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OTHER FUNDS AND PROGRAMMES

United Nations Volunteers

Report of the Administrator

Addendum

SUMMARY

Pursuant to Governing Council decision 90/38 of 22 June 1990, the present document contains a summary of the outcomes of the Third United Nations Volunteers Intergovernmental Meeting; part two contains a summary of the United Nations Volunteers Workshop on technical cooperation among developing countries and non-governmental organization networks. Both events were held in Kathmandu, Nepal, in December 1991.

Part one

THIRD UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTEERS INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETING,  
1-6 DECEMBER 1991

1. The Third United Nations Volunteers (UNV) Intergovernmental Meeting was held in Kathmandu and was co-hosted by the Government of Nepal and UNV. Since UNV celebrated its twentieth anniversary in 1991, the meeting looked back on two decades of operations, considered the challenges facing UNV and debated future directions.
2. Over 200 participants attended and shared experience and ideas on the roles of volunteers in development work and humanitarian assistance. They represented Governments, the United Nations family, including the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), national focal points in developing countries, and UNV cooperating organizations in industrialized countries, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the volunteer field, as well as United Nations volunteers themselves.
3. Two documents in particular were considered at the meeting: "UNV: Past, Present and Future", and "UNV and People-centred Development in the Nineties". Several other background papers on thematic areas were also made available.
4. The substantive deliberations of the meeting were carried out in eight discussion groups, with keynote addresses and the presentation of discussion group reports in the plenary session. International Volunteer Day (IVD) was celebrated on 5 December with visits to projects in the Kathmandu Valley. The final day, 6 December, commenced with a keynote address by the Administrator, leading into a seminar on a special theme of the meeting, "Volunteer development workers and sustainable local resource management". 1/
5. The Chairperson of the Intergovernmental Meeting and the Executive Coordinator of UNV were authorized to issue the Kathmandu Statement in which directions are suggested for the UNV programme in the 1990s, including possible contributions of volunteer development workers in environment. 2/
6. The Kathmandu Statement expresses strong support for the continuing and enhanced role of UNV in the fields of technical cooperation, humanitarian programmes of relief and rehabilitation, and community support activities, working in close collaboration with UNDP, United Nations specialized agencies and other international and local organizations involved in these fields. In this context, the need for early UNV involvement in the programming process was emphasized. Work with community-based programmes was seen to be an area of primary focus for the organization. UNV was urged to give greater impetus to the work recently started in programmes that build on local community initiatives in a number of new areas: working with low-income urban and rural groups; helping to deal with the impact of pandemics such as the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immune deficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS); and

supporting women's opportunities for advancement. The urgency of local resource management was also emphasized as a key area for emerging UNV involvement. It is also pointed out in the Statement that if the interlinked problems of poverty and environmental degradation are the greatest challenges facing human society today, the contribution of volunteer development workers must be seen as an integral part of the response.

Part two

UNV WORKSHOP ON TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING  
COUNTRIES AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION NETWORKS,  
29-30 November 1991

7. The Workshop was funded by UNDP and organized by UNV in response to Governing Council decision 89/26 of 30 June 1989, in which the Administrator was requested "to explore fully the potential of the Domestic Development Services activities of the United Nations Volunteers programme ... as a means of technical cooperation among developing countries, with a view to initiating new activities of this kind ...".

8. The Workshop, attended by representatives from 12 NGOs in Africa and Asia, focused on two issues:

(a) How can NGOs identify field workers from other countries through direct bilateral negotiations? Among the conclusions reached were that a prerequisite would be the establishment of a database, accessible at the community, national, regional and international levels, with information on the NGOs themselves and their potential supply and demand for field workers. UNV could provide a framework for short-term exchanges of personnel so that NGOs would have greater personal contact with and confidence in prospective partners. NGO representatives underlined that TCDC arrangements should include short-term, on-the-job training and extend to all activities within Domestic Development Services (DDS) that involved the exchange of personnel. The participants expressed interest in the possibility of assistance from the Special Unit for TCDC, particularly the TCDC-INRES information referral system;

(b) How could NGOs assume greater responsibility for the administration and management of DDS field workers? It was noted that some larger NGOs already manage all personnel assigned to them and see no difficulty in assuming greater responsibilities although the extra burden on their administration may entail compensation for costs incurred. The smaller NGOs are concerned about their abilities to assume all functions related to the administration and management of DDS field workers. It was agreed, however, that the TCDC approach towards local capacity-building was appropriate for smaller NGOs as a means to moving DDS onto a more sustainable basis but that it would require a certain degree of experimentation and support before proceeding on a larger scale. One possibility was to use a coordinating NGO or national DDS committee to introduce TCDC into the smaller NGOs. With the proviso that any scheme adopted be appropriately monitored, UNV should pursue

the TCDC approach despite the difficulties inherent in transferring the management functions for DDS inputs to participating NGOs.

9. The Workshop concluded that the introduction of TCDC modalities into UNV/DDS was relevant, feasible and necessary for UNV to promote networks among participating organizations. The training and capacity-building element in the process was also important. UNV was thus requested to establish and implement a plan of action. An early step in such a plan would be a meeting of a small group of NGOs willing to provide and also requiring DDS field workers. The establishment of a database incorporating details on all NGOs participating in the UNV/DDS programme would be worked out simultaneously.

#### Notes

1/ A summary report of the proceedings of the Third United Nations Volunteers Intergovernmental Meeting in English, French and Spanish is available on request from UNV headquarters.

2/ The complete text of the Kathmandu Statement in English, French and Spanish is available on request from UNV headquarters.

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