

# **COMPILATION OF TEXTS**

**ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL  
(MINISTERS FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION)**

**1 January 1992 to 31 December 1994**

**Brussels 1995**





COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

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## INTRODUCTION

This third volume <sup>(1)</sup> of the Compilation of Texts brings together, grouped by subject, the main guidelines, conclusions and resolutions adopted by the Council (Development Cooperation) at its twice-yearly meetings over the past three years.

Most of these texts reflect the profound changes that have taken place on the international scene which have contributed to creating a new climate and opportunities for the revival of relations between the European Union and its Member States and developing countries.

In these texts, the Union and its Member States reaffirm their commitment to playing a major role in development cooperation with all developing countries, in accordance with the aims set out in Article 130u of the Treaty on European Union, taking account of the opportunities created by the new international climate.

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ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL (DEVELOPMENT)  
SINCE 1992**

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## **DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION IN THE RUN-UP TO 2000**



**DECLARATION OF THE COUNCIL AND OF REPRESENTATIVES OF GOVERNMENTS OF MEMBER STATES MEETING IN THE COUNCIL ON ASPECTS OF DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION POLICY IN THE RUN-UP TO 2000**

1. The Council recalls the Lisbon European Council Declaration of 27 June 1992 which stated that far-reaching changes in the international scene have contributed to the creation of a new climate and favourable opportunities for revitalising the relationship between the Community and its Member States and developing countries. In reflecting upon the experience of more than thirty years of co-operation with developing countries, and noting also the recent UNCED conference at Rio which led to the definition of a programme for sustainable development through Agenda 21, the Community and its Member States re-affirm their commitment to a major role in development co-operation throughout the developing world, in accordance with the objectives set out in paragraph 18, taking into account the opportunities presented by the new international climate. The Council emphasizes that this Resolution is intended as a first step in a longer process, designed to improve further the effectiveness of, and to ensure an appropriate balance in, Community aid programmes.
2. The Council welcomes the Commission Communication of 15 May 1992 as an important contribution to the discussion of the future for development co-operation policy.
3. The Council notes that positive changes have taken place in most developing countries over the last 30 years. It welcomes the overall improvement in social indicators, such as life expectancy, infant mortality rates, literacy and access to drinking water, even if much further progress is required. It welcomes, too, the rapid growth which has taken place in some parts of the developing world, and in particular the recognition in many developing countries of the importance of sound domestic economic management which has resulted in a number adopting programmes of radical economic reform. The Council is aware of the needs of developing countries in the present phase of transition resulting from the adjustment process.
4. The Community and its Member States, recalling their Resolution on Human Rights, Democracy and Development of November 1991, welcome the increasing recognition of the need for democratic, open and accountable government, and the progress made in a number of cases towards better observance of fundamental human rights and reforms of public administration. Respect for human rights and democratic principles, reduction of excessive military expenditure and overall good governance will be increasingly important factors in influencing Community and Member States programmes with all partners.
5. The Council stresses that social, economic and political changes of this type are essential to the establishment of an environment conducive to sustainable development, and is ready to support developing countries in their own efforts to make progress in these areas.
6. The Council recognises that many developing countries continue to face serious problems. A large proportion of their people continue to face acute poverty, hunger, disease and illiteracy. These problems stem from inadequate or declining economic growth and unfavourable income distribution and are exacerbated by rapid increase in population. In addition the relatively low economic and social status of women in some developing countries continues to undermine the development process. Moreover, many people in developing countries face a variety of environmental problems. The Council further recognizes the fact that many countries are still facing serious debt problems. These issues need to be tackled so that development can be sustainable.

7. In relation to this, the Council welcomes the growing realization that many problems affect both developing and developed countries. In particular the increased level of economic inter-dependence continues to underline the need for enhanced international and regional co-operation to promote stability and peace, growth and sustained development. Other problems include the degradation of the environment; population growth and movement; the production, trafficking and consumption of illegal drugs; and the spread of AIDS. The Council believes that the new international political context offers to developing and developed countries a new opportunity to co-operate and collaborate in tackling these problems. Moreover the Council emphasizes the need to contribute to the implementation of the measures agreed at UNCED, in particular Agenda 21.
8. Migration is an issue which affects both developed and developing countries. The Council recognizes that migration pressures, both internal and external, exist in many different countries and regions. The Council is conscious of the role which effective use of aid can make in reducing longer term migratory pressures through the encouragement of sustainable social and economic development. The Council equally stresses the importance of ensuring their smooth integration into the world economy, thereby increasing economic prosperity and reducing economic motives for migration. The Council notes the additional migratory pressures created by those fleeing oppressive or discriminatory government in their own countries.
9. The Council recognizes that, in the pursuit of sustainable development, developing countries' own economic policies and their use of human and other local resources are of vital importance. Promotion of internal and regional economic activity and an active employment policy would make a valuable contribution to this end, as well as the establishment of a legal, economic and political environment which will allow growth of the private sector which has a central role in their economic development. The Council also recognizes that the international Community has a responsibility to support the developing countries in their efforts to solve their problems and to ensure a favourable international environment.
10. The Council recognizes in particular its responsibility in promoting the progressive integration of developing countries into the world economy. Foreign trade is the main source of external finance for most developing countries. With that in mind a successful outcome of the GATT process would enhance their development prospects, to the extent that they are able to benefit from new market opportunities. Private investment can play a growing role in financing development provided that developing countries put in place appropriate policies. Moreover, the European Investment Bank and bilateral Development Finance Institutions in Member States can continue to supplement and encourage private flows.
11. Effective and independent non-governmental and other civil organizations in developing countries are a fundamental part of economic, social and political development in its widest sense.

Non-governmental organizations in Member States and in developing countries continue to make an invaluable contribution to development co-operation and should continue to be strongly supported.
12. The Council affirms that, combined with the recipient countries own efforts, official development assistance will continue to be crucial in the development process, especially of the poorest countries. At a time of budgetary constraints it is all the more important that aid should be used most effectively. To be effective such assistance must be well used and targeted where it can make a real impact, and all possible steps to increase aid effectiveness must be taken. The Council is aware that the contribution of donors will be increasingly subject to criteria for assessing the efficient use of the aid granted, and that donors will link decisions on overall volume and on allocation to effective use.

13. The Community and its Member States also recognize the importance of the overall volume of development assistance. In this context Member States reaffirm their commitments to reach the accepted United Nations target of 0.7% of GNP for official development assistance and to the extent that they have not yet achieved the accepted target, agree to augment their aid programmes in order to reach that target as soon as possible. They also recall their commitments to reach the target of 0.15% relating to least developed countries.
14. The campaign against poverty will continue to be the focus of development co-operation activity. Success in this campaign requires, on the part of developing countries, appropriate policies aimed at reforming the present structure of the economy and achieving a more equitable distribution of national wealth, and the attainment of broad-based sustainable development. Such a goal cannot be attained without considerable investment in that country's human resources, in terms of health and education policies, policies to improve the status of women and the establishment of democratic and representative institutions which function well.
15. The Council reaffirms its commitment to a swift, efficient and generous response to disasters and emergencies in whatever developing countries they occur. It emphasizes the importance of effective co-ordination of donors' responses, not only within the Community but also outside it. The Council is particularly aware of the invaluable role played by non-Governmental organizations in this area, and also welcomes the recent creation of a humanitarian office by the Commission. The Community and its Member States must ensure where appropriate that relief activities lead into rehabilitation and reconstruction programmes. More attention is to be paid to avoiding foreseeable calamities and their consequences.
16. In the field of development co-operation the Community and its Member States play a particularly important role, in part because of their historical links with developing countries, but also as developing countries' largest export market, as an important source of private investment, and transfer of know-how, and as their largest source of ODA. The Council welcomes the evolution of Community development policy which is a response to the changing needs of developing countries. Community development policy is and must continue to be an integral part of Community external relations policy, thereby ensuring that the latter takes due account of development objectives. The Council notes in particular that the Community approach covers aid and trade relations and that there is now a wide ranging body of policy covering disparate areas such as structural adjustment, environmental concerns and the role of women in development. \*It is nevertheless conscious that there are areas where new or renewed efforts are required. At the same time, the implementation of the Single Market is changing the structure of economic relations between the developing countries and their largest trading partner, the Community.
17. The Community and its Member States reaffirm their commitment to work towards a coherent and comprehensive approach in future, which builds on the strengths of the past 30 years of co-operation, learns from the experiences of Community policy, and addresses the challenges that developing countries face. With this in mind, they have established the following objectives for future action.

#### Objectives

18. The Community and its Member States affirm that their programmes of development co-operation will be guided by the following objectives:

- the sustainable economic and social development of the developing countries, and more particularly the most disadvantaged among them;
- the smooth and gradual integration of the developing countries into the world economy;
- the campaign against poverty in the developing countries.

These programmes will contribute to the general objective of developing and consolidating democracy and the rule of law, and to that of respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms.

19. The Council recalls that the achievement of these objectives, remains, as far as bilateral programmes are concerned, the responsibility of each Member State. The Council believes that the complementarity of Community aid to the policies pursued by the Member States should be ensured by the co-ordination mechanisms set out below.
20. The Community and its Member States further consider that the achievement of these objectives in particular developing countries demands a differentiated approach which has regard both to the effectiveness of their own development efforts and to the economic, social, cultural and political development of the country or region to which it belongs. The Community and its Member States will seek to respond in particular to the needs of the poorest sections of the population and of the poorest countries.

#### Policy co-ordination

21. The Community and its Member States believe that effectiveness in achieving these objectives can be enhanced by greater co-ordination within the Community at policy level, or by joint action. They have already endorsed such an approach to the issue of human rights, democracy and development, and are ready to consider other priority areas where such co-ordination may have a positive impact on the effectiveness of Community and Member States' development assistance, in particular where this contributes to the reduction of poverty.
22. To this end the Council invites the Commission to conduct a review of the Council's past resolutions and conclusions. It should consider what opportunities there are for enhanced policy co-ordination bearing in mind the issues covered by existing resolutions and taking note of the Commission's communication on development co-operation policy in the run-up to 2000. In its review the Commission should take full account of existing arrangements for policy co-ordination between all OECD aid donors and should seek to avoid duplication. The results of this review, identifying priority areas for policy co-ordination in the future, should be transmitted to the Development Council in time for its next meeting. The Council invites the Commission in particular to review policy to combat poverty with a view to presenting the results of its analysis for discussion at the next Development Council.

#### Operational co-ordination

23. As already stated in the Development Council Resolution of November 1986, effectiveness in achieving objectives can be enhanced by strengthening operational co-ordination between all donors. First and foremost, this co-ordination must be implemented between the Commission and the Member States, in order to obtain a genuine convergence of the efforts of each in terms of dialogue, objectives and instruments.

The Community and its Member States consider that, without prejudice to their competence to act individually, they should co-ordinate in the following areas:



(a) Sectoral co-ordination

Co-ordinated action on policy development and implementation already takes place between Member States' and the Commission's experts in a number of diverse sectors. The Community and its Member States believe that this should take place on a more systematic basis.

(b) Country level co-ordination

Co-ordinated action on policy development and implementation also exist "in-country" and in the context of ad hoc meetings devoted to specific countries. The Community and its Member States welcome efforts which are being made to intensify this.

The Council invites the Commission to review these types of co-ordination, taking full account of existing arrangements which facilitate co-ordination between all OECD donors. On this basis it invites the Commission to make recommendations, in time for the next meeting of the Development Council, on improvements to procedures and on other sectors which could be covered.

Co-ordination outside the Community

24. The Community and its Member States believe it is important to continue to co-operate with other bilateral and multilateral donors. To facilitate such co-operation in international development meetings, the Community and its Member States are ready, within their respective spheres of competence, to co-ordinate their positions. The Council recommends that the Presidency and/or the Commission should plan such co-ordination systematically, and welcomes the steps taken recently to assist this process.

Co-ordination of Community development instruments and policies

25. The Council emphasizes the importance of ensuring that all instruments of Community development policy, together with other Community instruments which have as one of their objectives the support of developing countries, are co-ordinated to ensure a consistent approach which will enhance the effectiveness of aid. It recalls in this context earlier policy orientations such as the 1990 Development Council Conclusions on Food Aid Policy, and calls on the Commission to review progress on the integration of the various instruments of development co-operation policy, and to take steps where necessary to facilitate this process.
26. In this context the Council underlines that aid programmes managed by different parts of the Commission should have a coherent and consistent approach and invites the Commission to take the necessary steps to ensure this.

Linkage with other Community policies

27. The Council recognises the linkage between development co-operation policy and other Community policies. It also recognizes the need to take account of their impact on developing countries, which can be significant. The Council urges the Commission to consider how this impact assessment might be carried out more systematically especially with regard to new proposals. It invites the Commission to report in time for the meeting of the Development Council in November 1993 on how it takes account of the objectives referred to in paragraph 18 in the policies that it implements which are likely to affect developing countries.

## Conclusion

28. The Community and its Member States reaffirm their firm intention to seize the opportunities presented by the new international climate to intensify their co-operation with developing countries in pursuit of the important objectives set out above. They intend to work towards a better achievement of the objectives set down in paragraph 18 by the intensification of policy co-ordination, operational co-ordination, co-ordination outside the Community, co-ordination of Community development policies and linkage between different Community policies.
29. The Community and its Member States will review the progress made in implementing this Resolution at the meeting of the Development Council in November 1993. Their work programme should include:

- |               |   |  |
|---------------|---|--|
| May 1993      | - | <u>Policy Co-ordination</u><br><br>i) Commission review of past Resolutions and Conclusions.<br><br>ii) Commission proposals on poverty.<br><br>- <u>Operational Co-ordination</u><br><br>Commission review of more systematic approach to operational co-ordination.<br><br>- <u>Co-ordination of Community Development Instruments and Policies</u><br><br>Review of the integration of Community aid instruments. |
| November 1993 | - | <u>Linkage with other Community policies</u><br><br>Commission report mentioned in paragraph 27.   |

## **CO-ORDINATION**



## Conclusion

### Co-ordination of development policies

- "1. In its 18th November 1992 Declaration on aspects of development co-operation policy in the run-up to 2000 the Council requested the Commission to review its past Resolutions and Conclusions with the aim of identifying priority areas for policy co-ordination in the future in relation to all developing countries.
2. The principal objectives of Community and Member States' development policies were reaffirmed in the November Declaration which also stated that the complementarity of Community aid to the policies pursued by the Member States should be ensured by co-ordination mechanisms. The aim at present is to determine in what areas policy co-ordination would contribute to these objectives. The Council regards the process of identifying priority areas as a continuing and dynamic process aimed at adjusting and increasing the effectiveness of its policies and thus meeting the challenges of the nineties.
3. The Council notes the Commission's communication on this subject and, for a large part, shares its analysis. It agrees that the following main criteria should be used to determine priorities for those areas where policy co-ordination is still required:
  - = contribution to the main objectives of Community development policy;
  - = existence of comparative advantage. In this respect the Council recalls that in its November Declaration it expressed its willingness to consider priority areas where policy co-ordination may have a positive impact on the effectiveness of Community and Member States' development assistance;

= need to complete or adapt existing policy.

4. The importance of policy co-ordination in relation to measures to combat poverty was stressed at the November 1992 Council. The consideration of this issue will be central in the efforts to establish a strategy to combat poverty and should also be analyzed in relation to the subjects identified in this conclusion. The Council has recently started its discussion on poverty and will consider the matter further at its next meeting.
5. In addition, the Council considers that at this stage and without excluding further reflection on this subject:
  - initially policy co-ordination should be enhanced in the sectors of:
    - = health
    - = food security
    - = education and training
  - in certain fields, such as respect for human rights, family planning and support for structural adjustment, the Council has already provided for effective policy co-ordination and efforts should now primarily be concentrated on implementation;
  - in a number of areas (environment, evaluation, role of women, emergency aid) where Community policy has been defined, a consolidation and updating may be required in the light of current or future circumstances and past experience;
  - in other areas which either have not been adequately addressed in the past or become new priority areas for the 1990s, further consideration of the need for enhanced policy co-ordination will be required.
6. The Council invites the Commission to make appropriate proposals, taking into account the above conclusions, to enable it to fulfil the following indicative work programme which is intended to complement the programme agreed in the Declaration on Horizon 2000 of November 18, 1992:

October 1993:

- Poverty
- Health

Spring 1994:

- Food security

Autumn 1994:

- Education and training

The Council will keep the programme of future work under review and evaluate progress achieved at its session in the Autumn of 1994."

**PROCEDURES FOR CO-ORDINATION BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY AND ITS  
MEMBER STATES - RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL AND THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
GOVERNMENTS OF THE MEMBER STATES**

**A. INTRODUCTION**

1. Articles 130u and 130x of the Treaty on European Union stipulate that Community policy in the sphere of development co-operation is to be complementary to the policies pursued by the Member States, and that the Community and its Member States are to co-ordinate their policies and consult each other on their aid programmes, including in international organizations and during international conferences.
2. In their declaration of 18 November 1992 on the run-up to 2000, the Council and the Member States invited the Commission to make recommendations for improvements to co-ordination procedures at both political and operational levels. The Council also recommended that the Presidency and/or the Commission should systematically plan co-ordination in international fora.

In response to the request from the Council and the Member States, the Commission submitted a communication proposing procedures for a more systematic approach to co-ordination between the Community and its Member States when formulating policies, at operational level and in international fora.

At its meeting on 25 May 1993, the Council adopted conclusions on the co-ordination of policies. These set the criteria for co-ordination and identify certain priority sectors for which joint guidelines should be adopted.

3. The main aim of co-ordination is to make the development co-operation of the Community and its Member States, and more generally of all providers of funds, more effective. It should also promote consistency and convergence of the development effort in terms of dialogue, objectives and instruments, reduce the administrative load on beneficiary countries and maximize the ability of the Community and its Member States to exercise an influence on the area of development.
4. As the three levels at which co-ordination is required (co-ordination on policy, operational co-ordination, co-ordination in international fora) are highly interdependent, the Council feels, without prejudice to its own competence, that co-ordination procedures should be applied in such a way as to ensure that the guidelines adopted at these three levels are consistent. In this context, the Council considers that stepping up co-ordination should first of all mean making better use of existing co-ordination mechanisms and instruments.



## **B. OPERATIONAL ASPECTS OF POLICY CO-ORDINATION**

5. In a limited number of areas identified by the Council for enhanced policy co-ordination, the Council recommends that priority be given to the use of Resolutions of the Council and the Representatives of the Member States in order to lay down, on a case-by-case basis, guidelines and lines of action for the Community and the Member States in their respective policies.

The Council emphasizes the importance of defining progress indicators, decided on case by case, in Resolutions on topics on which there is to be enhanced co-ordination, so that implementation of these texts by the Community and by the Member States can be monitored. In particular, it recommends that the Commission, in co-operation with the Member States, or possibly the Member States themselves, continue periodically drawing up analytical reports for the Council on the implementation of these Resolutions.

## **C. OPERATIONAL CO-ORDINATION**

6. Bearing in mind the Commission communication and recalling its previous Resolutions, the Council notes that there has been significant progress in this area over recent years. It nevertheless feels that co-ordination might usefully be strengthened in a number of fields, bearing in mind the following recommendations.

7. The main channel for operational co-ordination should be the representatives of the Commission and the Member States on the spot in beneficiary countries. While it acknowledges that this co-ordination already works satisfactorily in some cases, the Council emphasizes the need to build it up further and make it systematic. The Council feels that regular contacts between Commission delegations and representatives of the Member States on the spot are essential to reciprocal exchanges of information on measures envisaged or under way in the country concerned. Such contacts should also promote greater coherence in the discussions by either party with local authorities on the support measures to be implemented or the sectoral policies they adopt.

The Council would point to the advantages of carrying out studies, analyses and evaluations in beneficiary countries jointly, with the aim of helping to institute a common approach to be followed by the Commission and the Member States. Joint measures, particularly in areas where joint guidelines have been adopted, can also help to make co-ordination more effective.

The Council feels that the experiment of co-ordination in a limited number of developing countries (three or four) in which the Community has a significant presence should be continued. An assessment should be made at its autumn 1994 meeting, on the basis of an evaluation of the experiment, of the lessons to be drawn for improving co-ordination in all developing countries which are partners of the Community.

8. Aid programming and the definition of sectoral strategies at beneficiary country level are areas where more effective co-ordination is of particular importance. Here, the Council feels that there should be exchanges of information and bilateral contacts, especially on the spot, at a very early stage in the programming process.

The Council stresses the importance of the role of management committees in the programming phase and in the co-ordination of approaches on a country-by-country basis. That role must make it possible to improve the consistency and complementarity of Community measures vis-à-vis those of the Member States, in the spirit of the provisions which apply for the EDF Committee.

9. Regular informal meetings of the Directors-General for Development can contribute to the efficiency of co-ordination by providing a framework and follow-up. These meetings could cover, *inter alia*, essential questions of the policies and approaches to be followed, examine the progress achieved in the implementation of Resolutions fixing joint guidelines in a particular area and examine co-ordination practice in general.

The Commission, which organizes these meetings, is requested to ensure that appropriate documentation and a sufficiently structured agenda are prepared and distributed in good time, and to forward a record of the proceedings to the Member States.

10. As regards operational co-ordination at technical level, there should be informal bilateral contacts between experts from national administrations and the Commission, at geographical and sectoral levels.

Furthermore, meetings of experts, of a preparatory nature, may be held either at the suggestion of the Commission or at the suggestion of a Member State with special expertise regarding a beneficiary or a topic. The Council emphasizes in particular the role which expert groups should play in the "Run-up to 2000" process, both at the preparatory stage and by contributing to the follow-up.

11. The Council, drawing attention to its conclusions of 4 May 1992, emphasizes the need for a selective exchange of information, possibly in summary form, between the Commission and the Member States, on their envisaged or ongoing action and on the results of evaluations in the beneficiary countries, especially in areas identified as priorities for policy co-ordination.
12. The Council emphasizes that it would be useful to hold regular meetings between those responsible at the Commission (ECHO) and national humanitarian aid departments. These meetings would be able to ensure that the overall Community response to disasters is as effective and consistent as possible.

CONCLUSIONS  
ON OPERATIONAL COORDINATION

On the subject of co-ordination within international bodies, the Council adopted the following text supplementing its Resolution of December 1993:

**"The Council considers that co-ordination between the Community and the Member States at international conferences and meetings, especially in the United Nations framework, which generally works satisfactorily, should be continued, in particular through regular exchanges of information, contacts between the Member States and the Commission and meetings prior to plenary meetings of the various international bodies.**

Bearing in mind the constraints imposed by the representation systems and the working methods within international and regional development banks, the Council recommends informal exchanges of views between the Member States represented on the decision-taking bodies of such institutions. Such exchanges of views could deal with topics on which the Council has adopted common guidelines."



## **POVERTY**





**FIGHT AGAINST POVERTY – RESOLUTION BY THE COUNCIL AND THE REPRESENTATIVES  
OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE MEMBER STATES MEETING WITHIN THE COUNCIL**

**A. INTRODUCTION**

1. The Council and its Member States, taking due account of the Treaty on European Union, have opted for the fight against poverty in developing countries as one of the main priorities of their development co-operation programmes. On 25 May 1993 they agreed to co-ordinate their policies in this field and asked the Commission to prepare proposals.
2. After examining the Commission communication, whose analysis and main recommendations it broadly endorses, the Council and the Member States are agreed on the following guidelines for policies in the fight against poverty.

**B. BASIC PRINCIPLES AND GENERAL OBJECTIVES**

3. In common with the Commission, the Council notes that despite the progress achieved in many countries and the significant effort that has been under way for a very long time, poverty levels have generally persisted in the developing countries, and have even been on the increase over the last ten years in some regions, notably in sub-Saharan Africa.

4. The Council and the Member States recognize that the objective of combating poverty in the developing countries cannot be achieved without improving the international environment and reducing the constraints, in many instances decisive, that are imposed by economic relations with the outside world on the effectiveness of national policies to combat poverty. Such external factors, including debt, movements in commodity prices and the inadequacy of policies, have made it more difficult to implement measures to combat poverty.
5. The Council emphasizes that the objective of reducing poverty can be achieved in each country only on the basis of a clear and lasting political will based on national consensus and directed in particular towards reducing the uneven distribution of the benefits of growth and unequal access to productive resources and social services. It is essential to develop the capacity of the poor to provide for their own needs. The fight against poverty should be the joint task of government and the civil authorities.

It ensues from this basically political dimension of the fight against poverty that the democratization processes, the rule of law and proper public administration, as well as the participation of the poor in the process of political, economic and social decision-taking, are important conditions for the fight against poverty. At the same time the Council stresses that poverty must be regarded as a major problem likely to hamper sustainable world economic development and the progress of democracy.

6. The fight against poverty should not be regarded as an intervention "sector" amongst, or complementary to, others, but rather as a basic component of development, insofar as the persistence of poverty is one of the central problems of the developing countries and not a secondary effect of under-development. The fight against poverty should therefore be integral to the preparation and implementation of all development policies or programmes.
7. Strategies to combat poverty should promote a method of sustainable growth geared to the reduction of inequalities and the preservation of social integration links and be based on the strengthening of the productive capacities of the poor, inter alia through the promotion of job-creating activities, notably in small undertakings and craft industries, and wider access to productive resources. Special attention must be paid to informal sector channels.

In social terms they should encourage access for the poor to basic social services so as to permit an improvement in their living conditions and the development of human resources and the establishment of mechanisms for the redistribution of resources and the protection of the most vulnerable groups.

#### **C. MAIN THRUST OF THE POLICY TO COMBAT POVERTY**

8. The Council considers that the fight against poverty should occupy a central position in the framing of development co-operation policies and programmes.

The Council stresses that the fight against poverty should be a central theme of the dialogue with the developing countries and in the co-operation agreements between the Community and the developing countries.

Policies to combat poverty should take the following into consideration:

(i) An integrated, long-term approach

The need for an integrated, long-term approach concerning all development instruments forming a part of a consistent strategy, as provided for in Article 130v and the second paragraph of Article C of the Treaty on European Union.

(ii) Priorities

The necessary priority to be given in this field to the least-advanced countries and the most deprived sections of the population of the developing countries.

(iii) Political nature

The political and economic nature of the causes of poverty.

(iv) Dialogue on policies

The importance of the dialogue on policies between the authorities of donor countries and the authorities of recipient countries in order to ensure that the objective of reducing poverty is taken into account in the formulation and implementation of all their programmes.

(v) Definition of policies

Support as a priority for policies to combat poverty in countries in which the principles and objectives of the national strategy correspond to the general guidelines defined by the Council, including in this Resolution; that objective will have to be reconciled with the importance of helping development partners define and introduce valid policies to combat poverty.

(vi) Participation of populations

Essential participation of beneficiary populations in the political process and in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of development programmes and projects.

(vii) Differentiated approach

The varying nature of poverty problems from one country to another and the need to adopt a differentiated approach defined at national level; such differentiation might also be necessary within a country, in rural and urban areas, depending on local circumstances, even though the fight against poverty could generally speaking best be carried out at national level.

(viii) Targeting

The importance of adequate targeting of intervention on the poorest or most vulnerable groups.

(ix) Role of women

The role of women, who must be systematically integrated into all policies to combat poverty as into development measures in general; that role is often decisive in ensuring the effectiveness of policies in this field.

9. The Council considers that structural adjustment programmes should take account of the essential components of the fight against poverty, such as wider access to productive resources, rural development and the improvement of the urban environment, the creation of jobs in industry and services, the reduction of inequalities in income distribution and access by the poor to social services.

In addition, these programmes should be geared to the specific circumstances of each country and take into account the constraints on the poorest countries and the objectives of lasting economic and social development, democratization and sound administration.

10. With regard to the sectoral policies already identified by the Council, the fundamental guidelines for intervention by the Community and the Member States must be the improvement of the living conditions of the poor and investment in human resources in order to promote the economic and social integration of the poor.

#### **D. CO-ORDINATION BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY AND THE MEMBER STATES**

11. The Resolution adopted on 2 December 1993 concerning procedures for co-ordination between the Community and the Member States applies to the policy for combating poverty.
12. The Council stresses the importance of improving general and particularly specific knowledge of the circumstances and problems of poverty from one country to another, and of assessing the impact on poverty of all development programmes and projects. In this context there is a need to take account of work carried out by relevant international bodies.
13. The Community and its Member States emphasize their determination to strengthen their dialogue with the governments of the developing countries in the context of the fight against poverty.

That dialogue could define the objectives, priorities and instruments of the fight against poverty, and envisage reciprocal commitments where appropriate, in each country concerned.

14. The Council calls on the Commission to draft precise proposals on co-ordination in the context of the fight against poverty, after convening a group of experts from the Member States.

In this connection the Council would request the group of experts to consider how co-ordination in this area between the Community and the Member States could be quickly put into effect on a trial basis, initially, in a small number of developing countries.

15. The Council emphasizes the importance of the beneficiary countries developing their own capacities and strategies for combating poverty and expresses its readiness to support the strengthening of institutions in a co-ordinated manner.
16. The Council will assess the implementation of this Resolution at its meeting in the first half of 1995.





## HEALTH



**CO-OPERATION WITH THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN THE FIELD OF HEALTH  
COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

1. Following the adoption of the declaration on development co-operation in the run-up to 2000, the Council decided in its conclusions of 25 May 1993 that the health sector was a priority sector for the co-ordination of the policies of the Community and its Member States.
2. Having examined the communication forwarded by the Commission, whose analysis and principal recommendations it agrees with, the Council has adopted the following guidelines.

**II. HEALTH SITUATION IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES**

3. The Council acknowledges the progress achieved in certain health fields in the last decades, which as a whole is considerable. However, it notes that this progress is unevenly distributed geographically and that the situation in subSaharan Africa in particular remains very serious.
4. It notes that within a single country there can be major inequalities in health and access to health care between social groups and between urban and rural populations.

5. The developing countries are having to face a major increase in needs, owing to very rapid population growth, increased life expectancy and social and cultural changes. An important factor is that, although certain traditional diseases have been reduced, many others remain and new problems are appearing (resistance to anti-malaria treatments and antibiotics, accidents, drug addiction, AIDS) which are creating new challenges for the health services in those countries. In addition, armed conflicts increase the strain on the medical services in many developing countries.
6. In several developing countries the present health systems only partially meet needs. Their health systems have major imbalances and serious malfunctions resulting in particular from:
- partial inadequacy of the health-development policies followed and, in particular, insufficient attention to primary health care;
  - a considerable slowing-down of investments from own resources;
  - difficulties encountered by a large number of these countries in providing sufficient resources to finance the recurrent costs of equipment installed.

### **III. PRINCIPLES AND PRIORITIES**

7. Improvements in health are an essential factor in making the best use of human resources and are therefore a major aspect of development.
8. Improving the state of health of populations is one of the main aims and one of the first priorities of development aid.
9. Co-operation in the health field must be seen in a long-term perspective, in the overall context of development policies, human resources and the fight against poverty.
10. External aid should tie in with national health policies laid down by the beneficiary countries themselves. Efforts by donor countries should support those policies.
11. External aid should be directed as a priority to the poorest countries, the least-developed countries and the least-favoured population groups in the developing countries.
12. Women and children are groups which deserve particular attention in the overall health system. Displaced persons, refugees, and victims of war and disaster also need to have access to proper care.

13. Given the importance of the activities of NGOs and local communities in the health sector, and in particular in the provision of primary care, the Council:
- emphasizes the desirability of involving them in the programmes and plans of action in which they have a direct involvement;
  - reaffirms its intention to strengthen co-operation with them.
14. Since there is a close link between poverty and the bad health situation in several of these countries, an improvement in care systems is not sufficient. Countries should be helped to develop a multisectoral approach to health problems, with emphasis on primary prevention and improving living conditions and hygiene.
15. The Council acknowledges that there is no universal model for the organization of health systems and points out that co-operation in this area must take account of specific characteristics, human and financial capacities and local wishes.
16. While stressing that external aid must not be a substitute for national efforts, the Council considers that its priority objective must be to help the beneficiary countries to:
- establish and implement viable and effective policies;
  - organize health systems;
  - create an environment favourable to health;

- carry out a reform of care systems so that top priority goes to the problems of the most vulnerable groups and the most frequent and serious problems.

17. Strategically, this means that, with due regard for national priorities, countries should be particularly helped to:

- increase investments to improve living conditions and hygiene;
- support as a priority the development of basic and first referral services, so as to ensure a more balanced supply of care in the future;
- maintain a level of resources sufficient to finance preventive measures;
- mobilize national resources, including user contributions to the cost of care, in a more rational and fairer way;
- support institutional reform by:
  - = strengthening the technical capacities and resources of the central administrations, particularly in the areas of planning, legislation and control;
  - = supporting the process of decentralization and deconcentration by supporting the development of local and regional capacities for programming and management;
  - = encouraging local initiatives for the development of health-promotion activities.

18. The Council is concerned at the inadequacy of the resources allocated to the health sector. To cope with rising demand, led inter alia by population growth and the incidence of armed conflict, the Community and its Member States agree to examine what additional resources could be found, in particular by reallocating funds between sectors, to develop action on health. This increase in resources must take place alongside a focusing of policies to reduce inequalities. It must also be accompanied by increased attention to questions of cost/effectiveness and consequent revision of the policies followed.

While bearing in mind the need for balance between the sectors contributing to human development, the Community and the Member States acknowledge that, as far as possible, a fair division of effort in this area will have to evolve.

As regards the resources which the beneficiary countries allocate to health, the Council recommends that in the dialogue relating to support for structural development the Community and its Member States bear in mind the importance of ensuring a reasonable allocation for health in national budgets.

#### **IV. CO-OPERATION AND CO-ORDINATION**

19. The Council refers to its Resolution of 2 December 1993 on co-ordination procedures which stressed the importance of co-ordinating the activities of Member States and the Commission on the spot. The strengthening of co-ordination must be continued and increased, by making better use of existing mechanisms and instruments.



- 20. The Community and its Member States undertake to intensify their efforts to co-ordinate policies, in order in particular to improve approaches to geographical groups or subgroups and/or to increase co-operation on specific topics.**

**In addition, regarding operational co-ordination, meetings of Community and Member States' experts should be organized to:**

- increase the exchange of information on sectoral development problems and possibly organize a joint sectoral review;**
- identify a sectoral strategy on health at the level of the beneficiary countries;**
- examine specifically the present state of co-operation, particularly the progress of current projects and planned activities.**

- 21. The Community and the Member States could, as an experiment, initially monitor and evaluate this co-ordination in a small number of developing countries. With this in view, the Council calls on the group of experts to propose a list of countries and to work out a monitoring and evaluation method.**

**The Council invites the Commission, in collaboration with interested Member States, to submit an annual report analysing the implementation of this Resolution.**

22. In the context of the operational co-ordination carried out between the Commission and the Member States at the level of the beneficiary countries, the representations on the spot could if necessary, by common accord and with due regard to individual situations, entrust one Member State or the Commission with the task of leading the on-the-spot co-ordination between the Commission and the Member States on health.
23. The European Community and its Member States recognize the importance of the role of the WHO in the field of health and reaffirm the importance of co-operation and co-ordination with other donors.

**AIDS**



**THE FIGHT AGAINST HIV/AIDS IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES**  
**COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

1. In its declaration on development-co-operation policy in the run-up to 2000, adopted on 18 November 1992, the Council referred to the spread of AIDS as one of the major public-health problems affecting both developing and developed countries.

The Council would also refer to its conclusions of 27 May 1987 and 21 November 1989 on the fight against AIDS in the developing countries. It noted in particular that the rapid spread of the epidemic, despite the efforts of the international community, called for strengthened co-operation between the developing and the developed countries.

2. In its conclusions of 25 May 1993 the Council expressed the wish that as a first step the co-ordination of the policies of the Community and its Member States in the health sector should be enhanced. Increased co-ordination on HIV/AIDS falls under that heading and within the general framework of the Resolution of 6 May 1994 on co-operation with the developing countries in the field of health.

3. The Council considers it important to heed the lessons learned from seven years' experience in implementing the AIDS Control Programme for Developing Countries and bilateral and multilateral programmes. On the basis of that experience, the strategic priorities and common guiding principles for the action of the European Community and its Member States in this field must be identified.
4. After examining the communication from the Commission, the findings and main recommendations of which it endorses, the Council has defined the following approaches and guidelines for action on HIV/AIDS in the developing countries.

## **II. PRINCIPLES AND PRIORITIES**

5. The HIV/AIDS epidemic constitutes a serious health and development problem and by its very nature represents a new factor in North/South interdependence. It has helped to highlight weaknesses in health services and social services generally in developing countries and the need to improve them. Foreign aid should be directed primarily at enhancing national efforts and at supporting and encouraging initiatives by people and communities at grass-roots level.
6. The introduction of national strategies involves a political commitment by beneficiary States to ensure respect for the rights of human beings, refraining from any discrimination or exclusion vis-à-vis persons at risk, infected or sick.

Special attention should be paid to those individuals and communities which are socially or economically most vulnerable. Implementing activities should take particular account of the situation of women in the face of the epidemic and the effects on children, in particular orphans.

7. Assistance should relate primarily to the poorest countries, the least-developed countries and the most disadvantaged sectors of the population in developing countries.
8. Social, economic, cultural and ethical realities in all beneficiary population groups should be taken into account in framing national programmes and in implementing international aid, without prejudice to individual religious convictions.
9. Assistance with regard to HIV/AIDS should come within the broader framework of social policy (health and education) and of development co-operation policy generally.
10. Preventive measures remain the chief priority; this means in particular action in the fields of education, awareness, caring for persons affected by STDs (sexually transmitted diseases) and promotion of sexual and reproductive health. In view of the present spread of the epidemic, people affected need to be helped to "live with the virus". In order to achieve this objective, it is essential to act against weaknesses in health systems so as to make them more credible. Among other purposes, measures should be taken to combat discrimination and social exclusion and to support the health sector, particularly in the fields of transfusion and safety from nosocomial infection, training of medical and paramedical personnel, and

patient care. It is also important to make allowance for the socio-economic consequences of the epidemic and support efforts by countries and communities in the identification and implementation of measures to lessen the impact of the epidemic.

11. The Community and the Member States stress the importance of targeting assistance in the HIV/AIDS field so as to ensure a more effective response to growing needs in connection with the spread of the epidemic. In this context they will give precedence to the most cost-effective action and will consider how best to utilize existing professional expertise in order to improve planning, monitoring and evaluation of assistance.

In addition, the Community and the Member States recognize that, besides making more effective use of existing resources, it is necessary to provide increased financial and human resources in this field. They undertake to consider making additional means available by reallocating resources among sectors. Such reallocation would be designed to support efforts by beneficiary countries in order to ensure a more appropriate allocation of resources earmarked for the health and social sectors.

The Council is favourably inclined towards the proposed financial allocations for the Community HIV/AIDS programme.

While bearing in mind the need for balance between the sectors contributing to human development, the Community and the Member States acknowledge that, as far as possible, a fair division of effort in this area will have to evolve.



12. The Council points to the importance of the activities of NGOs and local communities in this field in order to ensure lasting action and reaffirms its intention of stepping up co-operation with such organizations.
13. The European Community and its Member States recognize the important role of the WHO/GPA in this area and reaffirm the importance of co-operation and co-ordination with other donors as well as with United Nations agencies and the World Bank. They support United Nations efforts for the drawing-up of a co-sponsored global programme, currently under discussion, and will consider, at the appropriate juncture, the arrangements for a possible financial contribution to that programme.
14. The Council sees a need to ensure consistency not just between Member States' initiatives but also between them and those taken at Community level. In this connection the strengthening of co-ordination will have to be pursued through better use of existing co-ordination mechanisms and instruments, as described in the Resolution of 6 May 1994 on co-operation with the developing countries in the field of health.

In order to achieve maximum effectiveness as well as consistency in the response of the European Union as a whole to the AIDS scourge, the basic principles to be observed should be to avoid cumbersome procedures, encourage the conduct of work at expert level and improve on-the-spot co-ordination in beneficiary countries.



## **FOOD SECURITY**



**RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL  
AND THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GOVERNMENTS  
OF THE MEMBER STATES  
MEETING WITHIN THE COUNCIL ON**

**FOOD SECURITY**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

1. Following its declaration of November 1992 on development cooperation in the run-up to 2000, the Council in May 1993 selected food security as one of the priority areas for enhanced policy coordination between the Community and its Member States. Policies on food security should be a part of the overall framework of the fight against poverty.
2. Having examined the Commission's communication on coordination between the Community and its Member States concerning food security policies and practices, the Council and the Member States have adopted the following orientations and guidelines.

**II. FOOD SECURITY SITUATION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES**

1. The Council is concerned that the number of people without adequate access to food is steadily increasing both as a result of emergency situations in many parts of the world – in particular at present in sub-Saharan Africa – and of longer term shortfalls in food supply which continue to affect vulnerable groups in a large number of countries. In many developing countries national food production increases at a slower rate than the population, and many of them, in particular the least developed countries, are unable to increase food imports. It is therefore necessary to re-emphasize the high priority which should be attached to policies and programmes which improve food security.

2. Because of the increasing need for emergency aid and humanitarian aid operations, donors and governments of developing countries have mainly focused on ensuring short-term food security. Food aid has become the main answer to food insecurity, whereas this can only provide a partial and mainly short-term solution which in some cases disregards traditional food habits and can lead to market distortions. As a result, international emphasis on long-term food security policies at regional, national and household level seems to have significantly diminished. In most cases, this is also evident in the follow-up given to the November 1988 Resolution.
3. The Council notes that recent structural changes, namely, on the international level, the GATT agreement on world trade and, on the Community level, the reform of the common agricultural policy, may have an effect on the production and international movement of products important for ensuring food security. It would therefore seem necessary to study the evolution of the changes and their short-term effects so as to enable a discussion on appropriate measures that could be taken.
4. The Council welcomes the efforts that have been made to enhance coordination between the various instruments of Community and Member States' development policies, particularly those relating to long-term food security, structural adjustment, social development and emergency relief but considers that there is scope for further improvement.

### **III. PRINCIPLES AND PRIORITIES**

1. Regional, national and household food security on a long-term basis which enables access by all people at all times to food for an active and healthy life, is an important element in the fight against poverty and should be emphasized in all relevant programmes with developing countries. Food security concerns not only the quantity but also the quality of food supply, in order to ensure adequate nutritional value.
2. Given the different responsibilities of men and women in relation to household food security, the Council underlines the objective to consider systematically the different roles played by women and men when programmes aimed at ensuring food security are prepared.

3. While the Community and its Member States should continue to respond to the on-going need for relief operations and food aid, the need for long-term-oriented food security policies and programmes has to be underlined.
4. The link between development, rehabilitation, relief operations and food aid needs to be strengthened. In this perspective, improving the effective use of food aid is of great importance. The Council reiterates its wish to see such orientations reflected in future deliberations and policy decisions concerning Community food aid. It also underlines the need to give special attention to food security of vulnerable groups in the design and implementation of macro-economic structural adjustment programmes.
5. In order to increase the national and local supply of food for countries with a permanent and large food deficit, the Council underlines that food security including nutrition issues should be adopted as a guiding principle underlying development programmes, aiming at poverty alleviation in rural and urban areas, which can only be country-specific. This principle should be complemented by special consideration regarding access to food.

The dialogue with partner countries should lead to a strategy geared to ensuring long-term food security. Measures to reduce poverty, and sectoral policies regarding, inter alia, agriculture, environment, health, family planning and education as well as macro-economic policy should be made consistent with the objective of ensuring food security for all. These policies should take account of the role of the commercial farming sector and smallholders. It is also important to raise the level of participation of women and communities in the drive to ensure food security at national, regional, local and household level.

6. Political stability and the ending of armed conflicts are important conditions for a more successful implementation of food security strategies.

7. The coordination of national and international early warning systems needs to be strengthened in order to respond rapidly to disaster relief operations. In this context, NGOs can also play a substantial role, and make a valuable contribution to other aspects of food security, particularly at the household level.

#### **IV. COOPERATION AND COORDINATION**

1. The Council refers to its Resolution of 2 December 1993 on coordination procedures which stresses the importance of coordinating activities of Member States and the Commission on the spot. It should be enhanced by making better use of existing mechanisms and instruments.
2. In view of the need for increased coherence, and in accordance with Article 130v of the Treaty, the Council looks forward to a report from the Commission analysing the impact of the CAP and other Community policies on markets and food security in developing countries, as well as to proposals to enhance coherence between these policy fields.
3. The Community and its Member States undertake to intensify their efforts to coordinate their support for food security policies in recipient countries at the Community level and in international fora.
4. The Council requests its Working Parties on Development Cooperation and on Food Aid to consider regularly longer-term food security matters. Furthermore, it requests the Management Committees and in particular the Food Aid Committee to scrutinize all commitment proposals for their impact on long-term food security at national, regional and at household level in the beneficiary country/countries.
5. The Council refers to its Resolution of 2 December 1993 on coordination procedures which stressed the importance of coordinating the activities of Member States and the Commission on the spot. In particular the preparation of joint policy initiatives such as food security planning, and increased consultation on the use of the counterpart funds generated by food aid for purposes of longer-term-oriented food security programmes and policies should be encouraged.



In this connection the Council would request the Group of experts to consider how coordination in this area between the Community and the Member States could be quickly put into effect on a trial basis in a small number of developing countries. This list of countries should be as close as possible to the list of developing countries where operational coordination on a trial basis is taking place.

6. Regional approaches to food security, including triangular food aid operations and local purchasing operations, should be further reinforced and supported so as to take advantage of natural complementarity between countries that belong to the same region. In addition, food security policies should have a regional dimension to promote regional food trade and integration.
7. The European Community and its Member States recognize the importance of the role of the FAO and other multilateral agencies such as the World Bank, the WFP and the IFAD in the field of food security, and reaffirm the importance of cooperation and coordination with other donors and agencies, including NGOs. In this field, the Council recognizes the need for the Community to make special efforts in the preparation of international conferences on food security and nutrition and in implementing their results in developing countries.
8. The Council requests the Commission to monitor and assess the implementation of this Resolution and to report back regularly on progress achieved. The Council also recognizes the importance of keeping under review its policies on the provision of food aid, particularly in the light of paragraph "1.4 above. In this perspective, it invites the Commission to submit to the Council as soon as possible a report on the implementation of the Council conclusions on food aid policy and guidelines adopted in 1989 and 1990. The Council will consider the need to update policy in this area in the light of this report.



## **EDUCATION AND TRAINING**



**RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL  
AND THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GOVERNMENTS  
OF THE MEMBER STATES  
MEETING WITHIN THE COUNCIL ON**

**EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

1. Following the adoption of its declaration on development cooperation in the run-up to 2000, the Council, in its conclusions of 25 May 1993, considered that education and training were among the priority areas in which coordination between the Community and the Member States should be strengthened.
2. Having examined the communication from the Commission, the analysis and main recommendations of which it endorses, the Council hereby adopts the following guidelines.

**II. THE STATE OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES**

3. The Council recognizes the considerable progress that has been made in recent decades at all educational levels, in sub-Saharan Africa too, despite the fact that the situation in Africa is more difficult in comparison with other regions; however, this progress has been very unevenly distributed, both geographically and qualitatively.
4. The viability of action on education and training is a long-term concern. A key factor in ensuring its viability is the support of local institutional capacities.

5. The Council emphasizes that education, in particular basic education, is a fundamental right. It plays a crucial role in the affirmation of democratic values, economic growth and job creation, the reduction of disparities in income and of inequality and the improvement of standards of living and health. The most important benefits come from primary education rather than higher education. Moreover, education can play an essential part in promoting the status of women in society. The Council reaffirms the important role played by NGOs in the field of education and training in the DCs.

### **III. PRINCIPLES AND PRIORITIES**

6. The appropriate level of intervention by the Community and the Member States in each country will be determined by the political will of the responsible authorities to undertake reform.
7. Problems in the education sector can only be correctly diagnosed in relation to each individual country. That is the only way in which cultural diversity and long-term political choices can be taken into consideration.
8. Aid from the Community and the Member States for education and training must, as agreed at the 1990 World Conference on Education for All, support the developing countries' policies and own efforts, not act as a substitute for local initiative.
9. Action funded under structural adjustment facilities must be better integrated into the long-term priorities of the developing countries' education systems.
10. The priority for the Community and the Member States must be both to maximize access to education within the limits of the resources available and to ensure that the quality of education provided is suited to the needs of the majority of students. That education should provide the basis for a continuous improvement in the educational level of the population.
11. The Community and the Member States will seek to promote support for vocational training for formal and informal sectors of the economy, to be provided by formal and non-formal educational channels.

12. The Community and the Member States must improve educational opportunities for disadvantaged groups. Among the various disadvantaged groups, priority will be given to improving women's access to education. The impact of all education sector projects on women's education must be studied at the project identification stage and monitored during project implementation. In particular, priority must be given to women's education, leading to action at the level of primary education and teacher training.

#### **IV. STRATEGIES**

13. The Council stresses the importance of a balanced, programme-based strategy, tailored to the specific circumstances of the individual DC, which concentrates on improving the quality and relevance of education and training available throughout the life of each individual.

In the context of this balanced approach, pride of place should be accorded to support for basic education. That support will include measures to increase the availability of non-formal education, in order to improve access to basic education for disadvantaged groups and to provide alternatives for those who have been unable to complete their primary education.

14. With regard to secondary education, support should concentrate on those areas and skills that are most relevant to the development needs of the DCs. Preference should be given to local training measures.
15. The Council recognizes that the training of teachers and instructors is an essential component of any strategy to support education and training in the DCs. Priority will be given to the training of teachers and instructors in the field of basic education and teachers engaged in the teaching of subjects relevant to development in secondary and post-secondary education, with a relative preference for in-service training. Support should be provided for developing local teaching programmes and the local production of teaching materials, in particular textbooks.

16. The Council recognizes that technical education and vocational training are fundamental to the creation of the skilled manpower needed by formal and informal sectors of the economy; likewise, vocational training will have to be provided through both formal and non-formal channels.

The Community and the Member States should strengthen their support for vocational training programmes designed to combat poverty, meet the basic needs of more vulnerable groups and, in particular, provide training for informal economic sectors, thereby encouraging independent work and fostering small and medium-sized undertakings. Support for programmes and projects adopting alternative methods of education such as apprenticeship schemes, refresher and in-service training provided by employers themselves should also be strengthened.

This presupposes the involvement of the private sector in devising programmes. Support for technical education and vocational training must be placed in a global strategy for the development of a pool of skilled manpower in a specific DC.

17. With regard to university education and other forms of higher education, the Council considers that the emphasis should be on creating adequate institutional capacity in the DCs themselves. Bearing that in mind, priority ought to be given to training in the country itself or in a neighbouring country. Training in Europe, particularly in the fields and skills essential for DC development, could be envisaged, particularly when there was no such capacity in the country itself or in a neighbouring country and where such training could contribute to strengthening local or regional institutional capacity.
18. The Council regards the qualitative improvement of the DCs' education systems as a priority. Measures to increase the efficiency of the utilization of available resources will essentially be support for education planning and management and innovation and reform.

This will essentially involve strengthening the institutional capacity of local administrations, helping them both to establish a comprehensive planning framework and to increase the efficiency of resources allocated to educational systems, in particular through innovation in the supply of education services and curricula.



## **V. IMPLEMENTATION: THE MEANS AND THE INSTRUMENTS**

19. The Council is concerned at the paucity of resources allocated to the education and training sector. In order to cope with increasing needs, determined among other things by population growth, the Community and its Member States will examine what additional means could be released, in particular through inter-sectoral reallocation, in order to develop action on education, in particular in the field of basic education. Increased resources must go hand in hand with policies targeted at narrowing inequality. They must also be accompanied by greater attention to cost-efficiency, with policies being reviewed accordingly.

While bearing in mind the need for balance among sectors contributing to human development, the Community and the Member States recognize that efforts in this area must where possible evolve towards fair sharing.

In this regard the Community and the Member States must pay particular attention to the need to strike a balance for each individual country between, on the one hand, the need to increase the efficiency of the developing country's education system, and on the other, to provide sufficient resources to make gains in productivity possible.

20. The Council stresses the importance of the increase in the availability of human resources. Better coordination at all levels between the Community and the Member States will contribute to that.

## **VI. JOINT ACTION AND COORDINATION**

21. The Council refers to its Resolution of 2 December 1993 on coordination procedures, in which the emphasis was placed on policy coordination and coordination at operational level, in order to continue and increase coordination through better use of existing coordinating mechanisms.
22. The Council draws attention to the importance of the role of management committees during the planning stage and in coordinating country-by-country approaches. This role should result in greater coherence and complementarity of Community measures with those of the Member States.

23. The Council stresses that the Community and the Member States must endeavour to provide coordinated support, in a limited number of DCs, for strategies and support programmes consistent with the education systems concerned. The Council therefore calls upon the group of experts to propose a list of countries concerned and to define consistent support methods. This list of countries should be as close as possible to the list of developing countries in which operational coordination has already been established experimentally.
24. At policy level, the Council stresses that coordination between the Community and the Member States will be based on exchanges of information on projects and programmes and exchanges of experience. These could examine the place of education in DC budgets, policies and priorities; effectiveness, quality, financing of education systems; aspects of financing by the Community or Member States of specific schemes (budget support or projects).
25. The Council calls on the Commission to step up this coordination on the basis of regular, systematic contacts between local representatives of the Commission and the Member States, designed to exchange information and ensure greater consistency in discussions with the beneficiary DCs (on sectoral and subsectoral educational policy issues and on specific operations or projects).

These contacts could lead to joint studies and evaluations which would be examined by the appropriate Council bodies, and to the identification, preparation and implementation of joint operations in line with the guidelines adopted by the Community and the Member States.

26. In the framework of the operational coordination established between the Commission and the Member States with beneficiary countries, local representations could if needed, by common agreement and taking account of the specific characteristics of each country, entrust a Member State or the Commission with the task of organizing local coordination between the Commission and the Member States in the education sector.

27. The Council calls on the Commission to bring together groups of Member States' experts (at least once a year), to discuss the whole range of problems, to refine the analyses made of certain geographical areas or particular aspects of policy or education and training measures, with a view to improving coordination between the Community and the Member States.

The expert groups could produce specific guidelines to be submitted to the Council.

28. In this framework, the Council calls on the Commission, together with those Member States that so wish, to submit an annual analytical report on the implementation of this Resolution.
29. The Community and the Member States reaffirm the importance of cooperation and coordination with other donors.
30. The Council wishes the Commission's annual report referred to above to cover activities undertaken in the context of coordination with other donors as well as progress made in coordination between the Community and the Member States.



## **HUMAN RIGHTS, DEMOCRACY AND DEVELOPMENT**



**CONCLUSIONS OF THE COUNCIL AND OF REPRESENTATIVES OF GOVERNMENTS OF MEMBER STATES MEETING IN THE COUNCIL ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 1991 RESOLUTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS, DEMOCRACY AND DEVELOPMENT**

1. Recalling the conclusions of the Luxembourg and Lisbon European Councils, the Council and the representatives of the Member States take this opportunity to reaffirm the November 1991 Resolution on human rights, democracy and development, which forms the cornerstone of their policy in this area.
2. The Council and the representatives of Member States welcome the Commission's report on the implementation of the 1991 Resolution. In order to facilitate the co-ordination of development co-operation policies, Member States and the Commission will hold an annual exchange of views on their activities taken within the framework of the Resolution, both on the basis of the Commission's annual report on the implementation of the 1991 Resolution and on the basis of information supplied by Member States.
3. As part of the follow-up of the 1991 Resolution the Community and the Member States agree the following:

**Positive Measures**

With the aim of co-ordinating development co-operation policies, Member States and the Commission will inform each other by means of the EPC communications network, of any significant adjustment of the programmes of co-operation made with the objective of encouraging or supporting increased efforts towards democracy and respect for human rights. Information will be exchanged and specific cases may be discussed further in the Council framework.

As part of their activities in support of human rights, democracy and development, the Community and Member States reaffirm their determination to give priority to their support for areas for positive action identified in last November's Resolution, in particular the setting up of new democratic institutions, strengthening the rule of law and encouragement of wider public participation. They also reaffirm their support for promotion of good governance and reduction of excessive military expenditure. They believe that these areas could be supplemented by action in other areas such as :

- the promotion of a free press and other media;
- the participation by minorities in the benefits of development assistance and in wider political processes;
- the underpinning of peaceful settlement of internal and regional conflicts;
- the support for political exiles wishing to return to their country of origin.

The Community and its Member States reaffirm the importance they attach to the respect of international law and international conventions. They attach great importance to maintaining dialogue with developing countries on these issues as well as in other areas of positive action. The Community and its Member States will, as part of the follow-up of the 1991 Resolution, further consider strategies for promotion of assistance in all these areas.

### **Restrictive Measures**

The Community and Member States recall that last November's Resolution provided for immediate exchange of information concerning restrictive measures and the consideration of joint approaches in reaction to violations. In order to ensure coherence and consistency and to examine the scope for joint approaches between the Community and its Member States, at relevant Council meetings attention will be drawn to the outcome of any relevant discussion that has taken place in European Political Co-operation concerning grave and persistent human rights violations and serious interruption of the democratic process and consideration may be given to the need for further discussion.

### **Co-ordination on the spot**

In order to provide a consolidated basis for focused assistance in this area, the Member States and the Commission will co-ordinate closely on the spot in exchanging views on the human rights situation and the state of democratisation in recipient countries. Where appropriate they may submit joint reports to their relevant authorities containing analysis and evaluation of the situation and also suggestions on areas where programmes of development assistance could influence progress in a positive way.

### **WORLD CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS - STATEMENT BY THE COUNCIL AND THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MEMBER STATES**

The Council and the representatives of Member States see the World Conference on human rights scheduled next June as an important opportunity for the World Community to pursue a constructive dialogue on ways and means for improving human rights standards and furthering democratic processes as part of the development process. They remain committed to a successful outcome of the Conference with a focus on practical measures in support of efforts by individual countries. They will, in the course of the further preparatory process, seek to identify such practical measures and to define strategies for their implementation as an integral part of development co-operation programmes.



**DECLARATION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND THE  
REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE MEMBER STATES MEETING IN  
THE COUNCIL ON HUMAN RIGHTS, DEMOCRACY AND DEVELOPMENT**

- "1. The Council of the European Community and the representatives of Member States see the United Nations World Conference on Human Rights to be convened in Vienna in June 1993 as an important opportunity to pursue the international dialogue and co-operation on issues relating to human rights, democracy and development.
2. They re-affirm the major policy resolution adopted by the Council and the Member States in November 1991, supplemented by the conclusions of November 1992 on human rights, democracy and development, which remain valid as the basis for their common position on these subjects. They also note the position paper of April 1993 adopted by the European Community and its Member States within the framework of the Preparatory Committee.
3. The Community and its Member States draw particular attention to the universality and indivisibility of human rights and the obligation of all States to respect them. They stress the important role of development assistance in promoting both economic, social and cultural rights as well as civil and political liberties by means of representative democratic government based on respect for human rights.
4. They underline the link between human rights, democracy and development. Human rights and democracy form part of a larger set of requirements, including good governance and restraint in military spending, necessary to achieve equitable, sustainable economic and social development.
5. The Community and its Member States consider that freedom from hunger and absolute poverty as well as the right to adequate shelter, education and health care are areas which need to be addressed with added urgency.
6. The Community and its Member States have noted the progress achieved so far during the preparatory work before the World Conference. They express determination to continue to play a constructive and consensus-building role in the process towards reaching agreement on a substantive and forward-looking Final Document to be agreed at the World Conference.
7. The Community and its Member States are determined to pursue an open and constructive dialogue with other countries as a means of promoting human rights, democracy and development in all parts of the world.

8. On this basis the Community and its Member States will seek to reflect in the outcome of the Conference the positive experiences gained through practical development co-operation in the field of human rights and democracy; i.a. in relation to the implementation of the Council Resolution of November 1991 in a number of developing countries, and in particular in the framework of the Lomé Convention and the San José development co-operation programme.
9. The Community and its Member States also reaffirm in this context their willingness to consider the possibility of increased assistance to developing countries in which substantive positive changes in human rights and democracy have taken place.
10. One of the central objectives pursued by the Community and its Member States is to provide for a strengthening of the positive support for human rights and democracy by providing technical assistance in key areas, such as institution-building within the public sector, strengthening of a pluralistic civil society and the protection of vulnerable groups.
11. However, in the event of grave and persistent human rights violations or serious interruption of democratic processes, the Community and its Member States, in accordance with their Resolution of 1991, will continue to take appropriate action in the light of the circumstances guided by objective and equitable criteria. Measures will be graduated according to the gravity of each case and might, when necessary, include the suspension of co-operation with the State concerned.
12. The importance of the principle of full participation by the people in the democratic and pluralistic processes, as well as of full observance of human rights, political and civil liberties, the rule of law, the subordination of military and security forces to civil authority, separation of powers and the independence and impartiality of the judiciary is confirmed by the experience of development co-operation.
13. This recognition by the European Community and its development partners should be reflected in the Final Document of the World Conference which should provide for a strengthening of development co-operation in areas such as:
  - constitutional processes;
  - the preparation and holding of free elections, the setting up of democratic institutions, and support for those already created;
  - the strengthening of the judiciary, the administration of justice, training of police, crime prevention, and the treatment of offenders;

- demobilization and peaceful settlement of ethnic and other conflict;
  - promotion of the role of NGO's and other institutions which are necessary for a pluralistic society;
  - promotion of a free press and other media;
  - promotion of a participative co-operation by enhancing decentralization through the involvement i.a. of organizations and movements at grass root level;
  - the setting up of national and regional independent human rights organizations and of "ombudsman" institutions;
  - special measures to protect and support the rights of women;
  - strategies for the protection of the rights of indigenous people, taking into account their needs and wishes in development processes;
  - special measures to protect vulnerable groups, including persons belonging to minorities, refugees and displaced persons, children and handicapped.
14. The Community and its Member States will endeavour to increase their financial and technical assistance in these areas.
  15. To sustain the co-operation within such areas the administrative and implementing capacity of the UN Centre for Human Rights as well as the funding for advisory services and technical co-operation provided by the United Nations should be substantially expanded.
  16. The Community and its Member States strongly support the system-wide application of human rights in the United Nations. They therefore suggest that appropriate high level follow-up measures be decided by the United Nations World Conference on Human Rights."



## **POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT**



**RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL AND OF REPRESENTATIVES OF GOVERNMENTS OF MEMBER STATES MEETING IN THE COUNCIL ON FAMILY PLANNING IN POPULATION POLICIES IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES**

**I. PREAMBLE**

1. The Council recalls its Resolution on Population and Development of 11 November 1986 in which the Community expressed its readiness to assist developing countries in this field, and in which guiding principles for such assistance were established. The Council reaffirms the basic principles set out below and in particular emphasizes that assistance should not be given to programmes which are in any way coercive, discriminatory or prejudicial to fundamental human rights. The Council welcomes subsequent Community activity in this area as well as continued support by Member States. The Council welcomes the Commission communication on this subject.
2. The Council notes that population change is acknowledged to be an essential determinant of global prospects for economic and social development. The world population now stands at 5.4 billion people, having doubled over the past 40 years; and according to current projections a further doubling is anticipated over the next century. 95% of this increase will take place in developing countries, even if in many countries fertility levels have declined substantially. These rapid demographic changes have profound implications for future progress towards the improvement of living standards across the developing world. The Council further notes that the relationships between demographic trends and factors and environmental change should be subject to continuous analysis.
3. In seeking to assist developing countries to respond to the challenge of population growth, support can be provided in a number of interlinked areas. Policies which promote the health of women and children, which seek to improve the status of women in their societies, which promote literacy and which seek to improve the quality of the social services available to communities all help to meet this challenge. The provision of family planning services is one indispensable way in which the range of social services available to people in developing countries can be enhanced.
4. Against this background and in order to support other social and economic policies undertaken by developing countries designed to achieve sustainable development, the Council believes that it is necessary to consider how best it can help to safeguard and promote women's and men's rights to reproductive choice. The Council notes that there has been considerable progress: about 50% of couples in developing countries now use some sort of family planning, and there has been a significant decline in fertility over the past thirty years.
5. The Council draws attention, however, to the continued, pressing need to respond to the large unmet demands in developing countries for family planning services. It has been estimated that 300 million women and men worldwide would like, but do not have access to, the means freely to plan the number and spacing of their children. In particular it notes, and wishes to assist developing countries respond to, the call in the UNCED Plan of Action for countries to formulate and implement comprehensive population programmes.
6. The Community and its Member States are also aware that their support for population activities has not kept pace with their assistance in other development sectors. The proportion of their official development assistance devoted to population programmes is significantly lower than the proportion of the total spent on these activities by all member countries of the OECD's Development Assistance Committee.

7. The Council is aware that family planning is only one of the instruments in a policy aimed at ensuring the balanced demography compatible with sustainable development. Other approaches exist. The Community and its Member States do not intend to limit their interventions to family planning, but will support the various policies which directly and indirectly lead to the same objective: strengthening of health and education, in particular of women, support for population policies, support for collection and analysis of demographic data, and improvement of knowledge of different social, cultural and economic factors which have an effect on fertility.
8. The Council welcomes the contribution to this discussion made by the Commission following its consultation with Member States' experts. The Community and its Member States accept the Commission's analysis of the need for a consistent policy to support family planning policy and to this end adopt the following framework for action.

## II. FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION

### Basic principles

9. The Community and its Member States reaffirm that all population policies must be based on the fundamental right of individuals to choose voluntarily the number and spacing of their children, and that assistance, therefore, should not be given to programmes which are in any way coercive, discriminatory or which are prejudicial to fundamental human rights. The design and implementation of population strategies in developing countries must also take account of ethical and cultural considerations. Programmes to improve family planning services should, wherever appropriate, be integrated into other family health measures, offer women and men all suitable methods and means of contraception and inform them about their respective advantages and risks and include education on health and relationships.
10. The Community and its Member States recall recommendation 18e of the World Population Conference, held in Mexico in 1984, which states that abortion should in no case be promoted as a method of family planning and that, whenever possible, provision should be made for the humane treatment and counselling of women who have had recourse to abortion.
11. The Community and its Member States also recognize that the provision of family planning services is fundamentally a social service, and should be seen as one aspect of human resource development. Activity in other related sectors, such as education and health, promotion of literacy and improvements in the status of women, can all assist in the creation of a climate favourable to wider reproductive choice. The Community and its Member States attach particular importance to the education of women in developing countries as one of the most significant factors in enabling women to exercise greater control over their lives. Family planning services also need to be seen in the context of other wider issues which affect population growth and movement.

### Objectives

12. In designing and implementing programmes of assistance in this field, the Community and its Member States agree on the following priority objectives:
  - to enable women and men freely to exercise an informed choice about the number and spacing of their children;
  - to assist in the establishment of an environment in which this choice can be fully exercised, particularly by improving access to good quality family planning services;



- significantly to reduce health risks to women and children through the provision of appropriate reproductive health services;
- to enable countries and local communities to respond to and influence population growth and movement.

The Community and its Member States also emphasize the wider importance of improvement of social and economic conditions and the improvement of living standards of women.

13. Development assistance given by the Community and its Member States will most effectively contribute to the achievement of the objectives stated above by:
  - (a) encouraging and facilitating, in the context of national development and co-operation policies, the formulation, voluntary adoption and implementation of family planning policies, and support for existing family planning policies;
  - (b) contributing to the strengthening of family planning services provision, including and emphasizing the broad distribution of information and enhancing awareness.

#### Priorities for action

14. The Community and its Member States endorse the following priorities for the design and implementation of programmes of co-operation on family planning:
  - policy dialogue with developing countries on the formulation of family planning strategies;
  - the provision of assistance to developing countries in the formulation and implementation of such strategies within the wider context of primary healthcare and, particularly, the promotion of the health of women and children. These should be directed towards meeting the current unmet needs for family planning by improving access to services and by raising the quality of care;
  - the provision of technical assistance to strengthen programme capacity, including management, research, training and evaluation capabilities of competent bodies in developing countries;
  - the provision of the most complete and accurate information available on reproduction, birth-spacing and contraception;
  - the provision of financial assistance to meet both capital and recurrent costs of programmes including, where appropriate, contraceptive supplies;
  - ensuring that programmes take full advantage of the potential contributions of the non-governmental and private sectors, as well as improving the effectiveness of the public sector;
  - aid should, where appropriate, support existing structures with the objective both of reducing staff and operational costs and of achieving better consistency with government policies. As far as possible family planning should be carried out through health structures, as regards information of the population and the supply of contraception means, and through the existing educational structures for the information and education of young people.

#### Use and level of resources

15. The Community and its Member States note that, although the pressing need for increased activity in this field (in particular to meet the currently unmet demand for family planning services) is widely recognized by donors, resources are relatively scarce in relation to needs. The Community and its Member States agree to consider imaginatively how the range of professional expertise available in this area and the application of such expertise can be improved, so that programmes can properly be designed, monitored and evaluated, thus ensuring the effective use of the available resources. The exchange of information and experience between professionals involved in different aspects of this sector in the Member States is particularly to be encouraged.
16. Nevertheless, the Community and its Member States agree that, even with the more effective use of existing resources, there is need for further increases in budgetary allocations and human resources in this field. The Community and its Member States agree to consider what further means they can make available, including reallocation of existing resources, in order to increase further their efforts to assist developing countries to strengthen family planning services. In this context the Council takes note of the proposals on financial resources in the Commission's communication.

#### Co-ordination

17. The Community and its Member States encourage all donor agencies to work together and to co-ordinate their aid for population activities. The efforts of the Community and Member States should, with a view to avoiding duplication, take account of the activities of the UNFPA, the World Bank, other bilateral donors and NGOs working in this field.

In addition they emphasize the importance of both policy and operational co-ordination between the Commission and Member States, in a way which is consistent with the co-ordination procedures foreseen in the resolution on development co-operation policy in the run-up to 2000.

#### Policy co-ordination

Meetings of experts from Member States' capitals and the Commission should continue to take place regularly with the aims both of reviewing and refining strategies especially in the light of the experience of those working "in-country", and of acting as a forum for reviewing progress in the strengthening and use of population expertise between Member States and the Commission.

#### Operational co-ordination

The Community and its Member States, having agreed common objectives and priorities, agree that attention should be given to strengthening co-ordination between those responsible for their population activities "in country". This should cover the exchange of information about current projects, and investigation of the scope for collaborative action in designing and implementing population policies and strategies in different countries.

#### Immediate action

18. The Community and its Member States agree to consider urgently, in the light of the principles, objectives and priorities set out above, how best they can enhance their roles in assisting developing countries in this field. They request that the next experts' meeting should take place early in 1993 to consider operational follow-up. Their deliberations should form the basis for a report to be considered at the next meeting of the Development Council in May 1993. This should pay particular attention to considering how dialogue with developing countries on population issues can be taken forward.



## **WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT**



#### WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT - COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

- "1. The Council reaffirms the importance that it attaches to ensuring that women in developing countries participate in and benefit from all aspects of development activities and are thereby enabled to play their full role in the development process on more equal terms.
2. At its meeting on 29 May 1990 the Council invited the Commission and the Member States to take practical steps to ensure that activities aimed at promoting the role of women in development are continued and strengthened by setting up the necessary management systems and allocating adequate personnel and other resources.
3. The Council notes the information provided by the Commission on its activities in this field since 1990. It welcomes in particular the effort made to incorporate this aspect in the implementation of the Lomé IV Convention and, in this regard underlines the usefulness of the manual prepared by the Commission and dealing with the methods by which the Community's policy can be incorporated into Lomé IV projects and programmes.

The Council encourages the Commission to pursue and reinforce its present activities along the same lines in its development co-operation with Asian, Latin American and Mediterranean countries.

The Council also notes with satisfaction the staff sensitisation and training programme set up by the Commission and efforts made to raise the awareness of decision-makers in ACP countries.

4. Acknowledging the progress that has been made, the Council urges that an assessment of the impact of these activities be carried out and invites the Commission, taking account of the thematic evaluation carried out in 1988/89, to prepare such an impact assessment with a view to establishing a sound basis for discussion on the direction of future policies on women in development of the Community and its Member States. The impact assessment, which should be completed by the end of 1993, should also take account of the question of staff resource requirements for handling these issues in the Commission.
5. The Council has over recent years adopted a number of conclusions on women in development and it considers that there is now a need to review them with a view to preparing consolidated Community and Member States' policy guidelines on this subject. It intends to adopt a Resolution on such a policy at its meeting in the first half of 1994.

The Council emphasises that policies being discussed as follow-up to its Declaration on "Development Co-operation in the Run-up to 2000", must take full account of their implications for both women and men. The Council especially refers to such issues as poverty, health and AIDS, education, population including family planning, human rights and democratization, urban development and structural adjustment.

6. The Community and its Member States will participate actively and in a concerted way in the preparatory process leading to the Fourth World Conference on Women to be held in Beijing in September 1995 and in the Conference itself. They also support as wide as possible participation by European NGOs in the context of this Conference.
7. The Council welcomes the Commission's offer to convene a meeting of experts on women in development from the Commission and the Member States during the second half of 1993. At its October session the Council may wish to review progress in the follow-up to these conclusions."



## **NGOs FOR DEVELOPMENT**



**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS OF 27 MAY 1991 ON CO-OPERATION WITH NGOS**  
**- COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS**

1. The Council recalls its Resolution of 27 May 1991 on co-operation with NGOs in which it invited the Commission to take steps to implement measures which would make its co-operation with NGOs more effective and which would ensure that NGOs continued to play a central role in the process of development, and to produce a study on certain aspects of this type of co-operation for consideration by a future Council meeting. The Council welcomes the Commission's communication following up this invitation. The Council wishes to reaffirm its commitment to full and increasing support for involvement of NGOs in the development process, particularly in those areas where NGOs have special expertise and experience, such as emergency aid, food aid, women in development, development education actions, protection of the environment, and their development work with and for the poorest. It notes in this connection the valuable role played by NGOs in partnership with the relevant Commission services, in the rapid implementation of the Special Programmes for Africa in 1991 and 1992.
2. The Council considers that the building up of the capacity both of Member States' and developing countries' NGOs to work in this field is of great importance. In this context it particularly welcomes the efforts made by the Commission to encourage participation in the co-financing scheme by the widest possible range of Member States' NGOs.
3. The Council emphasizes the importance it attaches to the full involvement of developing countries' NGOs in all aspects of the development process. Their involvement, in partnership with European NGOs, should extend to emergency aid and disaster preparedness in a way consistent with fast and efficient implementation of operations. It also welcomes the initiative of the Commission in publishing information on the procedures to be used in gaining access to new decentralised forms of co-operation as a practical step to strengthening this involvement. The Council emphasizes the need for progress in this important and innovative area.
4. The Council would further recall the importance which it attaches to support for and strengthening of other agents in civil society in developing countries: associations, professional groupings, local authorities and village groups, in order to foster both full and complete participation by the population in economic and social development and the strengthening of democracy.

It congratulates the Commission on the efforts which it has already undertaken to promote such co-operation and which have resulted in the implementation or identification of a number of projects, and calls on it to step up such action. It would ask the Commission to submit to it at its meeting in November 1993 a situation report on decentralised co-operation, taking account of the most appropriate topics and sectors for intervention and on management arrangements which are compatible with its procedures.

5. In this context too, the Council notes and welcomes Community support for the efforts of NGOs to promote and strengthen the democratic fabric and respect for human rights in developing countries. It considers that NGOs, which are important actors in the social structures of civil society, are particularly well placed to assist in this task, especially where it is difficult to direct assistance through governments.
6. The Council attaches importance to close contact between the governmental and non-governmental sectors, and welcomes the contacts between the NGDO-EC Liaison Committee, the Commission and the Council. It considers that NGOs play a vital role, not only at an operational level, but in invigorating the debate on policy issues. It notes and welcomes in this context the involvement of NGOs in international fora such as UNCED.

7. The Council welcomes the summary in the Commission's paper of the criteria used for selecting development and development education projects for co-financing and endorses the open system of funding employed by the Commission. It particularly welcomes the clear statement that project quality remains the most important criterion for the choice of projects. It fully supports the Commission in the philosophy which lies behind this approach. It considers that development assistance of all types must be targeted where it can be used most effectively.
8. The Council supports the Commission in its efforts to ensure that the administrative burden on NGOs is kept to a minimum and that applications for funding are processed quickly and efficiently. In this context it notes with interest the review being undertaken of the General Conditions for co-financing. It hopes that the review will lead to further improvements in the system, particularly to minimize the time taken to process project proposals and to ensure prompt payment. It notes, however, the need for a careful balance between these requirements and the requirement that project quality should be ensured.
9. The Council notes the rapid increase in the size of the co-financing budget in recent years, and considers that it is important not only to continue to ensure that the activities of NGOs are adequately funded through co-financing, but to ensure that all the resources available to NGOs are put to the most effective use. In relation to this it supports the institution of inter-departmental co-ordination on the procedures by which NGOs gain access to the different budget lines open to them. It believes that this co-ordination should result in simplification of those procedures, easier access to these funds and enhance transparency in this area. It invites the Commission to consider whether its published guidelines for applications to each budget-line by NGOs could be further elaborated. It invites the Commission to produce a brief report before the meeting of the Council in November 1993 on the extent to which the resources available to NGOs under different budget lines are taken up, and where it is small, to analyze the reasons and suggest ways of improving this.

## **HUMANITARIAN AND EMERGENCY AID**



## HUMANITARIAN AND EMERGENCY AID - COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

- "1. The Council, taking into account its Resolution of 28 November 1991, welcomes the administrative measures taken by the Commission, with the establishment of the European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO), in order to enhance the efficiency of the Community's own humanitarian aid and ensure a better co-ordination with other donors and humanitarian organizations. At the same time the Council considers, in view in particular of the fact that the need for humanitarian and emergency aid has greatly increased in recent years, it is necessary to make further progress in this area.
2. In the discussions which have taken place since the November 1992 Council, notably at the Director-Generals' meeting called by ECHO in March, attention has been drawn to the need for openness, dialogue and visibility in the field of emergency aid.
3. The Council recalls its Resolution of November 28, 1991 on the holding of meetings of correspondents to deal with emergency relief operations with a view to strengthening the co-operation and co-ordination between the Community and its Member States. It welcomes the role which such meetings have played in strengthening co-ordination, and believes that these would be further enhanced by advance circulation of documentation, earlier announcement of meetings and clearer agenda. The Council further agrees that meetings between the heads of national emergency units and the Commission should be organized and convened by the Commission at its own initiative or upon request from Member States at least quarterly. These meetings will address both general and specific issues concerning humanitarian and emergency aid. Policy issues which emerge from these meetings may where appropriate be taken up in the Council framework, by the Member States and/or the Commission.
4. Special attention should be given to disaster preparedness and early warning and appropriate interventions so as to limit the effects of catastrophes.
5. The Council has agreed on the definition of emergency aid which appears in Annex. In this context the Council stresses the importance of the link between emergency aid and rehabilitation assistance. It calls on the Commission to reorient its existing programmes in certain cases to allow a smooth transition between emergency aid and longer term development assistance without affecting the overall balance of Community aid.

6. The Council recognizes the central and independent role of NGOs in the implementation of Community emergency aid and the need to allow as broad a participation as possible of NGOs from the different Member States, taking into account the need to ensure efficiency in the implementation of this assistance. It is important for the Community to take advantage of the special expertise and experience of European NGOs, large and small, and to strengthen co-operation and dialogue with them on relevant aspects of policy as well as on individual projects. The Council notes the Commission's intention to pursue, on a step by step basis, the introduction of partnership contracts as a means of strengthening co-operation between it and European NGOs. The objective of such contracts should be to strengthen the co-operation between the Commission and the NGOs and they should not hinder the necessary flexibility in working with them. The Council considers it necessary that procedures in this area should be further developed in consultation with the Member States and in co-operation with NGOs.
7. At the same time, greater advantage should be taken of the possibilities which exist for co-operation with local NGOs and other relevant agencies.
8. The Council underlines the importance of improved transparency in this context as well as improved financial procedures in order to enhance the NGOs' role in Community emergency aid. Particular emphasis should be given to timely and speedy settlement of financial accounts. While the Council expressed its appreciation of steps already taken by the Commission in this regard, it calls for further improvement, including a review of existing reporting and accounting procedures.
9. Recalling its Resolution of 1991, the Council reaffirms the need for close co-ordination with the UN system to increase the effectiveness of emergency aid and to strengthen the international response to emergency situations.
10. The Council requests the Commission to submit to it an annual report on the Community's humanitarian and emergency aid activities.



#### **DEFINITION OF HUMANITARIAN AND EMERGENCY AID**

Emergency aid is defined as the provision of humanitarian assistance to those affected by natural and man made disasters, both of a sudden and a longer term nature, such as floods, earthquakes, droughts and armed conflicts, or situations having a similar effect. It includes the provision of urgent assistance such as shelter, emergency feeding and medical treatment, and may in certain cases include short-term rehabilitation (in accordance with existing decision-making procedures), both to ensure the delivery of that urgent assistance and to begin to help restore such communities to an adequate level of self-sufficiency. "

## **BUDGET HEADINGS CONCERNING HUMANITARIAN AID**

### **STATEMENT BY THE COUNCIL AND THE COMMISSION ON HUMANITARIAN ACTION**

1. The Council recalls and confirms its conclusions of 25 May 1993 on humanitarian and emergency aid. In this connection, it notes with satisfaction the holding of quarterly meetings between the heads of national emergency departments and the Commission.
2. In view of the great importance assumed by humanitarian aid, the Council welcomes the fact that the Commission has undertaken to submit, within the next few months, a draft Regulation on the use of budgetary resources earmarked for humanitarian aid. The Council considers that this legal basis should take into account the aforementioned Council conclusions. In particular, it should define the scope of humanitarian aid activities, coordination and the possibilities for cooperation between the Community, Member States, international organizations, including the DHA, and NGOs.

Provision should be made for the establishment of a decision-making procedure involving the possible creation of an appropriate Committee with a view to ensuring sufficient participation of the Member States in the decision-making process, as well as for a review of the guiding principles of humanitarian action and, in particular, the principle of non-discrimination on the grounds of race, religion or political opinion.

3. The Council stresses the importance of transparent and speedy procedures and the definition of clear criteria concerning cooperation with NGOs in this area.
4. In view of its importance, it is essential that the Community's humanitarian aid should be monitored by a Council working party.

## **STRUCTURAL ADJUSTMENT**



COUNCIL RESOLUTION

ON

STRUCTURAL ADJUSTMENT

After examining the progress report submitted by the Commission on the Community's involvement in the structural adjustment process in the ACP States,

THE COUNCIL:

1. reaffirms its attachment to the concept of structural adjustment, the implementation of which should contribute to restoring balance in crucial areas and to creating an economic environment conducive to accelerated growth while ensuring an improvement in the social well-being of the population;
2. welcomes the fact, in this connection, that an increasing number of ACP States have already begun, or have stated their willingness to begin, such a process, and confirms that the Community is willing to support efforts under way to enhance that process within the framework of the pragmatic, differentiated and humane view of adjustment defined in the Lomé Convention;
3. emphasizes that there can be only one programme of reforms in any given country and therefore points out the absolute need, so as to ensure the coherence of each party's actions, to implement close co-ordination between recipient and donor countries, in particular international financial institutions, which play an outstanding role in this area. Within the framework of that indispensable co-ordination the Commission will satisfy itself that the programme does indeed incorporate the essential elements of the approach provided for in the Convention;
4. in this connection, welcomes the measures taken to that effect by the Commission in conjunction with the Member States and the international financial institutions;
5. recognizes the demanding nature of implementation of the adjustment processes and the importance of the challenge facing the ACP States;

6. as regards Community support, endorses the broad lines of thinking set out by the Commission in its document and, in that connection, calls upon the Commission:
- (a) to focus its attention and studies, in addition to the overall evaluation of the processes under way, on the essential elements with regard to the provisions of the Convention, in particular:
    - the role played by structural adjustment in relation to long-term development objectives;
    - the social dimension of adjustment;
    - adaptation of the tempo and details of reforms to the specific capacities and constraints of each country;
    - consideration of the regional dimension of adjustment.
  - (b) to ensure the greatest possible coherence between adjustment-support instruments and those (notably Stabex) which act similarly on the balance of payments, and to ensure the necessary dovetailing and balance between a macro-economic approach, sectoral policies and project aid.
  - (c) to negotiate with its ACP partners general, specific and administrative and financial conditions for implementing Community support; those conditions should reconcile the need for the Community to retain its own independent judgment with the framework of support for processes under way which was agreed with all donors concerned, without leading to cross-linked conditions;
7. the COUNCIL emphasizes that the counterpart funds generated by the various Community instruments fit in with a macro-economic context and the financial and monetary balance of the countries concerned and should therefore be used and monitored within a single budget framework covering current expenditure and investment expenditure;
8. recalls, in that connection, its Resolution of 27 May 1991 on counterpart funds and in particular the priority to be given, in the use of counterpart funds, to the social dimension of adjustment, while ensuring adequate cover for the health and education sectors, and the special attention to be paid to environmental protection;

9. notes that such development presupposes that the Commission, in the context of its constant dialogue with those ACP States pursuing structural adjustment efforts, will participate in consultations on the macro-economic framework, in particular its budget component relating to public expenditure and public investment expenditure, and will be involved in any review of public expenditure;
10. welcomes, in this connection, the Commission's approach of taking an increasing interest in the field of the public finances of the countries concerned in order to help them improve the efficiency, transparency and equity of their budget process, but also to safeguard the Community's financial operations;
11. the COUNCIL emphasizes the importance it attaches to respect for human rights and the processes of democratization under way in numerous ACP States and welcomes the positive developments recorded. It notes, in common with the Commission, that such processes may, in certain instances, lead to a number of adjustments of economic reform programmes, especially as regards the tempo and social impact of such reforms. Those adjustments may induce the countries concerned to deviate temporarily from the adjustment framework originally envisaged. The Council, anxious to support both political and economic reform processes, and insofar as such deviation does not call into question the economic viability of the adjustment programme, considers that the Community and its Member States should, at the most appropriate time, take the co-ordination measures necessary, in particular with the Bretton Woods institutions, to safeguard the continuity and coherence of the support framework on the part of the donors concerned. The Community and its Member States should play a major role in such consultations.
12. the COUNCIL expresses its appreciation to the Commission for the quality and scope of the action undertaken and measures adopted to ensure the efficient and harmonious involvement of the Community in the support for the structural adjustment process of the ACP States;
13. the COUNCIL agreed to amplify and supplement the text of these conclusions at a later date, if necessary and in the light of experience.





## **LOMÉ IV PROGRAMMING REPORT**



## COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

### ON THE PROGRAMMING REPORT

1. On the basis of a Commission staff working paper and an introductory statement by Vice-President Marin the Council assessed the Community aid-programming process for the five years during which the first Financial Protocol to the Fourth ACP-EEC Convention was to be applied.

It noted with satisfaction that to date 61 national indicative programmes had been signed and that the regional programming process, which was necessarily slower, should be completed in the following few months. It therefore appears that the provisions of the Convention, which require the programming ideally to be completed before the Convention enters into force, have been respected overall.

In financial terms around ECU 5,5 thousand million have been the subject of programming between the Community and its ACP partners at national and regional level.

2. In quality terms the Council considers that the results of the programming are consistent with the provisions and objectives set out in the new Convention in this respect. It endorses the Commission's view that the programming as it took place is likely to provide a real boost to the economic and social effectiveness of co-operation with the ACP States. The Council focused its attention on the following points:

- (a) Programming under Lomé IV follows on from the previous Conventions while reflecting the priorities of the new Convention. The achievements of Lomé III are confirmed by the consolidation of the concept of support for sectoral policies through dialogue and the focusing of aid on certain priority sectors. In this connection rural development, socio-economic infrastructures and human resources remain the special areas of application of Community aid. In addition to the areas of co-operation already covered under Lomé III the indicative programmes incorporate the new spheres of co-operation on which the Lomé IV Convention has placed special emphasis and in particular environmental protection, decentralized co-operation, aid for and the promotion of the private sector and the enhancement of the role of women.

The Council referred above all to the importance it attaches to the provisions now contained in the indicative programmes concerning human rights. It pointed out that respect for and the promotion of human rights are a priority concern of the Community in its development policy and constitute an approach which inevitably has to be followed for the sake of sustainable development.

The Council also welcomes the fact that the new emphasis placed in the Convention on the concept of regional economic integration is reflected in the regional indicative programmes already concluded and in the preparatory work undertaken in other regions.

- (b) The involvement of the Community in the structural adjustment process is another major innovation of programming under the new Convention. The Council endorsed the Commission's view that structural adjustment cannot be perceived in isolation from the programming process insofar in particular as these two components form part of the long-term development objective underlying ACP-EEC co-operation.

It will be recalled that the main lines of Community policy for future years as regards support for structural adjustment are covered in a separate Resolution.

- (c) The quality of the dialogue between the Commission and the ACP States in connection with programming was underlined. In fact the dialogue concerning policies is now an established part of co-operation with the ACP States and there have been no instances where the achievement of consensus on the framework of mutual commitments constituted by the indicative programmes might have been a problem.
  - (d) Effective co-ordination with the other donors has taken place throughout the programming process both in the area of support for sectoral policies and in that of macro-economic reforms, the aim being to maximize the consistency of co-operation projects and to improve their complementarity. There has been systematic co-ordination between the Commission and the Member States. In addition, co-ordination with the Bretton Woods institutions, and in particular the World Bank, and with the other main providers of funds in the countries concerned, has been considerably strengthened.
3. The Council pointed out that the implementation of indicative programmes should now be made as efficient and effective as possible. It is necessary in particular to ensure that development projects are viable by a consistent linking-up of Community resources and the measures to be taken by the countries concerned on a macro-economic (structural adjustment) and sectoral (areas on which indicative programmes focus) level.

The Council acknowledges that an approach of this kind, based on the implementation of reforms on a macro-economic and sectoral level, might as a result of its more demanding nature not tie in completely with the need to use the available resources at a satisfactory rate and hence affect the efficient disbursement of Community aid.

The purpose of the indicative programmes is to reconcile these two requirements by concentrating aid on a small number of sectors and not, as was often done in the past, on a single sector in respect of which operations were due to extend well beyond the period of application of the Financial Protocol. This strengthening of the operational nature of the indicative programmes should permit, by avoiding resources being left unproductive for no good reason, a better use of Community aid and better commitment and payment results.

The identification in the indicative programmes of a series of measures designed to speed up implementation of aid also serves the same purpose.

The Council would point out, however, that the quest for a better performance in the implementation of Community aid must not be at the expense of the effectiveness and quality of the aid.

The Council would finally refer to the sense of major innovation, initiated under Lomé III and confirmed under Lomé IV, which now characterizes financial and technical co-operation between the Community and the ACP States. Based originally on the exclusive financing of individual projects, co-operation policy developed under Lomé III into an approach based on support for sectoral policies and was extended under Lomé IV to support for structural adjustment processes. The Council considers that this trend is such as to give Community aid the desired efficiency and impact.

## **EVALUATION**





COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS  
CONCERNING THE EVALUATION OF COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT AID

1. Referring back to its Resolutions of November 1987, May 1989 and May 1990 on development co-operation evaluation and co-operation between the Commission and the Member States on the subject, the Council has examined progress achieved in this sphere.
2. It notes with satisfaction the adoption by the Commission of a new "integrated" - approach to the management of the projects/programmes cycle which, as regards financing proposals, systematically takes into account and puts into practice the lessons learned from previous studies and evaluations directly or indirectly linked with the project/programme. The Council invites the Commission to supply the list of these evaluation reports to the delegations concerned.
3. Since it is for the Council, on a proposal from the Commission, to define the broad outline of the Community's co-operation policy by setting general guidelines and objectives for its action, it reiterates the importance it attaches to mutual exchange of information on evaluation results and methods.

The Council invites the Commission to send the Member States at regular and frequent intervals, and at least once a year, a list of completed evaluation reports including a brief description of their contents. These reports will be made available to interested delegations on request.

4. The Commission and its Member States are asked to conduct general discussions on sectoral, thematic and geographic development co-operation strategies on the basis of the material contained in the evaluations. For that purpose, they will hold exchanges of views once or twice a year in the EDF Committee, the ALA Committee and the Mediterranean Committee on particularly significant reports.
5. In this context, the Member States and the Commission will jointly consider new topics and subjects of common interest which might be the subject of individual and/or joint evaluations by the agencies concerned, and will hold exchanges of views on subsequent results.
6. The Council asks the Commission to give a brief account in its annual report of how the principles mentioned above have been implemented. The report will also contain an analysis of the measures adopted as a follow-up to the conclusions of the evaluation reports.

**STATEMENT BY THE COUNCIL  
AND THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GOVERNMENTS  
OF THE MEMBER STATES  
MEETING WITHIN THE COUNCIL ON**

**EVALUATION**

Further to the Council's conclusions of May 1989 on evaluation, the Council reiterates the importance it attaches to evaluations of EU development programmes and instruments. The Council is of the opinion that such evaluations would constitute important steps towards maximizing the effectiveness of the aid delivered to partner countries and would provide the EU and partner countries with substantive inputs in their policy dialogue.

In this connection, the Council invites the Commission to convene a meeting of development evaluation experts to consider possible modalities for such evaluations, including procedures and terms of reference, and ensuring the widest possible participation.

The Council Working Party on Development Cooperation will take account of the outcome of the experts' discussions in preparing draft modalities for submission to the next Development Council.



## **SOUTH AFRICA**



## FUTURE DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION WITH SOUTH AFRICA - COUNCIL DECLARATION

"The Council and the representatives of governments of Member States meeting in the Council agree on the following:

### Policy guidelines

The Community and its Member States reaffirm the importance they attach to the process towards a democratic and non-racial South Africa. They are the biggest single donor in this country in particular through the special programme of positive measures established in the framework of EPC in 1985 and modified since then by the Council.

They recall their commitment to the complete abolition of the unacceptable system of apartheid by peaceful means and its replacement by a democratic, united and non-racial society in which all South Africans can participate in peace and harmony, regardless of colour and race. They reaffirm their readiness to continue and strengthen their support for the ongoing peace process in South Africa.

Concerned by the level of violence which still remains one of the most serious threats to democratisation and economic development in South Africa, they renew their call to all parties to sign the National Peace Accord and to participate in the peace structures. The Community and its Member States welcome the resumption of multiparty negotiations and urge all parties who have not yet done so to commit themselves to a speedy and peaceful transition to a democratic, non racial and united South Africa.

They reaffirm that the respect, promotion and safeguarding of human rights and the furtherance of democratic principles are among the cornerstones of European cooperation policy as well as of relations with other countries.

The deepening and normalisation of economic, trade and development relations between the Community and the Member States on one hand and South Africa on the other will have a profound impact on the future prospects of a democratic administration. The Community and its Member States will therefore signal to the negotiating partners in South Africa their desire to intensify their relations as soon as a Transitional Executive Council (TEC) is in place.

Member States welcome the way in which the Commission has implemented the special programme of positive measures since its inception in 1986.

### Framework for action

The Community's programme of assistance should be based on the established development priorities and policies of the Community and in particular in relation to the elements of democratisation, rule of law, human rights, good governance and popular participation.

The programme should remain flexible. Its content and implementation would vary over a period of time taking into account the changing circumstances in South Africa, in particular the pace of democratisation of South African society and, in this context, the future government policies in favour of the poorest sectors of the society and the level and development of the South African economy.

It is considered that the political developments in South Africa require as a first step an assessment of how the special programme could be further refined to contribute more effectively to meeting the basic and immediate needs of the people of South Africa and improving the living standards of the population, in particular the poorest sections of it, with a view to making assistance supportive of the emerging democracy in this country.

### Objectives

In line with the elements set out above under "framework for action", the main objectives of the EC programme would be

- to support peace structures and initiatives;
- to support the transition to a democratic government, including support for voter education and other preparations for elections;
- to support institution and capacity building, notably in the focal sectors mentioned below, and policy formulation, thus promoting consensus on development issues between the parties involved and to strengthen capacity in order to allow the implementation of social programmes as soon as possible;
- while continuing actions of the kind undertaken in the framework of the positive measures, to implement activities of longer-term nature within a number of focal sectors of special importance for the economic and social development of the vulnerable groups of the population.



### Modalities

The implementation of the programme would have to take into account the developments towards the establishment of a democratic administration in South Africa and should

- focus on a limited number of sectors and be programme oriented whilst maintaining flexibility, notably through decentralised management;
- encompass cooperation with and through NGOs (which play a particularly valuable role in civic society) including community-based organisations (CBOs) and, where appropriate, through organs of the interim/transitional arrangements.

Consideration should be given to the future procedures for allocation and implementation of the programme along the lines which apply to other EC development programmes."

**STATEMENT BY THE COUNCIL  
AND THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GOVERNMENTS  
OF THE MEMBER STATES  
MEETING WITHIN THE COUNCIL ON**

**SOUTH AFRICA**

1. The programme "Positive measures for the Republic of South Africa", which was designed as a means of contributing to the ending of apartheid and providing support for disadvantaged groups in South Africa, has been in force since 1985.
2. The Council requests the Commission to forward to it a comprehensive and analytical report on the implementation of this Programme, including an evaluation of the results achieved.
3. In view of the considerable funds available under budget line B7-5070 and in the light of Council decisions on 25 May 1993, 6 December 1993, 19 April 1994 and the results of the Berlin Conference on 5 and 6 September 1994, the Council welcomes the fact that the Commission has announced that a formal proposal to establish a provisional legal basis concerning future programmes and their implementation will be forwarded to the Council during the first quarter of 1995.
4. The Council considers it important that in this context discussions should continue on the definition of a long-term country strategy, taking account of the level of development of the South African economy and indicating a list of priority sectors to be included in the Community's future development cooperation, as well as the modalities for implementation of the programmes.

## **REHABILITATION AID**



**A SPECIAL INITIATIVE FOR AFRICA - CONCLUSIONS OF THE COUNCIL AND THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MEMBER STATES MEETING IN COUNCIL**

- "1. The Council, having had a first exchange of views on the Commission's communication "A Special rehabilitation support programme in developing countries" adopts at this stage the following conclusions.
2. The Council is concerned about the extent and urgency of the rehabilitation needs facing many developing countries, in particular in Sub-Saharan Africa.

It recognizes Africa's close links with the European Community and recalls the substantial development efforts undertaken by the Community and its Member States in this continent and in particular the large rehabilitation programmes, financed by the Community and some Member States, recently decided for some African countries.

3. Against this background, the Council finds it of utmost importance for the Community to move with determination as early as possible in 1993 from emergency assistance to rehabilitation assistance in specific Sub-Saharan African countries, where the situation permits, by developing and implementing special country programmes targeted on the pressing rehabilitation needs of these countries.

Such rehabilitation assistance should be fully co-ordinated with the UN organizations and other donors, implemented where appropriate in close co-operation with NGOs and should bridge the gap between emergency aid and longer term development assistance enabling a return to an adequate level of subsistence. In this context, the Council recognizes the importance of establishing and maintaining stability and security in the countries concerned and the need for assistance in this area.

4. A number of countries affected by man-made or natural disasters, among which are some of the least developed, need fast track assistance such as immediate supply of agricultural and other inputs (e.g. seeds and tools) to restore rural productivity and support rehabilitation of basic infrastructures and social services. Swift action is also necessary to reconstitute the cattle population and food stocks, to ensure replantation and to reintegrate refugees and displaced persons and assist demobilised soldiers.
5. The Council underlines the urgency of this assistance in order to maximize the effectiveness of the initiative and move the situation away from instability and conflict and agrees to respond rapidly to these rehabilitation needs.

6. The Council considers that the main financing source should be a flexible use of EDF funds in accordance with existing procedures. In addition, in view of the urgency of the situation consideration should be given to providing resources supplementary to EDF from relevant and available Community budgetary sources. Furthermore, Member States will consider how best to give support to this initiative through co-ordinated bilateral action.
7. The Council requests the Commission to evaluate urgently the resources needed for rapid implementation. It considers that a sum of at least 100 MECU should be allocated immediately.
8. In certain Sub-Saharan African countries the initiative should begin without further delay. The Council accordingly requests the Commission to start immediately to design fast track rehabilitation programmes along the guidelines set out in these conclusions with a view to rapid implementation initially in countries where the Community is already engaged in rehabilitation programmes and in other Sub-Saharan countries as conditions permit.
9. The Council requests Coreper to pursue its examination of the Commission's communication on the special rehabilitation support programme in developing countries with a view to reaching conclusions at its next Council meeting."

**REHABILITATION AID – CONCLUSIONS OF THE COUNCIL AND OF THE REPRESENTATIVES  
OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE MEMBER STATES**

1. At its meeting on 25 May 1993, the Council expressed its concern about the extent and urgency of the rehabilitation needs facing many developing countries. At that meeting, it requested the Commission to finalize swift rehabilitation programmes to help certain African countries affected by man-made or natural disasters.

The Council takes note of the Commission report on the implementation of current rehabilitation programmes and new measures decided on, in particular as part of the special initiative for Africa adopted by the Council at its meeting last May. The Council reiterates the importance it attaches to effective and timely assistance to the countries in question, welcomes in particular the fact that the target of ECU 100 million for Africa has been achieved rapidly through new decisions and appreciates the co-operation which has been established in this matter between the Commission and the NGOs.

2. The Council has examined in detail the Commission communication on a special rehabilitation support programme in developing countries and draws the following conclusions from its discussions.

3. The Council confirms that it is important in certain developing countries to move from emergency humanitarian aid to rehabilitation aid. Such aid involves a series of measures to restore production, repair infrastructure, resettle persons and restore institutions, which are necessary following a state of war, civil unrest or natural disaster. Rehabilitation support constitutes a stage of limited duration which gradually takes over from humanitarian action and prepares the way for resumption of long-term development aid.
4. The aim of rehabilitation aid programmes is to help re-establish the normal functioning of the economy and institutional facilities, which are necessary in order to restore the social and political stability of these countries and to satisfy the needs of their peoples.
5. The Council thinks that decisions on rehabilitation support programmes should be taken on a case-by-case basis in the light of the situation and requirements of each recipient country.

The drawing up and implementation of such programmes must be the subject of close co-operation between the Commission and the Member States and must be defined in collaboration with the United Nations bodies and other donors concerned.

It is to be hoped that the NGOs will play an active role in the implementation and, where appropriate, the drawing up of Community rehabilitation aid programmes.



6. Regarding the criteria of eligibility for rehabilitation aid, the Council will display all the necessary flexibility but shares the Commission's view that account should be taken of the following aspects in particular:
- request made by the partners, and in particular those operating at national and local level in the country concerned;
  - serious disaster situation which prevents the essential needs of the population being met;
  - existence of a minimum level of security;
  - actual commencement of a transition process which respects democratic values and fundamental freedoms;
  - ability of the Authorities and/or other partners involved to implement rehabilitation measures.
7. Since rehabilitation measures are of an exceptional nature and in certain cases require very swift implementation, the Council thinks it desirable in individual cases to simplify and speed up the Community's decision-making and implementing procedures. If it feels this is necessary, the Commission could propose such a simplification and speeding up to the appropriate Management Committee (EDF, ALADE, MED). In the more specific case of the implementing procedures applicable to the EDF, the Council accepts that, in agreement with the Management Committee, procedures provided for in Article 300 of Lomé IV may be used.

8. The Council considers that rehabilitation measures may be introduced in any developing country, taking account of the objectives and criteria referred to above.
9. On the question of financing, the Council notes that:
  - the Commission thinks that rehabilitation programmes could, depending on the individual case, be financed from EDF resources on the one hand and from the Community budget on the other. The financial arrangements will depend, for each country, on the nature of the proposed measures and the sources of finance for which the country is eligible;
  - Member States will consider the best ways of supporting this initiative through co-ordinated bilateral measures.

## **ENERGY AND DEVELOPMENT**



## **- CLEAN AND EFFICIENT ENERGY FOR DEVELOPMENT - COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS**

1. The Council recalls its invitation to the Commission to put forward proposals for action to promote clean and efficient energy for development, and welcomes the Commission's communication. The Council stresses the importance which it attaches to progress in this area, particularly in the context of follow-up to the UN Conference on Environment and Development.
2. The Council believes that an essential objective of co-operation with all developing countries in the field of energy is to contribute to the promotion of sustainable energy production and consumption through the implementation of effective energy policies and the introduction of more efficient technologies in energy production, transmission and consumption.

Special attention will be paid to:

- the progressive substitution of high carbon intensity fossil fuels with lower CO<sub>2</sub> emission conventional fossil fuels, and the development of clean combustion techniques;
- the development of renewable energy resources.

In particular co-operation should seek to improve the capacity of developing countries to manage energy in a sustainable way. It should take into consideration the OECD/DAC "Guidelines for Aid Agencies on Global Environment Problems" concerning energy related climate change, as endorsed by OECD Ministers of Environment and Development Co-operation in December 1991.

3. The Council invites the Commission to implement action in the following areas:

### **Policy Planning and Technical Assistance**

- Strengthening of technical assistance to developing countries in the field of clean and efficient energy for development by strengthening existing co-operation instruments (Asia/Latin America, Mediterranean and Lomé programmes) within the overall existing financial allocations. Emphasis will be placed on institution building, policy planning, revisions of the tariff structure aiming at a rate of cost recovery which provides energy consumers with incentives for conservation, establishment of legal frameworks, managerial improvement, technology capacity and private initiatives. Regional integration will also be promoted in co-operation with regional organizations.

- More systematic appraisal including impact studies from the energy/environment point of view will be introduced for all co-operation projects, as well as more systematic ex post evaluation.
- Partner country governments will be encouraged to attach priority to appropriate energy projects.

#### Investment

- In the area of investment, the EIB should continue its activities in this field in ACP and Mediterranean countries and also be encouraged to support investment in the field of energy in Asia and Latin America compatible with the objectives of this programme, but within the overall principles established by ECOFIN for EIB lending. It is also noted as an appropriate area for EC Investment Partners, subject to its own procedures. The Centre for Industrial Development (CDI) should also be encouraged to examine this area for support.

#### Co-ordination with Member States

- Strengthening of operational co-ordination between the activities of the Community and Member States in a way which is consistent with the operational co-ordination procedures under discussion in the context of the Commission's communication on development co-operation policy in the run-up to 2000. Such co-ordination could provide a basis for continued co-operation on policy development and implementation.
4. The Council also notes the Commission's proposals for extension or expansion of existing programmes of scientific co-operation and research (with particular emphasis on STD and JOULE) and new technology promotion (THERMIE), and for establishment of a clearing house mechanism for dissemination of information in this area. From a development point of view and taking account of the results of UNCED, the Council considers that actions of the type carried out under these programmes could be of benefit to developing countries because of the potential impact of these programmes on their technological progress. It requests the appropriate Community authorities to study whether it would be possible to undertake such actions in future, in the context of the Community's research and energy policies.
  5. The Council stresses the importance of co-ordination in this area with relevant multilateral or regional organizations.







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