

**Executive Board
of the
United Nations
Development Programme
and of the
United Nations
Population Fund**

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I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

1. The President, H. E. Mrs. Annette des Iles (Trinidad and Tobago), opened the annual session 1996 of the Executive Board. She welcomed all members and observers to the current session, which was the third annual session of the Board since its creation in 1994. In keeping with the efficient tradition of work of the Board, she stated that she would not make a long introductory statement. She noted that the past years had been extremely productive, with the adoption of new legislative frameworks for UNDP and UNFPA programming arrangements and biennial budgets for 1996-1997, as well as the implementation of successful new working methods for the procedures of the Board.

2. During the current session, it was hoped that the mission statements of UNDP and UNFPA would be endorsed by the Executive Board. The Board would consider the annual reports of the Executive Director of UNFPA and the Administrator of UNDP. The new direction of UNFPA following the International Conference on Population and Development, and the work of UNDP in implementing its initiatives for change in the four focus areas of poverty eradication, employment, environment, and the advancement of women, would also be taken up. The Board would also consider the report of the Administrator on the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) (DP/1996/22) and hold a special event marking the twenty-fifth anniversary of UNV. In addition, based on the experience acquired during the previous two and one-half years in the working methods of the Executive Board, rules of procedure for the Board would be considered. The remaining items to be considered were contained in the provisional agenda.

3. The President informed the Executive Board that the Bureau had held three meetings since the second regular session 1996: on 12 April, 23 April and 6 May. The Bureau had reviewed matters before the annual session and had held preliminary discussion on the issue of the rules of procedure, which would be taken up under item 2 of the agenda of the annual session. The President informed the Board that all meetings would commence on time in order to make the optimal use of conference services available.

4. The Secretary of the Executive Board noted that documents referred to in document DP/1996/L.7/Rev.1 had been submitted to the United Nations Office for Conference Services on time except for the report on the second regular session (DP/1996/17). Most documents had been available in all official languages by 23 April, the date of the pre-session informal briefing. All documents had been distributed to members of the Executive Board at their Missions to the United Nations in New York and were currently available at the documents distribution centre in Geneva. In keeping with the directives of the United Nations Secretariat, there would not be a documentation booth in the conference room in which the Board was convening.

5. Other documentation available to the Executive Board included the rules of procedure for: (a) the Governing Council of UNDP and UNFPA; (b) the United Nations Children's Fund; and (c) the Economic and Social

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Council. Revised mission statements for UNDP and UNFPA, based on comments made at the pre-session informal briefing on 23 April and on those received in writing from delegations, would also be made available in conference room papers in English, French and Spanish. A conference room paper on agency support costs, requested by the Executive Board at its second regular session 1996 and incorporating comments made at the informal briefing on 23 April, was also available. The Board would also receive a conference room paper containing an interim report on the work of the working group on documentation, to be considered under item 2. Also available to the Executive Board would be: the UNDP corporate plan (English only); the executive summary of the "Assessment of UNDP", sponsored by the Governments of Denmark, India, Sweden and the United Kingdom (English, French and Spanish); part II of the guidelines on the implementation of the successor programming arrangements (English, French and Spanish); and publications of the UNDP Office of Development Studies.

6. The Secretary further noted that the annual session 1996 had been scheduled earlier than in previous years in order to comply with legislation adopted by the Economic and Social Council in 1995, which required that the report of the Executive Board on that session be submitted to the substantive session of the Council in 1996. For that reason, the Executive Board would have to adopt its report on the last day of the annual session. While it was hoped that there would be sufficient time to allow for most of the report be translated and made available to the Board in all the official languages, portions to be discussed on Wednesday, 15 May would be available only in the language of submission.

7. The Secretary informed the Executive Board that, owing to financial constraints, there would be no night sessions. However, informal consultations could be held in the evening, with sound facilities available.

8. The Executive Board approved the following agenda for its annual session, as contained in document DP/1996/L.7/Rev.1.

Item 1. Organizational matters

Item 2. Rules of procedure

UNFPA segment

Item 3. UNFPA: Report of the Executive Director and programme-level activities

Item 4. UNFPA: Mission statement of the United Nations Population Fund

UNFPA/UNDP segment

Item 5. UNFPA/UNDP: Reports to the Economic and Social Council

Item 6. UNFPA/UNDP: Harmonization of presentation of budgets and accounts

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UNDP segment

- Item 7. UNDP: Annual report of the Administrator and related matters (including initiatives for change)
- Item 8. UNDP: Matters relating to the programming cycles:
 - Implementation of the successor programming arrangements
 - Request from the Government of Namibia for special status equivalent to that of a least developed country
- Item 9. Agency support costs
- Item 10. United Nations Volunteers
- Item 11. United Nations Development Fund for Women
- Item 12. United Nations Office for Project Services
- Item 13. Other matters

9. One delegation noted that it had received the documentation for the annual session in Spanish for the first time only at the beginning of the annual session. The Secretary responded that the matter would be investigated.

10. The Executive Board approved the work plan, contained in document DP/1995/L.7/Rev.1, as revised and distributed.
