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ROLE AND FUNCTIONS OF UNDP

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INTRODUCTION

The United Nations Development programme (UNDP) is the United Nation's global development network. Headquartered in NEW YORK CITY, UNDP advocates for change and connects countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life for themselves. It provides experts' advice, training and grants support to developing countries, with increasing emphasis on the assistance to the least developed countries. It promotes technical and investment cooperation among nations.

The status of UNDP is that of an executive board within the United Nations General Assembly. The UNDP administrator is the third highest-ranking official of the United Nations after the United Nations Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary- general. [un.org https://www.un.org/sg/senstaff.details.asp?smgID=9]

AIM OF UNDP

To encourage global development, UNDP focus on poverty reduction, HIV/AIDS, democratic governance, energy and environment, social development, and crisis prevention and recovery. UNDP also encourage the protection of human rights and the empowerment of women in all of its programmes. The UNDP Human Development Report Office also publishes an annual Human Development Report (since 1990) to measure and analyse developmental progress. [un.org (http://hdr.undp.org/en/]

The UNDP is funded entirely by voluntary contributions from member nations. The UNDP works internationally to help countries achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

FOUNDING

The UNDP was founded on 22 November 1965 with the merging of the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance (EPTA) and the special fund [UNDP GA Res 2029, XX(1965]. The rationale was to 'avoid duplication of [their] activities'. The EPTA was set up in 1949 to help the economic and political aspects of underdeveloped countries while the special fund was to enlarge the scope of UN technical assistance.

The Special Fund arose from the idea of a Special United Nations Fund for Economic Development (SUNFED) . [Stokke ,O., 2009, The UN Development].

The fund was opposed by developed countries, especially by the United States who was wary of the Third World dominating such a funding and preferred it to the under the auspices of the World Bank .

With the US proposing and creating the International Development Association within the World Bank's umbrella, the EPTA and the Special Fund appeared to be conducting similar work.

In 1962, the United Nations Economic and Social Council asked the secretary general to consider the merits and disadvantages of merging UN technical assistance programs in 1966, the EPTA and the Special Fund merged to form the UNDP. The concept of SUNFED was dropped to form the special Fund.

UNDP's LEAD ROLE

UNDP lead gender response under Division of Labour

- UNDP –UNIFEM partnership to support lead role
- All Cosponsors must address gender –dimensions of AIDS through their lead role

UNDP responsible for:

- Coordinating and facilitating UNAIDS technical support.
- Identifying gaps, advising country- level stakeholder, and stimulating demand.
- Establishing regional support for delivery at country-level.
- Integrated gender in all aspects of UNDP's work on AIDS.

FUNCTIONS OF UNDP

- Sponsors innovative projects & local based development programs.
- Work with countries to strengthen their national response to HIV &AIDS.
- Promote fair & inclusive election with a special focus on women & marginalised people.
- Helps countries to prevent natural disaster & recover crisis.
- Raises climate related funds.
- Provide facilities to access & manage national & international resources.

SOCIO ECONOMIC FUNCTIONS OF UNDP

UNDP's offices and staff are on the ground in 170 countries and territories, working with governments and local communities to help them find solutions to global and national development challenges.

UNDP links and coordinates global and national efforts to achieve the goals and national development priorities laid out by host countries. UNDP focuses primarily on five developmental challenges:

- DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

UNDP supports national democratic transitions by providing policy advice and technical support, improving institutional and individual capacity within countries, educating populations about and advocating for democratic reforms, promoting negotiation and dialogue, and sharing successful experiences from other countries and locations.

- POVERTY REDUCTION

UNDP helps countries develop strategies to combat poverty by expanding access to economic opportunities and resources, linking poverty programmes with countries larger goals policies. It also works at the macro level to reform trade, encourage debt relief and foreign investment and ensure the poorest of the poor benefits from globalisation.

On the ground, UNDP sponsors developmental pilot projects, promotes the role women in development, and coordinates efforts between governments, NGOs, and outside donors. In this way, UNDP works with local leaders and governments to provide opportunities for impoverished people to create businesses and improve their economic condition.

CRISIS PREVENTION AND RECOVERY

UNDP works to reduce the risk of armed conflicts or disasters, and promote early recovery after crisis have occurred. UNDP works through its country offices to support local government

in needs assessment, capacity development, coordinated planning, and policy and standard setting.

Recovery programmes include disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration of ex-combatants, demining efforts, programmes to reintegrate displaced persons, restoration of basic services, and transitional justice systems for countries recovering from warfare.

ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

UNDP seeks to address environmental issues in order to improve developing countries abilities to develop sustainably, increase human development and reduce poverty.

UNDP's environment strategy focuses on effective water governance including access to water supply and sanitation, access to sustainable energy, sustainable land management to combat desertification and land degradation, conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and policies to control emission of harmful pollutants and ozone depleting substances.

HIV/AIDS

HIV/AIDS is a big issue in today's society and UND works to help countries prevent further spreading and reduce its impact, convening the global commission on HIV and the law which reported in 2012. [Global Commission on HIV And law].

HUB FOR INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIP

Major programmes underway are:

- ART global initiative
- World alliance of cities against poverty
- Territorial approach to climate change
- Africa –Kazakhstan partnership for the SDGs

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Since 1991, the UNDP has annually published the Human development Report, which includes topics on Human Development and the annual Human Development Index. [un.org(http:hdr.undp.org/en/]

EVALUATION

The UNDP spends about 0.2% of its budget on internal evaluation of the effectiveness of its programmes. The UNDP's Evaluation office is a member of the UN Evaluation Group (UNEG) which brings together all the units responsible for evaluation in the UN system. Currently the UNEG has 43 members and 3 observers.

EVOLUTION OF THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The United Nation development programme (UNDP) is perhaps the largest field programme under the United Nations. It is often referred to as one of the largest multilateral source of TECHNICAL and PRE- INVESTMENT assistance, in the world.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

It has long been a recognised fact that the developing countries have been lagging behind not only by lack or shortage of capital but also by the shortage of technical know- how and trained personnel. Capital can be productive only when there are trained personnel, who can utilise scarce capital in a productive manner.

Technical assistance consists in the transmission of learning, knowledge and techniques or material and human resources, in order to help those who receive it, to solve specific problems in a more suitable manner in keeping with their needs. It is an external contribution which assumes a very wide variety of forms, visits of experts and techniques, receiving fellowship

holder, organising courses and seminars, exchanging or disseminating information or documents and supplying material and equipment and occasionally financial means.
Thus the basic objective of technical assistance is the introduction of new methods and techniques, and therefore, new levels of attainment, efficiency and production in a wide variety of fields like agriculture, labour, industry, health, education and so on.
The result of technical assistance are often is unattainable as they are intangible. The criteria for measuring success or failure still elude us. Moreover, the term technical assistance itself is not an exact one, because there is plenty of room for argument on the borderline whether something is technical assistance or straight capital investment.
The important distinction, however, appears to be that the product of investment is extra goods and services while the product of technical assistance is ideas and new modes of behaviour.
Inspite of limitations, it is necessary means for attaining increased production and higher standards of living.

PRE INVESTMENT
The developing countries are short of not only technical know - how, but there is also an acute shortage of capital to finance their development programmes.
Pre-investment may be well said to be a form of technical assistance which has meant in practice ,the supplying of foreign experts to perform some activity which a country is unable to do for itself , such as the study of natural resources of mineral resources ,or planning of a harbour or other public works etc.
With this brief understanding of the terms technical assistance and pre -investment . we now turn to the evolution of the UNDP which is the largest dispenser of such assistance to developing countries under United Nations auspices .
EXPANDED PROGRAME OF TECHNICAL ASSISTENCE (EPTA)
On the initiative of the United States delegation, the ECOSOC in March 1949, requested the Secretary – General to prepare a comprehensive plan for a programme of technical assistance which would expand and supplement similar activities already being carried out on a small scale by the United Nations and certain of the specialised agencies.
The inauguration of the expanded programme of technical assistance in august 1919 can be well regarded as a land - mark in international economic co-operation under the UN.
The inauguration of EPTA was perhaps the most outstanding example of programme innovation.... but, it failed to satisfy the developing countries, which very strongly felt that the shortage of capital was the main obstacle to their economic development and wished to see the United Nations play a greater role in this sphere.
The representative of India, Mr B.R. Sen , in the eighth session of ECOSOC said that the United States sponsored resolution limited its aim to technical assistance and made no reference to measure for encouraging the investment of capital.
THE SPECIAL FUND
Although it was true that the international bank of reconstruction and development (IBRD) was making available , more funds to the developing countries, the amounts involved seemed small to the developing countries , which also considered the HARD LOAN policy of the bank as unsuited to their needs and disliked the fact that their influence on the bank was limited by its system of WEIGHED VOTING .
The major potential financing countries of the west were strongly opposed to the ides of such a fund. The obvious reason for this opposition was the reluctance , on their part, to turn over to

the UN agencies considerable funds especially in views of the prevailing ONE STATE ONE VOTE control pattern and the rising voice of the third world.

At the same time , there was another important proposal within the scope of EPTA – the report of the technical assistance board to the TAG and ECOSOC in May 1956, which sought to take what sought what it iw called ‘ forward look’ . The report envisaged the widening of EPTA activities, with the help of increased resources , and thus enlarge the scope of the programme by the provision of support in the form of equipment, supplies and experts services .

The developing countries were opposed to the mere enlargement of the activities of EPTA, and here again they made an attempt to establish a capital granting fund under UN auspices, but again with little success.

Here, facts should speak louder than words. Around the same time that the special fund was created, the decision was taken to create the International Development Association (IDA) as a SOFT LOAN subsidiary of the world bank to provide capital on less stringent terms than these of the bank.

However, the creation of special fund as a separate programme , solely directed to ‘Pre Investment Work’ had its psychological impact on UN members because it generated a feeling that the UN family had now moved closer to the establishment of a capital development fund.

ESTABLISHMENT OF UNDP

Within the three years following the establishment of the special fund , there began a movement to consolidate the two existing operational programmes – the special fund and the EPTA. A number of governments , particularly the United States , questionable the effectiveness of their separate existence and advocated their consolidation, on grounds that it would simply procedure, improve over-all planning and reduce administrative costs.

The comments of various governments revealed deep difference of opinion. On the other hand , the specialised agencies were sensitive to any arrangement that might further enhance the role of the United Nations in terms of programme control.

Since action could not be taken by the General Assembly at its Nineteenth Session in 1964, due to the special circumstances prevailing on account of the controversy over the financing of UN peace-keeping forces.

The developing countries insisted on EQUITABLE GEOGRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION and larger body. Agreement on the other features of the UNDP was reached without difficulty. The programme was to be directed by the administrator and a co- administrator.

The resolution was finally adopted by the General Assembly as resolution on 22 November 1965. It came into force on 1 January 1966 ,when the UNDP came in to existence. [GA Res. 2029(XX), 22 November 1965].

THE UNDP 1966- 70 : A STUDY OF THE EARLY PHASE

The UNDP has been a dynamic institution, because it has been developing and changing over years. The development process is itself dynamic and many –faceted. The whatever capacity it works, in the name of development, the UNDP stands on a shifting terrain, and in a landscape, constantly changing before our eyes.

The UNDP was to serve the interests countries more effectively. In this context, it is necessary to see the extent to which UNDP has changed and adapted to the newly emerging needs of the developing countries.

ADMISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

At the top of the administrative hierarchy is the governing council. It is an Inter – Governmental body composed of both developing and developed countries.

In 1971, the governing council is given the responsibility of providing general policy guidance and directive for UNDP. It is also responsible for approval of projects and allocations of funds. The programme is headed by an administrator assisted by a Co-Administrator.

PROCEDURAL RULES

The UNDP is primarily a financing and overall supervisory organisation. The UNDP has also becomes an executing agency of UNDP, when the General Assembly decided to authorise the UNDP to provide operational personnel, on the request of government , as an internal part of assistance normally provided by it.

The activities of UNDP are financed from voluntary contribution made by developed as well as developing countries.

The assistance provided by UNDP also plays the role of a central organisation for technical Co- Operational between developed and developing countries.

SCOPE OF THE NEW UNDP

It may be recalled that the creation of UNDP was hailed as marking a milestone in UN efforts to help the developing countries in their quest for development.

The first Administrator of the UNDP, Mr Paul in his opening statement in the first session of the governing council, stressed the Importance of the unified policy guidance available under the new programme.

The major policy issue which was a recurring item in the council discussions, in the first three sessions, was regarding the scope and future activities of the UNDP. Many developing countries urged the new governing council to consider the extension of UNDP activities to the field of investment proper, and in this context brought to the attention of the council the relevant General Assembly resolution . In the past as well as recommendations to that effect, by the Unites Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) [Annex IV 8 of the final act of UNCTAD, JUNE 1964].

Accordingly, the second and the third sessions of the governing council had this subject as a separate item in their agenda.

In the opinion of a member, the immediate task of the governing council should be to orient its work towards the gradual transformation of UNDP into a capital development fund. A Canadian delegate stressed the importance of the role f the UNDP in pre-investment and expressed fears that an extension of the programme further in the field of investment might jeopardise UNDP's valuable pre-investment work, taxing its already scarce resources.

In short, the advanced countries pointed out that in the face of severe domestic constraints, they were making funds available for capital investment through the World Bank, and doubted the advisability of opening up still another capital window through the UNDP .

The final DECISION was taken in the third session, when the Administrator drew attention of the council to a separate fund . which was created for the purpose. Thus , a policy decision which prescribed the future scope of UNDP activities was taken. Thus, the prospects of UNDP entering the capital assistance areas seemed to be remote, especially in view of the fact that the subject, as a separate item, never again occurred in the agenda of the governing council. The compromise arrived at , however, expressed the desire of many members to expand the activities of the UNDP in the field of pilot and demonstration plants, at the same time stressing the fact that resource of the programme should continue to be allocated in accordance with the request of government .

Thus , some members felt that the UNDP should continue to concentrate on its traditional fields o0f activities, they urged that more emphasis to be given to training, pointing to the acute shortage of skilled manpower in developing countries.

In short, one could observe from the above references that the scope of the newly created UNDP did not extend further than its predecessor programmes. It continued to function more or less on the same policies and directive which already existed in EPTA and the special fund as separate programme.

The principle of cost – sharing was preserved, while countries at a higher level of development, contributed more to the cost-sharing process.

CHANGING POLICIES AND TRENDS

The consensus which brought about a major restructuring and a new approach to the programming of UNDP activities , represented an important land- mark, in the history of the UNDP. According to the consensus, country –programming was seen as a means of achieving the most rational and efficient utilisation of resources at the disposal of the UNDP, for its activities, in the order to have the maximum impact on the economic and social development of the developing country concern.

AN APPRAISAL OF COUNTRY –PROGRAMME

Briefly speaking, country – programming involved the programming of UNDP assistance, at the country-level for periods up to five years in advance. Within the framework of a country-programme, UNDP assists the government concerned in formulating and implementing projects. Purpose of a country –programme is to enable the government concerned likely to be available over a specified periods, those development objectives towards the achievement or furtherance of which it wishes to direct technical Co -operation efforts with UNDP support.

THE UN DEVELOPMENT CO- OPERATION CYCLE

The main provisions of UNDP country – programming and the policies that governed the UN development co-operation cycle are briefly as follows.

Formulation of a country –programme, containing a summary of each country's development objectives and technical assistance and pre-investment needs and a preliminary list of projects, would be formulated by the government of the recipient countries in co-operation with representatives of the United Nations System, under the leadership of resident representative.

Once the country – programmes were approved by the governing council, they were implement by UNDP with the help of executive agencies.

PRESENT TRENDS AND FUTURE PROSPECTS

Another aspect of the financial crisis was the erosion of confidence in the UNDP. In general there is presently concern that the share of the UNDP in multilaterally funded programmes for technical assistance, within the UN system has declined from approximately three fourths in 1970 to roughly 40 per cent in 1976.

Thus the statement that the UNDP faces a double crisis, a resource crisis and a deeper identity crisis [Dubey . vol 143, p. 86].

The main responsibility for maintaining the coherence of the system, it was said , lay with member government themselves. A number of measures are under consideration for strengthening the position of the UNDP.

Moreover, the ability of UNDP to exercise leadership within the UN system would be progressively undermined. With the growing problems in world economy as a whole, there are signs of widespread uneasiness among both developed and developing countries over the concept of development countries over the concept of development assistance.

The UNDP had been at the centre of the UN system and its discussions reveal response to the changes in development perspective.

Due to its voluntary character, the UNDP faces the dilemma of sovereign right of the individual countries to define their own priorities, on the one hand, and its own tasks of implementing jointly –agreed development policy, on the other. But all efforts to implement the policies thus formed would have limited value ,unless resources at its disposal progressively grow. Again, Inspite of the diverse views expressed in its governing body, the UNDP has evolved policies based on consensus according to the changing trends, within the given limits. It represented an unprecedented examples of inter-governmental and inter-organisational co-operation efforts.

UNITED NATIONS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: AN OVER-VIEW

Today, the United Nations has reached a point of two directions. In one direction lies the prospect of a new capacity to cope with central issues facing the mankind. In the other direction lies the danger of a decline in the effectiveness of the United Nations as an instrument to promote economic development.

Over the years, Initiative to expand the scope of UN activities have been taken, but it seems to be more a product of circumstance than of careful design. Within the limited scope of the activities, the United Nations, functioning between the AID- GIVERS and AID –RECEIVER , is expected to be multi tasks ,like promoting international economic co-operation and , more importantly, speeding up the economic development of the developing countries and many other related tasks.

The United Nations has often criticised for its failure to achieve an overall Integrated , adequately co-ordinated, programme of economic development. Thus , any prospect for greater role for the United Nations in future in the field of economic development , should start from the recognition that international organisations can only achieve what the sovereign nation-states are willing or able to allow them to do.

It seems that the developing world is not important enough financially, economically or politically , to figure in the foreign policy calculations of the developed countries.

The developing countries, on their part, have urged a more effective UN machinery in the field of economic development .However, one of the more successful development , has been the achievement of a continuing dialogue on the various problems involved therein .

CONCLUSION

UNDP not just funding but also provide TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, UNDP fund reduces, led to reduce in advocacy role. In 1980, reduction in role of UNDP, it is the major organ of UN to carry out development activity, its major function is to how to bring rapid economic and social development.

One of the major problem with UNDP is lack of guarantee of long term planning, impossible of long term planning, lack of assured commitment in UNDP, later on started MULTI YEAR planning system but due to lack of funding did not success.

UNDP created lots of disappointment because accepted assistance could not come, different agencies operated in different countries : lack of coordination among them , no coherent policy, lots of comprehension also competition among themselves, one of the main problem is OVERLAPPING led to the wastage to scarce resources, DUPLICATION , FREGMENTATION , are the criticism of UN agencies . [Class lecture notes]

- NEED FOR REFORM : after the review of UNDP performance , need of more effective and efficient way of development , question arises how to carry out

efficient way of development instead of focus on two : Sustainable Human Development and Poverty Elimination . focus on all .

- ❖ Focus on advise and technical assistance .
- ❖ Decentralisation was a major reform.
- ❖ More professional oriented activity , focus on result oriented of UNDP .

There should one voice, one decision , one programme , one coherent, coordinating agencies to carry out various activities. Instead of various criticism UNDP works in the direction of development of developing countries. But in today's time various others issues arises there is also need to focus on them also.

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