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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 14th MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,  
on Wednesday, 6 May 1992, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. BREITENSTEIN (Finland)  
later: Mr. SENILOLI (Fiji)

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51. Furthermore, a number of countries had indicated their interest in establishing new forms of cooperation with UNDP, forthwith, or in the near future, as net contributors. The missions to those countries had shown that they were ready and able to cooperate effectively in various fields with the developing countries and UNDP members of "South-East cooperation" in effect looked very promising.

52. Norway's suggestion to take country programmes as a starting point hardly seemed applicable. Given the situation of the countries in question, it would be necessary to examine the work done so far and assess requirements before preparing any country programme in a specific field.

53. He stressed the important role the specialized agencies could play in their respective field of competence, being in possession of international information and knowledge those countries so badly needed, and which should be transmitted to them as soon as possible, prior to the technical assistance provided by the different organizations in the United Nations system.

54. Enhancing management capacities and the coordination of external aid was an important aspect. At present, the bulk of the coordination work was done by financial backers and recipient countries had a long way to go before they could match those capacities.

55. As regards the modest resources which would have to be provided from the administrative budget, they would be used to cover the start-up costs, and not to finance the running of the offices.

#### SPECIAL PROGRAMMES OF ASSISTANCE (agenda item 4)

##### (a) UNDP PARTICIPATION IN THE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO ADDRESS AND MITIGATE THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE ACCIDENT AT THE CHERNOBYL NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

56. Mr. HELMKE (Director, Division for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States), on behalf of the Administrator, reported that, in line with several General Assembly resolutions, the United Nations and its various bodies and specialized agencies, including UNDP, were seeking ways of mitigating the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster in Belarus, Ukraine and the Russian Federation. A Chernobyl Pledging Conference had been held at United Nations headquarters in New York, in September 1991, but had produced only meagre results: \$1.2 million compared to \$650 million being raised for the Chernobyl Trust Fund. The timing had probably not been right, for the disaster had occurred five and a half years earlier, and, in September 1991, the idea of providing assistance for the Soviet Union had perhaps not yet gained acceptance. Above all, the Conference had taken place just one month following the abortive coup which had preceded the disintegration of the Soviet Union. By September 1991, several republics had already declared their independence and the future of the Soviet State very much in question. The United Nations had created a Chernobyl secretariat to stimulate and coordinate international aid. In view of the magnitude of the needs of the countries affected and the meagre contributions pledged, the secretariat was endeavouring, above all, to raise awareness on the subject and collect more

resources, not only from Governments but also from non-governmental organizations and the private sector. It was extremely difficult for the disaster-stricken countries to overcome the difficulties confronting them alone, and without assistance from the international community.

57. The UNDP had been informed that the United Nations approved the idea of establishing IPFs for the States in question, not because those modest sums would do much to mitigate the disaster's consequences, but because it would then be possible to assist the countries by providing coordination, management and information services. The proposal to establish Joint Interim UN/UNDP Offices in two of the republics would, if adopted, considerably facilitate access to the wide range of expertise and services available from the United Nations system. The sums which UNDP and recipient States would be asked to contribute were minimal. However, the existence of a UN/UNDP presence would improve the coordination of activities undertaken with the authorities, facilitate the flow of information and make it easier to attract and coordinate assistance from multilateral and bilateral sources as well as the private sector.

58. Mr. SENILOLI (Fiji) took the Chair.

59. Ms. POLLACK (United States of America) said that her country would be wary of any request for contribution to a relief fund under General Assembly resolution 45/190. It had co-sponsored the resolution on the understanding that its application would take full account of the conclusions of the international assessment carried out with the support of the IAEA. One of the conclusions was that the direct consequences of radiation on the health of the people still living in the areas which had been contaminated in 1990 were not substantial, and that the Soviet intervention had been entirely satisfactory. The United States maintained its view that bilateral programmes were the best way of providing assistance.

60. Mr. HELMKE (Director, Division for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States), responding to the United States delegation, recalled that UNDP had cooperated closely with the IAEA on the whole project. Furthermore, the international assessment in question had failed to take into account one part of the population affected, namely the 700,000 "clean up workers" involved in the decontamination operation.

61. The Governing Council took note of the report of the Administrator on the question.

(a) THE ROLE OF UNDP IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS NEW AGENDA FOR AFRICA IN THE 1990s (DP/1992/17)

62. Mr. DRAPER (Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme) introduced Mrs. Johnson, new Assistant-Administrator and Director of the Regional Bureau for Africa, to the Governing Council.