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PROGRAMME PLANNING

Calendar of consultations on the medium-term plan
for the period starting in 1992**Note by the Secretary-GeneralAddendumIntroduction

1. At its twenty-seventh session, the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (CPC) recommended that the next medium-term plan cover the period starting in 1992 and be considered by the General Assembly in 1990. In this connection, it recommended that the Secretary-General submit to it at its twenty-eighth session a calendar of consultations with the intergovernmental bodies concerned for the preparation of the various chapters of the next medium-term plan. 1/ These recommendations were endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 42/215.

2. In the same resolution the General Assembly adopted the amendments recommended by CPC to the Regulations Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation (hereinafter referred to as the programme planning regulations). 2/ The amendments incorporate the provisions of General Assembly resolution 41/213 aimed, inter alia, at improving the consultative process for the formulation of the medium-term plan.

* A/43/150.

** Previously issued as a document of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (E/AC.51/1988/6) and of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

The programme planning regulations and the relevant provisions of Assembly resolutions 41/213 and 42/215 provide that the consultative process for the preparation of the next medium-term plan will include:

(a) Submission of the introduction to the plan, which constitutes an integral element in the planning process, to Member States for wide consultation (regulation 3.1);

(b) Consideration of the draft introduction to the plan by CPC at its twenty-eighth session (General Assembly resolution 42/215);

(c) Drawing up by the Secretary-General, in consultation with CPC and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), of a calendar of consultation regarding the major programmes in the plan with the sectoral, technical, regional and central bodies in the United Nations (regulation 3.1);

(d) Review of the chapters of the proposed plan by the sectoral, functional and regional bodies of the United Nations, if possible during the regular cycle of their meetings (regulation 4.12);

(e) Prior consultations on the plan with the specialized agencies (regulation 4.13);

(f) Review of the proposed plan by CPC, the Economic and Social Council, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) (regulation 4.12) and the Committee on Conferences, in accordance with their terms of reference;

(g) Consideration of the proposed plan by the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session in the light of the comments and recommendations of the Economic and Social Council, CPC, ACABQ (regulation 4.14) and the Committee on Conferences.

3. The proposals for a calendar of consultations that follow are designed to meet these legislative requirements. In this regard, it should be recalled that in resolutions 41/213 and 42/215, the Assembly stressed the need to implement fully all the provisions of the programme planning regulations and the related rules. It should be noted that the proposals are made on the basis of the projected meeting schedule of the existing sectoral, functional and regional bodies and the current structure of the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989.

Past experience in drawing up a calendar of consultations

4. At its twentieth session, CPC reviewed a draft calendar for the preparation of the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989 on the basis of a report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/35/4 and Corr.1). That report considered the scope for the full involvement of the sectoral, regional and central organs and of their subsidiary bodies. Consideration was given to the possibility of rescheduling meetings of the intergovernmental bodies concerned and, in cases where the meeting schedule could not be altered, to the possibility of setting up ad hoc planning committees.

5. It was concluded that, by and large, sectoral and regional bodies were averse to rescheduling their meetings for the purpose of considering draft chapters of the plan. Setting up ad hoc planning committees was found to be a practical alternative. CPC concurred in these assessments and concluded that the

"full involvement of all intergovernmental organs in the formulation and review of the plan was desirable and important; however, this could not justify an extensive rescheduling of the calendar of meetings, since their substantive activities might be disrupted by a change in their calendar of work". 1/

CPC also agreed that organs might delegate the review of the plan to ad hoc bodies, if they so wished.

Practical constraints

6. The purpose of the preparatory and consultative process is to enable the General Assembly to approve the medium-term plan at its forty-fifth session, which will be held during September-December 1990. CPC will review the draft plan at its thirtieth session, which, on the basis of normal expectations, will be held between the end of April and the beginning of June 1990. CPC will advise on the calendar of consultations at its twenty-eighth session (25 April-3 June 1988). Consequently, the timetable for consultations must have June 1988 and April 1990 as the extreme parameters. In addition, a number of technical and practical considerations must be taken into account in drawing up the calendar.

7. For the consultations with sectoral, functional and regional bodies to begin, those bodies will need to have before them the introduction to the plan, so that their deliberations may take place within an overall framework. Consultations on the introduction to the plan were initiated with the submission by the Secretary-General to CPC at its twenty-seventh session of the paper entitled "Some perspectives on the work of the United Nations in the 1990s" (see A/42/512), which was subsequently considered by the General Assembly at its forty-second session. The Assembly requested the Secretary-General to gather additional comments from Member States and to take into account all views expressed by Member States when submitting the draft introduction. The draft introduction to the plan will be before CPC at its twenty-eighth session.

8. Following the deliberations of CPC at its twenty-eighth session, the Office for Programme Planning, Budget and Finance will need some time to prepare and circulate the instructions for the preparation of the plan. The secretariat unit responsible for the individual chapters of the plan will then need time to prepare and circulate the draft chapters to the relevant organs. After the consultations with the sectoral, functional and regional bodies, the central secretariat services will require three months to review and put together submissions received from the Secretariat unit responsible for individual chapters of the plan. If the plan is to be issued six weeks in advance of the session of CPC, it must be submitted for editing, translation and reproduction by early 1990. Thus, consultations with sectoral, functional and regional bodies must take place between January and mid-September 1989,

Feasibility of consultations with sectoral, functional and regional bodies during the regular cycle of their meetings

9. An examination of the planned schedule of the sectoral, functional and regional bodies during January-September 1989 in relation to the major programmes of the current medium-term plan, as shown in annexes I and II, indicates that most of the major programmes in the plan would be subject to review by the bodies concerned except those for which no specialised programme-reviewing body exists (and for which CPC, ACABQ or the Committee on Conferences therefore must exercise direct responsibility). Only the programme areas of new and renewable sources of energy (programme 11) and crime prevention and control (programme 21) would not be covered because the relevant bodies (Committee on the Development and Utilisation of New and Renewable Sources of Energy and Committee on Crime Prevention and Control) are not scheduled to meet in 1989. It should be noted that the calendar of meetings may change as a result of the Economic and Social Council's review of the intergovernmental structure in the economic and social fields and that a decision is still to be taken on the format, content and presentation of the next medium-term plan.

10. There would appear to be two methods of dealing with these gaps. One method would be for CPC again to endorse the establishment by the organs concerned of ~~ad hoc~~ planning bodies to review draft chapters of the plan, which would have financial implications. In view of the current financial situation of the Organisation, the Secretary-General is not in a position to recommend such a course of action. Another method would be for the substantive secretariat units concerned to circulate the draft chapter of the plan, as prepared by them, together with its introduction, to the members of the relevant programme-reviewing body for views and suggestions. The draft chapter would be reformulated by the Secretariat units on the basis of the comments received. This method would not be entirely satisfactory, since it would preclude dialogue among members of the bodies concerned and would leave a large area open to interpretation by the Secretariat units. Nevertheless, since Member States would still have the opportunity to make their views known through their representatives in CPC, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, this method is the one favoured by the Secretary-General.

Prior consultations with the specialised agencies

11. Prior consultation with the specialised agencies must also be considered. Programme planning regulation 4.13 states that "the activities in the medium-term plan shall be co-ordinated with those of the concerned specialised agencies through prior consultations", and rule 104.13 (b) states that "medium-term plan proposals shall be circulated to the specialised agencies in accordance with the agreed procedures for prior consultation in time for their comments to be taken into account by the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination". The Secretary-General believes that there would be merit in including the sectoral, functional and regional bodies in the process of prior consultations with the agencies. It is suggested, therefore, that the United Nations Secretariat units concerned should circulate the draft chapters of the plan to the interested agencies at the same time as they are circulated to the members of the intergovernmental or expert bodies concerned. Any comments of the agencies would

be made available by the Secretariat to the sectoral, functional and regional bodies concerned. At a later stage, the draft plan as a whole would be circulated to specialized agencies, and any comments would be transmitted to CPC.

Proposed calendar of consultations

12. Taking into account the above considerations, it is proposed that the consultations proceed on the basis of the following calendar:

September-December 1987	Review of some perspectives on the work of the United Nations in the 1990 (A/42/512) by CPC at its twenty-seventh session and the General Assembly at its forty-second session
15 February 1988	Deadline for transmission to the Secretariat by Member States of comments on the preparation of the draft introduction
April-July 1988	Review of the draft introduction to the plan by CPC at its twenty-eighth session, ACABQ and the Economic and Social Council
July-August 1988	Transmission of the draft introduction, the recommendations of CPC thereon and the instructions for the preparation of the plan to the Secretariat units concerned
December 1988-January 1989	Issuance <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> • supplementary instructions, as necessary, in the light of the deliberations of the General Assembly at its forty-third session
January-September 1989 (see annex I and II)	Review of the draft chapters of the plan and its introduction by the sectoral, functional and regional bodies at their regular sessions or by correspondence; these bodies would be requested to recommend priorities among subprogrammes in their field of competence, in accordance with programme planning regulations 4.2 and 4.16, in the light of the priorities set in the introduction
January-September 1989	Preliminary prior consultations with the specialized agencies
By mid-November 1989	Submission of draft chapters by Secretariat units incorporating the results of the reviews by sectoral, functional and regional bodies to the Office for Programme Planning, Budget and Finance
December 1989-January 1990	Prior consultations with the specialized agencies

Mid-March 1990	Issuance of the proposed medium-term plan
April-June 1990	Consideration of the plan by CPC and ACABQ
July 1990	Consideration of the plan and the recommendations of CPC thereon by the Economic and Social Council
September-December 1990	Consideration of the plan by the General Assembly in the light of the recommendations of the Economic and Social Council, CPC, ACABQ and the Committee on Conferences

Recommendations

13. The Secretary-General recommends that the Committee:

(a) Agree that the preparation of the next medium-term plan should proceed on the basis of the calendar of consultations proposed in paragraph 12 above;

(b) Authorise him to issue the instructions for the preparation of the medium-term plan on the basis of the draft introduction submitted to CPC at its twenty-eighth session, ACABQ and the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1988 and the results of the discussions thereon, on the understanding that supplementary instructions would be issued, as necessary, in the light of the deliberations of the General Assembly at its forty-third session;

(c) Authorise him to submit to the sectoral, functional and regional bodies the introduction to the medium-term plan together with the relevant draft chapters;

(d) Recommend that the General Assembly request the sectoral, functional and regional bodies to recommend priorities among subprogrammes in their field of competence, in accordance with programme planning regulations 4.2 and 4.16, in the light of the priorities set in the introduction to the plan;

(e) Authorise him to conduct consultation by correspondence with members of those sectoral, functional and regional bodies whose meeting schedule does not permit them to review the draft chapters of the plan;

(f) Endorse his proposal that the procedure for prior consultations with the specialised agencies should be extended to the sectoral, functional and regional bodies of the United Nations.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-second Session, Supplement No. 16 (A/42/16), part two, para. 100.

2/ General Assembly resolution 37/234, annex; for the amendments see A/42/16, part two, para. 74.

3/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/35/38), para. 20.

ANNEX I

**Calendar of consultations on the medium-term plan
with sectoral and functional bodies based on the
planned meeting schedule in 1989**

Medium-term plan chapter A/	Specialized programme review body	Date of meeting (1989)
1. Political and Security Council Affairs activities		
Programme 1	Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space	June (2 weeks)
	Special Committee against <u>Apartheid</u>	As required
Programme 2	None	-
2. Special political affairs, special political questions and special mandates		
Programme 1	None	-
Programme 2	None	-
Programme 3	Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People	As required
3. International justice and law		
Programme 1	None	-
Programme 2	None	-
Programme 3	International Law Commission b/	May -July (12 weeks)
Programme 4	None	-
Programme 5	United Nations Commission on International Trade Law	Second quarter (2 weeks)

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Medium-term plan chapter a/	Specialised programme review body	Date of meeting (1989)
4. Political affairs, trusteeship and decolonisation		
Programme 1	Trusteeship Council	8 May-2 June
Programme 2	Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples	March/August (3-5 meetings a week)
Programme 3	United Nations Council for Namibia	As required
Programme 4	None	
5. Disaster relief	None	
6. Human rights	Commission on Human Rights	30 January- 11 March
	Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	6-24 March
7. International drug control		
Programme 1	Commission on Narcotic Drugs	February (8 days)
Programme 2	International Narcotics Control Board	May-June (2 weeks)
8. International protection of and assistance to refugees		
Programme 1	UNHCR Executive Committee	Sept./Oct. (3 weeks)
Programme 2	Advisory Commission of UNRWA	31 August
9. Public information	Committee on Information	June (3 weeks)

Medium-term plan chapter a/	Specialized programme review body	Date of meeting (1989)
10. Development issues and policies		
Programme 1	Commission for Social Development	February (8 days)
	Committee for Development Planning b/	19-28 April
11. Energy		
Programme 1 (DIESA)	Committee on Natural Resources	27 March- 5 April
	Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy	
Programme 2 (DTCD)	Committee on Natural Resources	27 March- 5 April
12. Environment		
Programme 1 (UNEP)	UNEP Governing Council	15-26 May
13. Food and agriculture		
Programme 1 (WFC)	World Food Council	June (4 days)
14. Human settlements		
Programme 1 (Habitat)	Commission on Human Settlements	25 April-4 May
15. Industrial development	c/	
16. International trade and development finance		
Programme 1-8 (UNCTAD)	Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget of the Trade and Development Board	To be determined
	UNCTAD Trade and Development Board	To be determined

Medium-term plan chapter a/	Specialised programme review body	Date of meeting (1989)
Programme 9 (ITC)	Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT	To be determined
17. Natural resources		
Programmes 1 and 2 (DIESA and DTCD)	Committee on Natural Resources	27 March - 5 April
18. Population		
Programmes 1 and 2 (DIESA and DTCD)	Population Commission	21 Feb.- 2 March
19. Public administration and finance		
Programme 1	Meeting of Experts on the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Finance b/	To be determined
20. Science and technology		
Programme 1 (CSTD)	Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development	5-16 June
Programme 2 (UNCTAD)	Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget of the Trade and Development Board	To be determined
21. Social development and humanitarian affairs		
Programme 1 (CSDHA)	Commission for Social Development	February (8 days)
	Commission on the Status of Women	To be determined
	Committee on Crime Prevention and Control b/	

Medium-term plan chapter a/	Specialised programme review body	Date of meeting (1989)
22. Statistics		
Programmes 1 and 2 (DIESA and DTCD)	Statistical Commission	6-15 February
23. Transnational corporations	Commission on Transnational Corporations	5-14 April
24. Transport, communications and tourism		
Programme 1 (DIESA)	None	
Programme 2 (UNCTAD)	Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget of the Trade and Development Board	To be determined
25. Marine affairs		
Programme 1	None	-
Programme 2	None	-
26. Financial services	None	-
27. Personnel management services	None	-
28. General services	None	-
29. Other management and technical support services	None	-
30. Conference and library services	Committee on Conferences	To be determined
31. Programme planning and co-ordination	None	

(Note and footnotes on following page)

(Note and footnotes to table)

Note: The table is based on information available as at 12 February 1988. It will be updated orally, as required.

a/ Based on the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989, as revised,

b/ Not an intergovernmental body: members serve in their personal capacity.

c/ Programmes 1-3 (**UNIDO**) have been deleted from the plan; the remaining programmes will be reviewed by the respective regional commissions.

ANNEX II

Meetings of the regional commissions in 1989

Regional body	Date of meeting (1989)
ECE	12-22 April
ESCAP	March/April
ECLAC Committee of the Whole	To be determined
ECA	April
ESCWA	April/May (one week)
