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FOR 1978/79

Addendum

II. OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES

1. At its first regular session, 1979 the Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions (Operational Activities) (CCSQ (OPS)) focused its attention, inter alia, on the following matters: the outline of the report on the comprehensive policy review of operational activities to be presented to the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session by the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation; the enhanced responsiveness of operational activities of the system to national policies and priorities as well as to the requirements of the new international economic order; the utilization of the country programming process as a frame of reference for operational activities; designation and practical arrangements for the exercise of the function of the resident co-ordinator; linkages between pre-investment activities and investment; technical co-operation among developing countries and economic co-operation among developing countries.
2. The Committee reviewed its work programme and agreed that it would concentrate on those tasks which require inputs into the decision-making process for intergovernmental organs and those which would lead to increased cohesiveness of the system. The Committee agreed to limit its future agenda as far as possible to substantive discussions of specific issues requiring interagency consideration and deal, where possible, with other matters by correspondence, ad hoc meetings of agencies directly concerned or by other arrangements.
3. Members of the Committee indicated their support for the substantive and methodological approach being followed by the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation in the preparation of the comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development, as reflected in the outline previously submitted to ACC by the Director-General of the report called for under General Assembly resolution 33/201. The Committee gave the highest priority to the question of resources available for operational activities for development and

acknowledged that the system itself had to demonstrate its capacity to handle increased resource flows with maximum efficiency. The Committee also stressed the need for the study to give proper weight to social development elements to address the issue of the harmonization of global economic and social strategies with national planning objectives and to include recommendations for specific actions as well as alternative options. The Committee was informed that consultations on the study would continue with, among others, the substantive secretariat of CCSQ (OPS), CCSQ (OPS) itself and ACC. A preliminary draft of the report will be made available to organizations prior to the next session of CCSQ (OPS).

4. The Committee considered a report on enhancing the responsiveness of operational activities of the system to national policies and priorities and to the requirements of the new international economic order and selected the following three items for inclusion on the agenda of forthcoming sessions: (1) multiagency and multidisciplinary action; (2) enhancing intercountry programming and improvement of its linkages with country programming; and (3) multilateral and bilateral programmes.

5. The Committee decided that these issues should be examined within the continuing debate on the system's responsiveness to global and national objectives.

6. With regard to the utilization of the country programming process as a frame of reference for operational activities, the Committee recognized the importance of a study on this subject which is being undertaken by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) (ACC/1979/31, annex II) and agreed that there was a need to review the experience of the system in programming non-UNDP resources in order to formulate guidelines for utilizing country programming as a frame of reference. Arrangements were made for the preparation of this review by the CCSQ (OPS) substantive secretariat in consultation with UNDP and the agencies concerned.

7. The Committee had before it the text of a communication sent to organizations on behalf of the Secretary-General, setting out the arrangements which the Secretary-General intended to undertake for the designation of resident co-ordinators, so as to be assured that the officials proposed command the confidence of the system as a whole. The Committee felt that the needs of the system would be met by the proposed arrangements for designation. While stressing that it was the Secretary-General's sole prerogative to take the final decision on the designation of the resident co-ordinators and recognizing that situations would have to be considered on a case-by-case basis, the Committee drew attention to certain situations in which questions might be raised and which the Committee hoped the Secretary-General would take into particular account. It also formulated suggestions on specific procedures which might be followed for consultations on designations subsequent to the first round of designations.

8. The Committee agreed on the elements of a broad framework of provisional arrangements for the exercise of the functions of resident co-ordinators and agreed that arrangements should be made to advise concerned agency officials of the functions of resident co-ordinators. The Committee also decided to reflect in its report suggestions made by members of the Committee on the need for further review, in this context, of a number of issues currently under consideration by organizations.

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9. The Committee noted that there was a need for improved co-ordination of pre-investment and investment activities and agreed that a further report on linkages between technical co-operation, pre-investment activities and investment should be prepared for consideration at the next session of CCSQ (OPS).

10. The Committee decided that the question of technical co-operation among developing countries (TCDC) and economic co-operation among developing countries (ECDC) was an important area of concern which the Committee should continue to consider and that a meeting to consider the following questions should be held before the end of the year:

(a) Implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for promoting technical co-operation among developing countries;

(b) Implementation of decisions of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its fifth session and of other discussions concerning economic co-operation among developing countries; and

(c) Combined ECDC/TCDC operational activities.

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