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Addendum

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Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000–2001 (item 4 (b))

Section 21. Regular programme of technical cooperation

1. At its 24th meeting, on 21 June 1999, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered section 21, Regular programme of technical cooperation, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000–2001 (A/54/6 (Sect. 21) and Corr.1).
2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the budget section and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the budget section.

Discussion

3. Support was expressed for the proposals under this section. It was emphasized that the section played an important role in providing assistance to developing countries, especially least developed countries, and to the countries with economies in transition with respect to integrating themselves into a market economy. The activities on trade and development, human rights, regional and subregional advisory services, sustainable development, social development and poverty alleviation were welcomed.
4. While it was recognized that the activities under this section were by their nature difficult to describe precisely, concern was expressed about the difficulty in assessing whether there existed duplication and/or overlap between the activities carried out under this section and similar activities carried out under other relevant sections of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000–2001.

5. The absence of a table providing information on the types and estimates of expenditures was noted with concern. The view was expressed that this section should contain an indication of expected accomplishments.

6. The view was expressed that the resources under this section should rather be included under other relevant sections of the programme budget. It was considered that such a procedure would provide greater clarity in the use of these resources and would prevent possible duplication and/or overlap.

7. It was also emphasized that guidelines should be developed to ensure the monitoring and evaluation of the activities carried out under the section and an improved control of the related resources. The view was expressed that the programme managers needed to implement more fully the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation which require self-evaluation and identification of programmed activities that are inefficient, ineffective and irrelevant.

Conclusions and recommendations

8. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of section 21, Regular programme of technical cooperation, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000–2001.**
