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MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1980-1983

Note by the Secretariat

1. The present note is submitted in pursuance of a request made by the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (CPC) at its eighteenth session concerning the programme on commodities included in the UNCTAD medium-term plan for the period 1980-1983. 1/
2. In its request, CPC asked the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to indicate the percentage allocation of resources for that programme in the medium-term plan for the period 1980-1983 on the basis of activities described in paragraphs 18.63 and 18.70 of the plan 2/ and the objectives contained in Conference resolution 93 (IV) on the integrated programme for commodities and to report on this question to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session.
3. Conference resolution 93 (IV) had assigned UNCTAD a complex and unprecedented negotiation process within a given time-table, i.e., until the end of 1978. In decision 177 (XVIII) of the Trade and Development Board, the time-limit envisaged in the above-mentioned time-table would be extended until the end of 1979. To this effect the General Assembly, at its thirty-third session, will be requested to provide the necessary resources to the UNCTAD secretariat.
4. Given the importance of the integrated programme for commodities, its scope and the extremely heavy work involved at the policy, substantive and servicing level, much of the work undertaken under subprogramme 2 was related to Conference resolution 93 (IV). As a result, the breakdown of activities of the programme into subprogrammes had been retained primarily for the purpose of indicating, under subprogramme 2, those activities which will need to be resumed or extended as soon as resources now concentrated on the implementation of Conference resolution 93 (IV) are released. Subject to the decision of the General Assembly at its thirty-third

1/ See report of Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, Official Records of the General Assembly, Supplement No. 38 (A/33/38), para. 96.

2/ Medium-term plan for the period 1980-1983 (A/33/6, Part 18), chap. 18.

A/C.5/33/51

English

Page 2

session and to any further decision by the Conference at its fifth session in May 1979, this situation is expected to prevail until the end of 1979. Allocation of percentage of resources to subprogrammes beyond this date will therefore depend essentially on the outcome of the negotiations on the integrated programme for commodities now in process.
