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POLICY

OTHER FUNDS AND PROGRAMMES

UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTEERS PROGRAMME

Report of the Administrator

Addendum

I. SUMMARY DESCRIPTION AND STATISTICAL ANALYSIS OF UNV
PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES OVER THE BIENNIUM 1988-1989

1. By 31 December 1989, 1,801 United Nations volunteers from 101 different countries were serving in 108 developing countries, with nearly two thirds (63 per cent) of them located in LDCs. Africa uses the largest share (49 per cent), and, together with the Asia and Pacific region, accounts for 80 per cent of the UNV total. The rest are to be found in the Arab States (13 per cent), especially in LDCs, and in the Latin America and the Caribbean region (7 per cent). The largest numbers of UNV specialists still come from the developing countries of Asia and Africa, are mostly male (83 per cent), are on average over 38 years old, and have about 10 years' prior professional experience.
2. The biennium has seen a steady growth in demand for UNV services. This is partly due to greater UNV participation in the LDCs of the Arab States region, and, to a lesser extent, in Latin America, a region which hitherto has not made extensive use of UNV specialists. Moreover, at the grass-roots level, a marked expansion in the exchange of community field workers has taken place in the Africa and Pacific regions, in addition to the ongoing programme in Asia, through the Domestic Development Services projects of the UNV Participatory Development Programme. By the end of 1989, some 250 PDP/DDS field workers were strengthening local rural community self-help initiatives in 26 countries in the three regions. Preparations for similar activities in the Arab States and in the Caribbean were well under way.

3. UNV specialists serve in over 140 professional categories. Although the traditional sectors of UNV activity (agriculture, health, community development and youth and education) together continue to account for the majority (58 per cent) of UNV specialists, their overall weight in the total is declining, demonstrating a wider spread of demand. There is no longer any narrowly defined niche for the UNV role in development.

4. About 85 per cent of UNV specialists serve within projects funded from IPFs. About half serve in projects executed by 29 United Nations specialized agencies, the largest being FAO, with 10 per cent of the total serving UNV specialists; next come ILO (8 per cent); UNDTCD (6 per cent); OPS (3 per cent); WFP (2.5 per cent); UNESCO (2 per cent); and UNIDO (2 per cent). The other half serve in projects executed by UNV or Governments. The mode of implementation of UNV-executed projects differs little in practice from government-executed projects, under which some 4 per cent of UNV specialists serve, since in such cases the Governments provide the technical supervision and management support (with the help of the UNDP field office) while UNV provides recruitment, administrative and monitoring services.

5. Many UNV specialists carry out line functions in the public services of developing countries, roughly evenly split between those working in central departments and institutions and those located in local administrations. The purpose is as much to enhance the capacity of these institutions and their personnel to embark on more ambitious development programmes, as to meet short-term and immediate shortages of skilled personnel while the Governments train their national staff. Support programmes intended to buffer the social impact of structural adjustment programmes, especially in Africa, have also increased the demand for UNV specialists. Another area of growth is institutional and on-the-job training in specialized fields such as industrial production, exports, fiscal management and tax collection, data processing and accounting. These are evidence of the mature and experienced profile of today's typical UNV specialist.

6. UNV is increasingly fielding teams of specialists to help with relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction work in countries torn by strife and long periods of crisis, such as Afghanistan, Angola, Mozambique and Namibia. UNV specialists help Governments, along with United Nations agencies, to meet needs for logistics experts, vehicle mechanics and nutritionists, and also provide skills in areas such as water supply, emergency health services, and road and bridge construction. Another area of growing use has been the institutional strengthening, at the grass-roots level referred to above, through the provision of skills related to community organization, technical support for simple income-generation projects, and intercountry and national training workshops for local leaders.

II. UNV PROGRAMME FINANCIAL RESOURCES

7. The estimated 1989 expenditures for the UNV programme amounted to \$36.8 million, consisting of:

(a) \$20.2 million allocated to projects executed by UNV. This related to:
(i) in-country costs of UNV specialists on UNV-executed project (\$15 million);
(ii) equipment, training and expert personnel (\$3 million); (iii) external costs of UNV specialists from SVF (\$1.9 million); and (iv) expenditure for pilot and experimental projects of \$0.1 million;

(b) An estimated \$15 million to finance in-country costs of UNV specialists on projects executed by United Nations agencies and \$1.8 million for their external costs funded from SVF.

8. Funds for the above-mentioned estimated expenditures of \$36.8 million were obtained from the following sources:

(a) \$29 million from UNDP resources and resources obtained under cost-sharing;

(b) \$1.6 million to finance the scheme for 40 UNV Programme Officers from the UNDP/UNV administrative budget;

(c) \$0.4 million from Government Cash Counterpart Contributions;

(d) \$1.2 million from funds in trust;

(e) \$0.8 million from the resources of the United Nations system;

(f) \$3.8 million from SVF for external costs of UNV specialists and pilot and experimental projects.

UNDP resources and cost-sharing

9. The amount of \$29 million from UNDP resources included: (a) funds in the amount of \$27 million made available from IPFs and cost-sharing contributions made by recipient countries; (b) \$2 million from such sources as the Special Measures Fund for the Least Developed Countries (SMF/LDC) and Special Programme Resources (SPR) for emergency projects.

Administrative Budget: UNV Programme Officers

10. Biennial appropriations for 40 UNV Programme Officer posts under the 1988-1989 UNDP/UNV administrative budget amounted to \$2 million. This was based on an annual cost of \$25,000 per unit, comprising the estimated average total costs for the UNV specialist, for an Administrative Assistant/Secretary post and other support services. The approved allocations for 1988 were \$1 million. Since the implementation of the Council's decision started in the third quarter of 1988, only \$0.4 million was spent in 1988, mainly to meet the costs of those 28 serving UNV Programme Assistants who met the criteria established for the new functions and

thus became UNV Programme Officers; the funding was shifted from the IPF to the administrative budget.

11. Funds available in 1989 totalled \$1.6 million. This comprised a 1989 field budget allocation of \$1 million and \$0.6 million carried forward from 1988. At 31 December 1989, there were 40 UNV Programme Officer posts funded under the administrative budget with the following breakdown: 27 in Africa, 7 in Asia and the Pacific, 3 in Latin America and the Caribbean, and 3 in the Arab States.

Government cash counterpart contributions

12. This modality has been used in Guyana, Jamaica, Kenya and Syria, to expand the UNV programme by financing local expenditures that were originally to be financed from the IPF. This modality makes the limited IPF resources available for external inputs. In addition, major emphasis can be placed on the transfer of technical know-how within the country, funded through government cash counterpart contributions and supported in the broader framework by IPF-financed activities. UNV specialists financed by this modality were serving in five projects during 1989.

Resources from funds in trust and sub-trust funds

13. To expand the resource base and lessen the burden of the developing countries, UNV has negotiated projects with donor countries and international agencies such as UNHCR and the Office of the United Nations Co-ordinator for Humanitarian and Economic Assistance Programmes for Afghanistan, under which partial or entire costs associated with the UNV specialists' services are paid by the donor(s). The agreement with the United Nations Co-ordinator calls for payment of costs for the assignment of up to 100 UNV specialists for Afghanistan. The agreement with the Japan Overseas Co-operation Volunteers foresees financing of 95 per cent of the costs for recruiting up to 40 Japanese UNV specialists; Finland fully finances 10 Finnish UNV specialists and 1 from a developing country; Voluntary Service Overseas in the United Kingdom is fully funding 10 posts; Sweden has also arranged the full funding of about 10 posts, with 3 from developing countries. Agreements have also been reached with the Governments or co-operating organizations of Belgium, Denmark, the Netherlands, Switzerland, and the United States of America. In 1989, estimated expenditures met from the above arrangements amounted to \$1.2 million. Given the importance of these contributions and paragraph 5 of Governing Council decision 88/38, the Administrator is informing the Council of these contributions (see addendum II).

Other resources from the United Nations system

14. A large number of UNV specialists, particularly those assigned to relief and rehabilitation activities, are paid directly by these organizations from their regular budget resources. During 1989, UNV specialists under this category were serving mainly on projects funded by WFP, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNHCR, WHO and UNEP.

Estimated resource requirements for future growth

15. The number of serving UNV specialists is expected to increase to 2,400 by the end of 1991, based on past and current trends. The estimated total resource

requirement for fielding and maintaining these UNV specialists will be \$48 million, based on an estimated average annual cost per specialist of \$20,000. This consists of \$16,500 for in-country costs and \$3,500 per year for external costs. By the end of 1991, to that figure of 2,400 should be added an estimated 200 specialists accepted and en route. Using the same \$20,000 per capita basis, the costs for the total 2,600 will be \$52 million. It is assumed that IPF resources will continue to be the main source of funds to meet commitments for established UNV posts. In addition, funds are expected to come from (a) SVF; (b) trust funds; (c) other United Nations organizations.

16. As stated in paragraph 61 of this report, during the last pledging conference, the Federal Republic of Germany pledged a total equivalent to \$1.1 million to supplement in 1990 funding for the regional programme Strengthening of National NGOs and Governmental Organizations for Community Level Activities in the Africa Region. Japan announced a \$0.5 million contribution to finance costs of UNV/PDP assignments in the Pacific region, and an additional \$0.25 million for 10 UNV specialists to support refugee assistance activities in Hong Kong. France has also contributed about \$0.5 million.

Financial status of the Special Voluntary Fund

17. SVF was created originally in order to finance expenditures related to:

- (a) External costs of United Nations volunteers originating in developing countries;
- (b) Internal costs of UNV Programme Assistants (now UNV Programme Officers) in LDCs;
- (c) UNV programme development and promotional activities.

18. In July 1988, the Governing Council established new guidelines for the use of SVF resources. By decision 88/38, the Council decided that 85 per cent of the income accruing to SVF from general contributions and interest income should be utilized for the external costs of all UNV specialists, while the remaining 15 per cent should be used to meet expenditures related to: (a) pilot and experimental projects of the UNV/PDP and youth programmes; (b) PDP country specialists; (c) orientation and briefing of United Nations volunteers, PDP specialists and government officials; and (d) special recruitment campaigns.

19. Available SVF resources totalled \$10.2 million in 1989. This amount comprised funds carried forward for outstanding obligations from the previous year (\$5.2 million); voluntary contributions received during 1989 (\$1 million); income from project budgets for the partial offset of external costs (\$3.8 million); and interest income (\$0.2 million) (addendum I).

20. In 1989 a total of \$3.8 million was spent for the above purposes. A total of \$3.7 million was spent in meeting the external costs of UNV specialists. The 15 per cent of 1988-1989 contributions to the SVF - \$0.1 million - to be devoted to special purposes, was spent as follows: (a) 36 per cent for meeting the costs of

four PDP country specialists and grass-roots pilot programmes for Togo, Niger, Zambia and Zimbabwe; 34 per cent for information sharing on participatory programmes; 29 per cent for special recruitment initiatives and advertising campaigns; and the balance for orientation and briefing of UNV specialists.

21. Following the recommendation of the 1987 review team, the Administrator proposed inserting an additional note to the SVF financial statements. This note will disclose the amount of commitment in respect of repatriation travel and resettlement allowance and the resulting unencumbered balance or deficit of the fund.

22. Out of a total of 1,801 serving UNV specialists at 31 December 1989, SVF has a commitment to meet the repatriation costs and resettlement allowances for 1,364 volunteers amounting to \$5.5 million at 31 December 1989. In addition, the fund will require \$0.9 million to meet the external costs of 173 UNV specialists who were en route at 31 December 1989.

Appendix

FINANCIAL RESOURCES

Table 1. Resource availability and utilization of Special Voluntary Fund

(In millions of US dollars)

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Estimated</u>		
	1988	1989	1990	1991
1. <u>Availability of resources</u>				
Balance as at 1 January	2.91	5.20	6.37	7.29
Voluntary contributions	1.34	0.98	1.30	1.30
Interest and other income	0.13	0.21	0.30	0.40
Partial offset of external costs (from project budget)	<u>3.58</u>	<u>3.81</u>	<u>4.46</u>	<u>5.10</u>
Total available resources	7.96	10.20	12.43	14.09
2. <u>Utilization of resources</u>				
Expenditure	<u>2.76</u>	<u>3.83</u>	<u>5.14</u>	<u>5.88</u>
3. <u>Balance of resources as at 31 December (1-2)</u>	5.20	6.37	7.29	8.21
4. <u>Commitment for future years as at 31 December a/</u>				
(a) in respect of serving volunteers	5.72	5.54	7.56	8.64
(b) in respect of volunteers en route	<u>0.80</u>	<u>0.90</u>	<u>1.18</u>	<u>1.05</u>

Table 1 (continued)

		<u>Actual</u>	<u>Estimated</u>		
		1988	1989	1990	1991
5.	(a) <u>Estimated deficit in respect of serving volunteers as at 31 December (3-4a)</u>	(0.52)	0.83	(0.27)	(0.43)
	(b) <u>Estimated deficit in respect of serving volunteers and volunteers en route as at 31 December (3-(4a+4b))</u>	(1.32)	(0.07)	(1.45)	(1.48)

a/ Includes commitments in respect of both serving volunteers charged to SVF and volunteers en route at year-end.

Table 2. Sub-trust funds of the SVF established by the Administrator for specific purposes

	Republic of Korea	United Nations Co-ordinator for Afghanistan	Japan	France	Federal Republic of Germany	Total
Balance as at 1 January 1989	464 385	-	-	-	-	464 385
Contributions received	-	1 000 000	500 000	534 351	1 098 499	3 132 850
Other income received	31 671	-	-	-	-	31 671
Total	496 056	1 000 000	500 000	534 351	1 098 499	3 628 906
Estimated resources utilized/committed in 1989						
Resources utilized	-	185 046	-	-	-	185 046
Resources committed	-	814 954	-	-	-	814 954
Total	-	1 000 000	-	-	-	1 000 000
Estimated available balance as at 31 December 1989	496 056	-	500 000	534 351	1 098 499	2 628 906

Table 3. Other funds on trust (managed under SVF)

	Belgium	Finland	Sweden	Switzerland	Netherlands	USA	Japan	United Kingdom	Denmark	IDA a/ recipient countries	UNHCR b/	Total
Balance as at 1 January 1989	47 093	379 501	(3 021)	50 512	(729)	41 598	-	26 430	(1 555)	(48 584)	(89 420)	401 825
Additional contributions received	-	257 704	119 627	3 070	19 672	71 469	184 640	106 500	16 350	226 888	566 095	1 572 015
Total	47 093	637 205	116 606	53 582	18 943	113 067	184 640	132 930	14 795	178 304	476 675	1 973 840
Estimated resources utilized/committed in 1989												
Resources utilized	18 051	268 864	34 838	31 250	14 601	23 036	100 948	98 777	12 818	119 350	534 475	1 257 008
Resources committed	29 042	368 341	81 768	22 332	4 342	90 031	83 692	34 153	1 977	58 954	-	774 632
Total	47 093	637 205	116 606	53 582	18 943	113 067	184 640	132 930	14 795	178 304	534 475	2 031 640
Estimated balance due as at 31 December 1989	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(57 800) c/	(57 800)

a/ Under separate agreements for Chad, Haiti, Sierra Leone and Niger.

b/ Under separate agreements for Hong Kong, Honduras, Malaysia, Somalia, Sudan and Pakistan.

c/ This deficit balance represents amount due from the donor for expenditure/commitments incurred.