

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

fInformal consultations on development and technical assistance needs in South Africa, Geneva, 30 September 1991

The Core Group of Multilateral Organizations held informal consultations on South Africa in Geneva on the 30th of September 1991. The organizations represented at the meeting included the Commonwealth Secretariat, the European Economic Community, the U.N. Centre against Apartheid, the World Bank and UNDP. Also invited were the African Development Bank and the UN Economic Commission for Africa.

The meeting was considered by all participants to be useful and well timed. It was agreed that these informal consultations should be continued in the present form, perhaps on a rotationary basis, roughly twice a year. It was agreed that the composition of the Core Group would remain as it was now, but some organizations not present in this meeting would be urged to join. A specific reference was made to ADB and ECA. It was the meeting's opinion that the bilateral and other UN organizations and South African partners could be contacted and consulted in other fora. It was agreed that the second meeting of the Core Group would be held in New York in January prior to the UN/CAA organized meeting in Windhoek in February 1992.

Following the participants' presentations of their programmes and views on the future it was agreed that the group would endeavour to implement their ongoing and future programmes in coordination, and in certain areas of concentration. These included training in management and public administration, urban development, education, employment, social services (health, water and sanitation) and rural development. The issue of land reform was also discussed, but it was agreed to be a highly political one and therefore to be dealt with primarily by the South Africans themselves.

It was generally understood by the meeting that there would be a transition period of 2 to 3 years, starting from the multiparty conference, currently planned to be held by the end of 1991. Following its current session, the United Nations General Assembly was expected to review the Declaration on Apartheid, and in December 1991 a resolution in this respect was likely to be issued. Thereafter the Core Group was expected to review its position and plans for assistance in South Africa. .It was agreed that assistance to the present government should not be planned and discussions on the issue should not be held with it either. It was seen as important that there should be no encouragement to give any party the impression that support was rendered to the present Government. The question of the future counterpart in South

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To assist in overall implementation of the future action plan, the Administrator made a decision to create a post of a Senior Focal Point, based in Zambia. The Co-ordinator will fall under the supervision of the Regional Director for Africa, with day-to-day support and guidance from the Division for Southern Africa. It is anticipated that this position would commence in September 1991.

6. Conclusion

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The approach outlined above is intended to build up a consensus just within UNDP, second within the UN System and thirdly within the donor community. Close collaboration should be emphasized with the other members of the JCGP in order to achieve a well co-ordinated and practical approach right from the beginning. The UNDP actions would be firmly based on our own assessment of comparative capacities, and would also be guided by the policy framework for the 5th Programming Cycle. UNDP should firmly agree with the parties concerned on the development priorities for its assistance programmes for the NLM's and eventually to a democratic South Africa. These priorities will be stated in the 5th Cycle Special Assistance Programme for NLM's and in the proposed Transition Programme.

To the extent feasible, UNDP should seek to fashion a programme approach emphasizing human resources capacity and a strategy focusing on human development goals and objectives since our own resources for South Africa will be limited. Our proposed programme approach must be attractive to other donor partners so as to mobilize the much larger funding necessary to meet some of the more pressing needs of the black community there. A well-delineated analysis of existing programmes and the current in-house resource picture could help ensure that UNDP will play a significant role on technical assistance issues not only for the transitional period of South Africa's transformation but also with regard to long-term impact on integrated development of the Southern Africa region overall.

Africa should be addressed at a later stage, when the beginning-of the transition period was confirmed. It was understood that the needs for technical assistance were very extensive in South Africa and the planned programmes would clearly exceed the external resources that would be available. It was also understood that there were considerable domestic resources that would be mobilized once the democratization process was confirmed to have commenced. Regarding the co-ordination of donors' activities it was felt that for the Core Group the consultative meetings would be a good and sufficient mechanism. It was agreed that information would be exchanged between the consultative meetings as and when appropriate. UNDP would act as a "clearing house" for information exchange at the initial stages. Co-ordination between UN agencies would remain the responsibility of CAA until such time as normal UN mechanisms were in place. Co-ordination with the bilateral donors would be desirable on an informal basis locally, and UNDP would participate through its focal point on South Africa when the situation so Warranted. EEC, being already a participant in the informal donors' group meetings in Pretoria, would enhance the exchange of information between the multilateral organizations and bilateral donors. It was finally agreed that the South African counterparts would be met in Windhoek in February 1992 at the CAA meeting to which they will be invited. The meeting recommended that a survey be made on the amounts_ involved and objectives set for the existing and planned assistance to South Africa. For the next meeting the participants agreed to have their own information available.