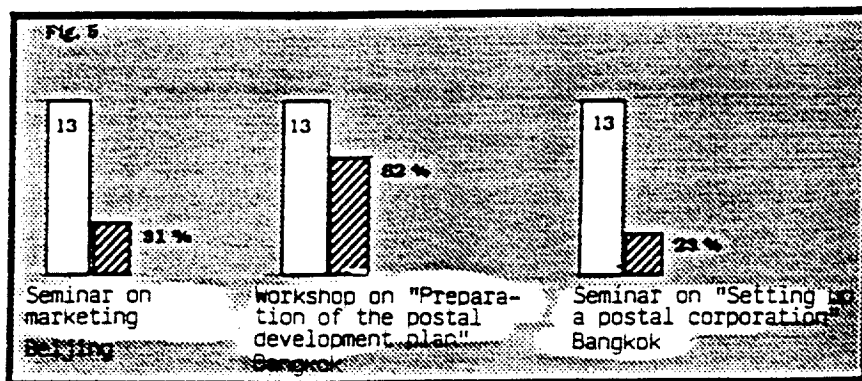


 Total number of LDCs in the region/sub-region concerned
 Number of LDCs receiving fellowships

2 ARAB COUNTRIES



3 ASIA/PACIFIC



4 INTERREGIONAL

(Africa and Arab countries)

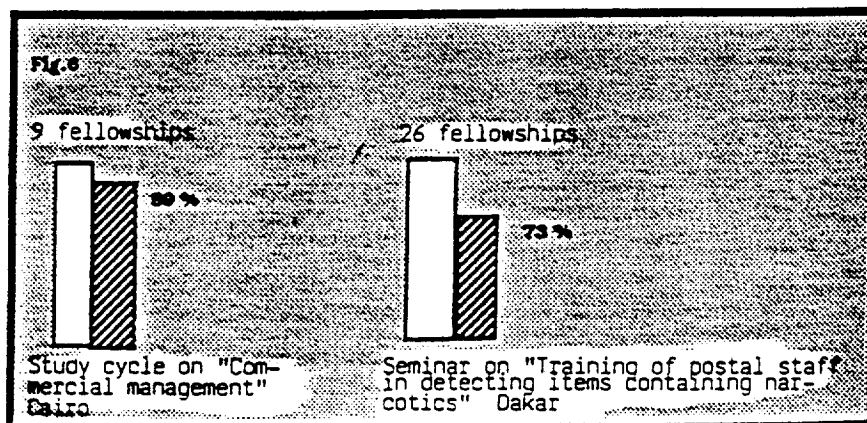
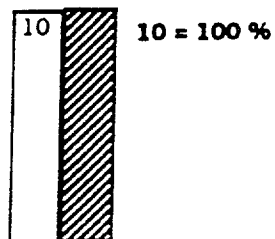


Table 3: 1993 UPU group training activities

Percentage of LDCs which took part in group training activities in 1993

1 AFRICA (ENGLISH-SPEAKING COUNTRIES)

Fig. 1

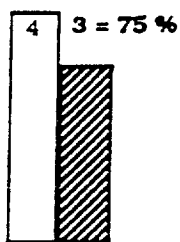


workshop on "Cost accounting
and postal pricing"
Nairobi

□ Number of LDCs in region
▨ Number of LDCs which
participated

2 ARAB COUNTRIES

Fig. 2

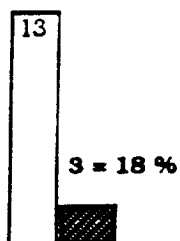


Symposium for Directors-General
of Arab postal services
Cairo

□ Number of LDCs in region
▨ Number of LDCs which
participated

3 ASIA/PACIFIC

Fig. 3



Postal security
course, Beijing

□ Number of LDCs in
the region
▨ Number of LDCs
which participated

Resolution C 64/1994

UPU action for the least developed countries (LDCs)

Congress,

In view of
the report submitted by the Executive Council on the subject of UPU action for the least developed countries (LDCs),

Considering
United Nations General Assembly resolution 45/206 of 21 December 1990 on the Paris Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s,

Recalling
resolutions C 87 of the 1974 Lausanne Congress, C 37 of the 1979 Rio de Janeiro Congress, C 66 of the 1984 Hamburg Congress and C 28 of the 1989 Washington Congress,

Recognizing
the importance of the role of the postal services in the development of the LDCs and the shortcomings of the Post in most of these countries,

Bearing in mind
the need to reinforce the postal services in the LDCs,

Invites

the least developed countries to:

- marshall all the human, financial and material resources available on the spot and obtain the greatest possible benefit from the assistance provided to them in the postal sector;
- identify and reinforce activities calculated to increase their sources of revenue, such as philately and international accounting, and develop new commercial strategies.

Also invites

the Restricted Unions to increase assistance provided to LDCs,

Instructs

the bodies of the Union:

- to take the necessary measures for the Union to be able to continue providing development aid to the postal services of the LDCs;
- to devote to the countries in that category as large a portion as possible of UPU resources;
- to follow closely the development of the general situation of the Post in the LDCs and to submit a report thereon to the next Congress;
- to help the LDCs to increase their ability to obtain additional revenue from activities such as philately, international accounting and the new services.

Also instructs

the Director-General of the International Bureau:

- to continue paying more marked priority attention to the postal needs of the LDC administrations;
- to propose to the bodies of the UPU a programme of activities based on the priority sectors and specific needs of the countries concerned, in particular in the areas in which growth of sources of revenue is possible.

(Proposal 030, Committee 9, 4th meeting)