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Note on information needs for global
Monitoring of the Substantial New
Programme of Action

(Provided by UNCTAD)

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INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS OF AFRICAN
LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

Tripoli, 15 - 17 April 1982

Note on information needs for global
monitoring of the Substantial New
Programme of Action

Prepared by

THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

INFORMATION NEEDS FOR GLOBAL MONITORING OF THE
SUBSTANTIAL NEW PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE
LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

1. The Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980's for the least developed countries (SNPA), was adopted by the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in Paris on September 14, 1981. The full text of the SNPA is contained in document A/CONF.104/22, and is available at this meeting.
2. The SNPA itself, as well as General Assembly resolution 36/194 which endorsed it, stress the importance of monitoring progress in the implementation of the SNPA to maintain the momentum of commitments made by the international community and to promote the implementation of the plans and programmes of the least developed countries.
3. The SNPA comprises three chapters. Chapter I specifies the national measures the LDCs have committed themselves to undertake. Chapter II provides for international measures to complement and reinforce national efforts. Chapter III is concerned with arrangements for implementation, follow-up and monitoring.
4. Paragraph 117 assigns the focal role in global monitoring of the implementation of the SNPA to UNCTAD. This paper with its annexes describes the present thinking of UNCTAD as regards the information needed and the means proposed for its collection and use in monitoring. In this regard, a Note Verbale (TDO/330/17(6-1) 1/ is being sent by UNCTAD to the least developed countries requesting information on the steps taken to implement the SNPA. A similar Note Verbale is also being sent to other member states and international organizations.
5. However, in fulfilling its mandate, the UNCTAD secretariat will seek to use existing national and international sources of information to the greatest extent possible in order to minimize the burden of information gathering, particularly on the least developed countries. It should also be recalled that the monitoring process is an on-going one which will evolve throughout the 1980's; it will have to be adapted and refined in the light of experience.

Quantitative and qualitative objectives

6. The SNPA contains a number of objectives sufficiently precise to permit fairly accurate monitoring; many of these objectives may be monitored by means of quantitative indicators. On the other hand, the SNPA also sets a number of objectives the achievement of which can be assessed only in qualitative terms.

Chapter I. General situation and national measures

7. As regards many of the indicators implied in Chapter I, these may be constructed to a considerable extent from data which are currently available from international sources, although it should be remembered that in the case of least developed countries data are often relatively scanty. Annex I to the present note illustrates these main sources. The UNCTAD "Basic Data on the Least Developed Countries" (document A/CONF/104/9) and the "Summary

1/ advance copy available at this meeting.

Tables" for these countries (document A/CONF/104/PC.15) already contained part of the information required and it is proposed to broaden the revised version of these two documents to cover indicators based on the type listed in Annex I (see SNPA, para. 121).

8. In addition to the above, there are some objectives in Chapter I which, while in principle lending themselves to quantitative monitoring, are not defined precisely enough in the SNPA itself for this purpose. The UNCTAD secretariat intends to discuss these with the relevant U.N. agencies in the hope that appropriate indicators as well as procedures for collecting and processing relevant information can be identified. These objectives are listed below :

| <u>Topic</u> | <u>SNPA para ref.</u> |
|---|---------------------------|
| Minimum standards for the poor | 4 |
| Nutrition (in the context of the SNPA goal of eliminating hunger and malnutrition by 1980) | 6, 10 |
| The fight against endemic diseases | 6 |
| Health targets in the context of "Health for all by the year 2000" | 37 |
| Literacy, in the light of the targets | 6 |
| a) to reduce the absolute number of illiterates in the 1980s, and | |
| b) universal literacy ultimately (para. 25) | |
| School enrolment, in the light of the targets | 6 |
| a) to reduce the absolute number of out-of-school children in the 1980s, and | |
| b) of free and compulsory primary education by 1990 (para. 25). | |
| Negative impact of migration | 34 |

9. The qualitative objectives contained in Chapter I, including the policies to be pursued by the LDCs themselves, are summarized in the form of a checklist in Annex II to the present note. The national focal point of each least developed countries for the review and implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action (provided for in SNPA, para. 110) will be contacted by the UNCTAD secretariat in this respect; however, it is not considered practical that the least developed countries themselves be requested to reply to the list of questions appearing in Annex II. Instead, the UNCTAD secretariat proposes, in the first instance, to collect appropriate material relating to each least developed countries, such as development plans, plan reviews, budgets and financial reports, important ministerial statements, major studies by international organisations (e.g. IBRD, IMF). It is expected that this material could provide the answer to many, if not most, of the questions contained in Annex II. This Annex may serve as a useful checklist to governments of the least developed countries when responding to the Note Verbale referred to in para. 4 above, and when preparing documentation for the country review meetings. At the same time, to the extent that country presentations to review meetings address the questions contained in the checklist in Annex II, this will facilitate the global monitoring of the SNPA.

Chapter II. International Support measures

10. As regards the objectives with respect to international support measures, a considerable amount of data pertaining to the flows of financial, technical and other assistance to the LDCs implied by Chapter II is presented in the UNCTAD "Basic Data" and the "Summary Tables" referred to earlier. These will be up-dated on a continuous basis and it will in some cases be possible to obtain further information (e.g., on various types of aid and on sectoral allocation of aid), through existing data-collecting agencies such as the World Bank and the OECD.

11. The Note Verbale which is being sent to governments of countries other than least developed and to international organisations and which is referred to in para. 4 above, contains two questionnaires which focus on policy measures and seek to obtain some quantitative data as to intended transfer of resources to the least developed countries and to the meeting of the aid targets provided for in the SNPA. These questionnaires are reproduced in Annexes III and IV, respectively.

12. Annex V to the present document consists of a check-list of some additional qualitative information on international support measures which the UNCTAD secretariat will be seeking to obtain in due course.

Work plan

13. On the basis of the compilation of the information described above, as well as that generated on the occasion of country review meetings, it should be possible to monitor globally progress in the implementation of most of the major objectives in the SNPA. Processing and analysing this information will be greatly assisted by the new resources made available to UNCTAD by the 36th session of the General Assembly.

14. UNCTAD is required by General Assembly resolution 36/194 to submit a report to the General Assembly at its 37th session (Sept.-Dec. 1982) on the implementation of the SNPA. This report, while mainly methodological, will include such substantive information as is received in time, as well as information on the steps being taken to set up the machinery for global monitoring.

15. The procedures outlined above should enable UNCTAD to put in place the substantive global monitoring process by 1983 and have the system fully operational in time for the mid-term review which should be undertaken in 1985 (para. 118 of the SNPA).

QUESTIONNAIREON ACTION IN RESPONSE TO POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN CHAPTER II OF THE SNPA

1. Please state your country's position with regard to the targets set out in paragraph 63 of the SNPA * :

- 0.15 per of GNP for ODA to least developed countries by ☐
- doubling ODA to least developed countries in real terms by ☐
- doubling ODA to least developed countries in nominal terms by ☐
- other ☐. Please describe .

Does the above imply a change in your country's position as compared to that stated at the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries?*

Yes ☐No ☐

2. Please fill in the table below, stating whether data are * : commitments ☐ disbursements ☐ or budget allocation ☐.

| | 1980 | 1981 | 1982 | | | |
|---|------|------|------|--|--|--|
| Total ODA to least dev. countries (in US\$ millions) <u>a/</u> | | | | | | |
| of which : loans | | | | | | |
| grants | | | | | | |
| of which: technical | | | | | | |
| coop. grants | | | | | | |
| Untied ^{b/} ODA as % of total ODA to least developed | | | | | | |
| Partially tied ODA as % of total ODA to least developed | | | | | | |
| Tied ^{c/} ODA as % of total ODA to least developed. | | | | | | |

a/ Or in national currency. Please specify

b/ Aid is said to be untied when procurement may be undertaken in substantially all countries.

c/ Tied aid includes all aid transactions for which procurement is limited to the donor country.

Reporting organisation :

QUESTIONNAIREON ACTION IN RESPONSE TO POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN CHAPTER II OF THE SNPA

1. Do you plan a change in the share of concessional assistance allocated to least developed countries? Please give, if possible, an indication of direction, order of magnitude and timing.
2. Please fill in the table below, stating whether data are* : commitments ☐ or disbursements ☐.

| | 1980 | 1981 | 1982 | | | |
|---|------|------|------|--|--|--|
| Total ODA to least dev. countries (in US\$ millions) a/ | | | | | | |
| of which : loans | | | | | | |
| grants | | | | | | |
| of which: technical | | | | | | |
| coop. grants | | | | | | |
| Untied ^{b/} ODA as % of total ODA to least developed. | | | | | | |
| Partially tied ^{c/} ODA as % of total ODA to least developed. | | | | | | |
| Other ^{d/} ODA as % of total ODA to least developed. | | | | | | |

a/ Or other unit of account. Please specify

b/ Aid is said to be untied when procurement may be undertaken in substantially all countries.

c/ On a regional basis, under standard procedures of donor agency. Please describe.

d/ Please describe.

3. Is your organisation considering the establishment of facilities or new mechanisms and arrangements for providing assistance to least developed countries as suggested in paragraphs 64 and 68 of the SNPA? Please describe:

4. Briefly indicate the steps already taken or being taken or planned by your organisation (specifying the date of implementation) in respect of :
- a) measures to improve the quality and effectiveness of concessional assistance as contained in para. 70 of the SNPA;
 - b) action to implement the immediate action component of the SNPA outlined in its para. 72.

5. Regarding technical assistance, what steps is your organisation taking or intending to take with respect to the measures outlined in the SNPA (in particular para. 73)? Briefly describe your programme (present and future) in the least developed countries. What in particular is your organisation doing with respect to assistance in training?

6. To which sectors is your assistance to least developed countries being mainly directed? Please describe in particular any action taken or planned in line with the SNPA paragraphs on a) Food and agriculture (para. 97-102); b) Transport and communications (para. 55 and 86-96) and e) Social infrastructure (para. 70). Please indicate any foreseeable changes in sector allocation and project size.

7. Which criteria concerning national policies and/or performance of individual least developed countries (e.g., trade and exchange rate policies, mobilization of domestic resources, availability of counterpart funds) does your organisation take into account when determining the volume, terms and modalities of development assistance to these countries?

8. Briefly indicate the steps already taken or planned by your organisation in respect of all the other measures contained in Chapter II of the SNPA, when applicable to your organisation's area of competence, (in particular paragraphs 88, 90, 95, 96, 104 and 106 to 108). Your organisation may wish to give special attention to the following references, as appropriate :
World Bank Group and Regional Development Banks : para. 66; IMF : para. 68;
GATT : para. 78; ITC : para. 79(e); UNDP : para. 79(f); IFAD : para. 98;
WFP : paras 99-102.

Abbreviations used

SNPA : Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980's for the Least Developed Countries.

ODA : Official Development Assistance, i.e. grants or loans at concessional financial terms (if a loan at least 25 per cent grant element), with promotion of economic development and welfare as main objectives.

PRELIMINARY DRAFT OF UNCTAD NOTE VERBALE TO LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES
(April 1982)

The Secretary-General of UNCTAD presents his compliments to the Governments of the States members of UNCTAD concerned, and has the honour to refer to the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries adopted by the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries held in Paris from 1 to 14 September 1981 and to General Assembly resolution 36/194 of 7 December 1981 which endorsed the Substantial New Programme of Action and decided, inter alia, "that regular review and monitoring of the progress in the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action at the national, regional and global levels should be undertaken as envisaged in that Programme to maintain the momentum of commitments made by the international community and to promote the implementation of the plans and programmes of the least developed countries with a view to achieving accelerated growth rates and structural transformation of their economies" and requested the Secretary-General of the United Nations to submit a report to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session on the implementation of that resolution. This report will be prepared by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD.

In paragraph 3 of the same resolution the General Assembly called upon "all Member States as well as intergovernmental and multilateral institutions, the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, and all others concerned to take immediate, concrete and adequate steps to implement the Substantial New Programme of Action as part of international action for the establishment of a new international economic order".

Paragraph 72 of the Substantial New Programme of Action (SNPA) calls for immediate action to be given to the least developed countries' most urgent needs in order to lay the ground for the effective implementation of the SNPA and to ensure that medium and longer-term development is not prejudiced.

The Secretary-General of UNCTAD has the honour to invite Governments to provide him with such information as, in their opinion, would assist him in the preparation of the report requested by the General Assembly. A copy
... of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries
... and of General Assembly resolution 36/194 are enclosed for ease of reference.

In their replies, Governments of the least developed countries may wish to focus on the initial steps taken in the implementation of Chapter I of the SNPA, and on the constraints and bottlenecks encountered. Some of the constraints and bottlenecks may relate to measures called for in Chapter II of the SNPA.

Governments may also wish to focus in their replies on what has already been achieved since the Paris Conference and on the developments expected in the years to come.

The Secretary-General of UNCTAD would be grateful if replies to this note could reach him not later than 15 June 1982, in order to enable him to take fully into account all relevant information in the preparation of the report.