



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

Distr.  
LIMITED

DP/1997/L.9  
14 May 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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Annual session 1997  
12-23 May 1997, New York  
Agenda item 8  
UNDP

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATOR FOR 1996  
AND RELATED MATTER

HIGH-LEVEL COMMITTEE ON THE REVIEW OF TECHNICAL  
COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

The Administrator wishes to bring to the attention of the Executive Board the following decisions adopted by the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries at its tenth session, held in New York on 5-9 May 1997.

TCDC/10/1. REVIEW OF PROGRESS MADE IN IMPLEMENTING TECHNICAL  
COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

- A. Review of progress made in implementing the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and the decisions of the High-level Committee and implementation of the recommendations of the South Commission report

The High-level Committee,

Reaffirming the validity and relevance of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries,

Taking note of the Ministerial Declaration of the 20th annual meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77, held in New York in September 1996,

Taking note also of the Declaration and the Plan of Action adopted by the South-South Conference on Trade, Finance and Investment, held in San Jose, Costa Rica, in January 1997,

Noting the final document of the Twelfth Ministerial Conference of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held in New Delhi, India, in April 1997,

Taking note of the report prepared by the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries within the United Nations Development Programme,

1. Reaffirms the great potential of technical cooperation among developing countries, which has now gained widespread acceptance as an innovative and effective instrument of technical cooperation, and urges developing countries that have not yet done so to elaborate national policies and strategies for technical cooperation among developing countries so as to give full effect to this form of cooperation;

2. Welcomes the significant efforts made by both developing countries and the United Nations development system to increase the application of technical cooperation among developing countries in development cooperation and its increasingly important role in bilateral and multilateral relations, including, inter alia, the expanded use of capacity and needs-matching exercises, which have culminated in a significant number of bilateral agreements, as well as activities related to training, transfer of technology, reconstruction, and the exchange of experience in various fields within the framework of interregional cooperation;

3. Welcomes also the efforts made by other countries to increase their involvement in the application of technical cooperation among developing countries;

4. Notes with appreciation the actions already taken towards the expansion of the technical cooperation among developing countries Information Referral System database into a multi-dimensional information system, including data on individual experts, institutional capacities, centres of excellence, as well as replicable best practices in developing countries, recognizes the constraints of the effective use of this database; in this regard, calls upon the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries to take measures, including capacity-building, aimed at enabling the least developed countries to access international information networks (for example the Internet) so that they can effectively utilize the technical cooperation among developing countries Information Referral System;

5. Commends the developing countries that have allocated resources from their national budgets for technical cooperation among developing countries through bilateral and multilateral channels, and have made available their institutional facilities, expertise and centres of excellence for this purpose;

6. Encourages developing countries that have not yet done so to establish national focal points for technical cooperation among developing countries and where focal points have already been established to ensure that the focal points are adequately staffed and also appropriately equipped to enable them to function effectively and efficiently;

7. Reiterates that South-South cooperation should not be viewed as a substitute for, but rather as a complement to, North-South cooperation and, in that connection, emphasizes the need to effectively promote triangular approaches to facilitate South-South programmes and projects;

8. Encourages developed countries that already provide support for technical cooperation among developing countries in the context of triangular arrangements or through bilateral and multilateral channels to continue to increase their financial support for technical cooperation among developing countries, including contributions to the Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation, and calls upon other developed countries to do likewise;

9. Reiterates the recommendations of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action that international institutions and developed countries, in designing, formulating and executing projects for technical cooperation in developing countries, give priority to the use of local capabilities, consultancy and expertise and, where not available, to the technical resources from other developing countries;

10. Requests the organizations of the United Nations system to take appropriate measures to improve the incorporation of technical cooperation among developing countries into their programmes and projects and to intensify efforts towards the mainstreaming of this modality in the operational activities for development of the United Nations system, and encourages other relevant international institutions to undertake similar measures;

11. Calls upon organizations of the United Nations system, particularly the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and other relevant organizations to make concerted efforts, within their mandates and agreed programmes, to assist the developing countries to utilize technical cooperation among developing countries for the promotion of small- and medium-sized enterprises, which constitute an essential component in the development strategies of most developing countries;

12. Calls upon the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to continue efforts to mobilize greater donor support in order to increase the allocation of resources for technical cooperation among developing countries including the expansion of the Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund's core capital and support to South Centre in accordance with decisions taken by the High-level Committee at its ninth session;

13. Recommends that the intergovernmental processes of the United Nations system, in accordance with their mandates and agreed work programmes, as well as the High-level Committee, foster closer linkages on policy and operational aspects between technical cooperation among developing countries and economic cooperation among developing countries;

14. Recommends that a new format and working methods be applied to the conduct of future meetings in order to lead to a more interactive debate and a more concrete outcome to the deliberations of the High-level Committee, taking into account the suggestions of the Committee as contained in the report of the tenth session;

15. Welcomes the important focus that will be given to economic and technical cooperation among developing countries in the operational activities for development segment of the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council of 1997, and strongly recommends that the report of the High-level Committee on its tenth session and the report on new directions for technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC/9/3) constitute part of the background documents for the consideration of this item;

16. Notes with interest that 1998 will be the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and recommends that during its fifty-third session the General Assembly hold a commemorative meeting to mark the occasion and to mobilize further support for the effective implementation of the New Directions Strategy for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries;

17. Requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to submit to the High-level Committee at its eleventh session a comprehensive and analytical biennial report on the progress made in the implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action as well as the present decision.

B. Review of the progress made in the implementation of the new directions strategy for technical cooperation among developing countries

The High-level Committee,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 50/119 of 20 December 1995 and related resolutions of the Economic and Social Council on economic cooperation among developing countries and technical cooperation among developing countries,

Recalling its decision 9/2 adopting the main recommendations contained in the report on new directions for technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC/9/3),

Reaffirming that South-South cooperation constitutes an important element of international cooperation for development and reiterating that developing countries have a primary responsibility for promoting technical cooperation among developing countries and that the developed countries and the United Nations system as well as other international organizations should assist and support such activities,

1. Recognizes that, while some progress has been made in the implementation of the New Directions Strategy for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, further progress can be achieved more effectively through, inter alia, the availability and provision of adequate resources, strengthening the participating institutions, and enhancing the awareness of and the commitment to the technical cooperation among developing countries modality;

2. Recommends that the intergovernmental processes of the United Nations system, in accordance with their mandates and agreed work programmes, as well as the High-level Committee, foster closer linkages on policy and operational

aspects between technical cooperation among developing countries and economic cooperation among developing countries;

3. Further urges the United Nations development system to address effectively and operationalize the implementation of other recommendations contained in the new directions strategy, in particular, new funding arrangements, expansion of the technical cooperation among developing countries, Information Referral System, identification of pivotal countries for technical cooperation among developing countries, promotion of triangular cooperation arrangements and dissemination of best practices in technical cooperation among developing countries;

4. Commends the efforts being made to promote improved, expanded and diversified linkages with the private sector, non-governmental organizations and civil society;

5. Welcomes, in the context of follow-up to the Programme of Action on Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, and within the framework of the Small Island Developing States Technical Assistance Programme, the completion of a comprehensive directory of experts on small island developing States and the identification of critical areas in the programme of action for implementation, through the application of the technical cooperation among developing countries modality;

6. Welcomes also the establishment of the Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation by the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, notes with appreciation the contribution of some developed countries to the Trust Fund, and urges the international donor community to contribute generously;

7. Welcomes the cooperation framework for technical cooperation among developing countries (1997-1999)<sup>1</sup> and its focus on poverty eradication, environment, production and employment and trade, investment and macroeconomic management;

8. Welcomes the decision of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme to allocate 0.05 per cent of its overall programme resources to technical cooperation among developing countries during the period 1997-1999;

9. Calls upon developing, developed and other countries, their intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system, to give their full support to the effective implementation of the technical cooperation among developing countries framework, including support for innovative national, regional and interregional programmes and projects and the expanded utilization of the technical cooperation among developing countries modality in the operational activities for development of the United Nations system;

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<sup>1</sup> Decision 95/23 of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Population Fund (E/1995/34).

10. Reiterates its request to the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to instruct resident representatives to increase the application of the technical cooperation among developing countries modality in technical cooperation activities in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1992/41;

11. Calls upon the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to ensure that the separate identity of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries within the United Nations Development Programme is maintained and decides to review periodically the impact and functioning of the Special Unit in promoting, monitoring and coordinating technical cooperation among developing countries on a system-wide basis;

12. Requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to include in his biennial report to the High-level Committee at its eleventh session information on the progress made in the implementation of the present decision.

TCDC/10/2. OVERALL FRAMEWORK FOR THE PROMOTION AND APPLICATION  
OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

The High-level Committee,

Recalling its decision 9/3 of [2 June] 1995,

Taking note of the guidelines for the review of policies and procedures concerning technical cooperation among developing countries approved by the Administrative Committee on Coordination,

Taking note also of the report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme contained in document TCDC/10/4,

1. Takes note of the views and comments expressed at the tenth session of the High-level Committee on making the application of the guidelines more effective in order to ensure greater use of the technical cooperation among developing countries modality in the United Nations system, which now forms a new current in development cooperation;

2. Commends the United Nations agencies that have taken measures to apply the guidelines approved by the Administrative Committee on Coordination and urges the organizations and agencies that have not yet done so to take similar measures in order to ensure uniformity and consistency in the application of the guidelines;

3. Requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to carry out consultations on the guidelines with the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system, taking into account the views expressed by Member States and the New Directions Strategy for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, and to submit the recommendations on the subject to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session, through the Economic and Social Council, for further consideration and approval, with a view that

recommendations will be submitted to the fifty-third session of the General Assembly in the context of the triennial policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system;

4. Notes with appreciation the increased financial resources allocated for technical cooperation among developing countries by the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme for the programming period of 1997-1999 and, in the light of the expanding utilization of this modality, requests the Executive Board to review periodically the volume of resources allocated for the promotion of technical cooperation among developing countries, as well as the impact of the technical cooperation among developing countries modality on the implementation of the programmes of the United Nations Development Programme and incorporate the outcome of the reviews in the report of the High-level Committee for consideration;

5. Stresses the need to further mobilize additional financial resources, from all sources, with a view to assisting the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries to further implement and operationalize the New Directions Strategy for technical cooperation among developing countries;

6. Requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, in relation to the mandated functions and increasing responsibilities of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, to ensure that the Special Unit is adequately staffed to enable it to execute its responsibilities effectively;

7. Requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to report to the High-level Committee at its eleventh session on the implementation of the present decision.

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