



**Administrative Committee
on Coordination**

ACC/1994/12

5 July 1994

ENGLISH ONLY

REPORT OF THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE ON PROGRAMME AND OPERATIONAL
QUESTIONS (CCPOQ) ON ITS INTER-SESSIONAL MEETING

(Third session)

(Geneva, 2-3 May 1994)

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INTRODUCTION

1. The Consultative Committee on Programme and Operational Questions (CCPOQ) held an inter-sessional meeting (third session) at WHO headquarters on 2 and 3 May 1994, principally in order to review reports to be referred to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1994. The agenda for the session is contained in annex I; the list of participants, in annex II.

2. In the absence of the CCPOQ Chairperson, Dr. Nafis Sadik (United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)), the meeting was chaired successively by Mr. Y. Berthelot (Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)) and Mr. E. Hein (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)).

I. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON COORDINATION (ACC)

3. CCPOQ took note that (a) the report to be submitted to the ACC at its second regular session of 1994 (New York, 21 and 22 September 1994) on the issue of African economic recovery and development would be handled by the Organizational Committee (OC); (b) follow-up to the question of the division of labour and access to resources should await further review and prioritization by ACC; and (c) ACC had postponed consideration of the question of drug abuse control to its spring 1995 session.

4. Subject to confirmation, CCPOQ accordingly proposed that its next regular session be held at United Nations Headquarters, 26-30 September 1994, with the following agenda:

1. General issues:

- (a) Follow-up to the substantive session of 1994 of the Economic and Social Council;
- (b) Regional dimensions of cooperation;
- (c) Division of labour and access to resources.

2. Programme coordination:

- (a) Poverty alleviation;

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- (b) Drug control.
3. Operational activities:
- (a) Implementation of General Assembly resolution 47/199, including evaluation and monitoring;
 - (b) Support costs;
 - (c) Analysis of 1993 annual reports of resident coordinators;
 - (d) Terms of reference of resident coordinators.
4. Reports of Subcommittees:
- (a) Subcommittee on Nutrition;
 - (b) Subcommittee on Statistical Activities;
 - (c) Subcommittee on Demographic Estimates and Projections;
 - (d) Subcommittee on Rural Development;
 - (e) Subcommittee on Drug Control.
5. Other matters: draft ACC comments on JIU reports.

II. WORK OF CCPOQ

A. Action taken and decisions adopted

5. CCPOQ endorsed the change of venue of the twenty-eighth session of the Subcommittee on Statistical Activities (8-10 June 1994), from Paris to Rome.

B. Operational activities for development

6. CCPOQ reviewed a draft prepared by the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution

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47/199, to be submitted to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly.

7. There was general satisfaction with the substance of the report. However, it was felt that the sections on the country strategy note and on common premises required a more factual presentation. Several drafting and clarification suggestions were formulated, including the deletion of annex I of the report.

8. A number of organizations pointed out inaccuracies in the statistical data presented in addendum 2 of the report and stressed the need for verification and correction, as appropriate.

9. CCPOQ also reviewed the report of the informal inter-agency consultations on programme approach and national execution (Turin, 28-30 April 1994) and agreed that with certain modifications, the report represented a major input to the report of the Secretary-General on those issues.

10. Regarding addendum 1 of the report on actions taken by individual organizations in implementation of General Assembly resolution 47/199 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1993/7, the representatives of the Department requested all organizations that had not already done so to transmit their contributions at once.

11. CCPOQ considered proposals by the representative of the International Labour Organization (ILO) Training Centre at Turin regarding the agenda and dates of the next meeting of the CCPOQ Advisory Panel on the Field Coordination Management Programme. In view of the substantial expansion in the Programme's operational activities training, both to national staff and at the field level, it was considered that a comprehensive review by the Panel was required on (a) progress to date; (b) future objectives and activities; and (c) implementation modalities. It was tentatively agreed that a three-day meeting of the Panel would be scheduled at Turin, possibly in late June 1994. Panel members would be invited to represent themselves by both officers responsible for operational activities and training specialists. Participation would also be open to all CCPOQ members, who would receive a copy of the notification of the meeting.

C. Drug abuse control

1. Report on the Development and Implementation of the

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System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control

12. The representative of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) introduced the report to be submitted to the Economic and Social Council in July 1994 (A/49/139-E/1994/57) and reported on its review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (Vienna, 13-22 April 1994) and the resolution adopted thereon (Commission resolution 6 (XXXVII)). The report, which had been circulated to all concerned organizations prior to its submission to the Commission, was being processed at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

13. The representative reiterated the difficulties encountered in the preparation of the action plan, particularly in obtaining contributions from all concerned organizations. He recognized that a more bottom-up approach would be needed in future. In addition, particular attention would be paid to collaboration with the international financing institutions.

14. Members noted the incompleteness of the report. It was suggested that more cohesion could be achieved by a presentation around thematic areas of activity rather than around the activities of individual agencies and that the conceptual sequence of action should move from the sectoral through the programme to the project levels. It was also considered that the focus of coordination should be at the country level, taking full advantage of the resident coordinator system. Finally, the role and action of UNDCP could itself have received greater attention in the action plan.

15. Organizations that had not been able to report to CCPOQ in time were encouraged to report orally to the Council.

2. Report to the Economic and Social Council on the status of international cooperation in drug abuse control within the United Nations system

16. CCPOQ noted that the report to be submitted to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1994 was the product of an exercise undertaken by UNDCP in response to General Assembly resolution 48/112 and was meant as a contribution to the thematic debate that would take place at the coordination segment of the Council. Members were invited to direct any comments or suggestions directly to UNDCP prior to the Economic and Social Council review.

D. ACC biennial report on programmes and resources of the United Nations System

17. CCPOQ reviewed the guidelines drafted by the secretariats of CCPOQ and the Consultative Committee on Administrative and Financial Questions (Financial and Budgetary Questions) (CCAQ(FB)) for the preparation of the 1994-1995 biennial report. There was considerable discussion of the objectives of the report and the means of rendering its information as effective and reliable as possible.

18. A number of clarifications were proposed for inclusion in the guidelines, including (a) the need for system-wide reporting on resources for policy-making organs; (b) the need for more concise and accurate language in the description of objectives; (c) a better explanation on the treatment of non-substantive activities, including support costs; and (d) a timetable for preparation and consideration of the report. It was decided that the current sectoral and subsectoral classification should be temporarily maintained.

19. The distinction between resources and expenditures was noted; the CCAQ(FB) Secretary advised that CCAQ(FB) was initiating a review to ensure the use of common definitions in financial reporting. The CCAQ Secretary was requested to consult CCAQ(FB) members about the possibility of reporting on actual expenditures in the previous biennium according to the same classification used for the biennial report.

20. It was agreed that the CCPOQ and CCAQ(FB) secretariats would finalize the guidelines on the basis of the comments made; they would then be distributed directly to CCPOQ focal points by the designated organizational unit responsible for the compilation of the report in order to ensure the coordination of the financial and programme inputs of each organization.

E. Role and functioning of CCPOQ

1. Follow-up to ACC and OC

21. The Chairman briefed CCPOQ on the first regular session of 1994 of ACC and its discussions on the division of labour and access to resources within the United Nations system. Highlights included the suggestion of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) regarding a more distinct division of labour between the Bretton Woods institutions and United Nations organizations in the social sector; the recognition of the regional dimension in the operations of the United Nations system; support for the country strategy notes; and the need for greater stress on the role of the small agencies. The Chairman considered that the CCPOQ paper provided elements for appropriate follow-up to the issues and noted its relationship to the agenda for development to be submitted to the Economic and Social Council at its forthcoming session. CCPOQ noted that ACC was due to discuss the question again at its second regular session of 1994 and that the specific issues to be pursued would be determined at that time; it also underlined the need for CCPOQ coordination with the Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development (IACSD) on the follow-up.

22. The Secretary briefed CCPOQ on the outcome of the OC meetings in March and April, including the procedure for the election of chairpersons of ACC subsidiary bodies and the proposed work programme document on policy and programme developments. He also noted that the issue of common premises for the inter-agency secretariats in Geneva was still under review.

2. Agenda and dates of next session

23. The United Nations representative briefed CCPOQ on the status of the preparation of the Revised United Nations System-Wide Plan of Action for African Recovery and Development and the related policy paper to be discussed by ACC at its second regular session of 1994. CCPOQ took note of the draft outline for the ACC paper on human resources, economic growth and sustainable development, to be prepared by the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat for review and approval by the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force (UN-IATF) and submission to OC.

24. CCPOQ accordingly noted that it would not be required to meet prior to the ACC September 1994 meeting on the issues of (a) African economic recovery and development, and (b) the division of labour and access to resources. It

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therefore proposed, subject to confirmation, to convene its second regular session of 1994 at United Nations Headquarters on 26 to 30 September 1994.

25. It was agreed that an analysis of the 1993 annual reports of resident coordinators should be added to the agenda approved at the last CCPOQ session and that the Secretary should consult with the Department on the modality of preparation of that analysis.

26. CCPOQ also expressed support for its continuing involvement in reviewing the structure and reliability of reports on resource flows for operational activities and requested the Secretary to submit a detailed proposal to that effect at its next session, after consultation with CCAQ(FB), the Department and other entities concerned.

27. Concern was expressed at the increasing number of inter-sessional meetings of CCPOQ, which should be kept as informal and flexible as possible. It was noted that CCPOQ was occasionally required to formally approve reports on behalf of ACC for submission to intergovernmental bodies and that such approvals had to be made in a formal context. It was nevertheless agreed that, to the extent possible, the two regular annual sessions of CCPOQ should provide the substantive basis for inter-agency consultations.

28. The Secretary reminded CCPOQ that comments or modifications on the historical summary of the resident coordinator concept, which it had reviewed at its last session (ACC/1994/POQ/CRP.3), should be communicated to him before end-May for review by the Working Group on the Resident Coordinator system.

3. 1994-1995 CCPOQ programme budget

29. CCPOQ noted with satisfaction the approval by CCAQ(FB) of the revised programme budget for its secretariat's operations in 1994-1995. Regarding appointment to the new professional post for the secretariat as of 1 July 1994, it was agreed that appointment should preferably be effected by secondment from a member organization and that the post should be held for a rotational period of 4 to 5 years. The Secretary was requested to finalize and circulate a job description with a request for nominations to CCPOQ focal points, and to obtain the endorsement of the preferred candidate by correspondence with CCPOQ members after consultation with the chairperson.

30. The Secretary also reported on the difficulties created by the extended absence on sick leave of the CCPOQ secretariat's administrative assistant/senior

secretary; he expressed his thanks to FAO, ILO and the World Health Organization (WHO) for agreeing to an exceptional additional contribution to the CCPOQ temporary assistance budget.

F. Any other business

31. CCPOQ was unable to endorse or comment on the draft ACC comments on the JIU report entitled "A review of the specific development needs of small member States and the responsiveness of the United Nations system to those needs" (JIU/REP/93/4), as they had only just been received; a quick reading of the draft had nevertheless suggested that considerable reworking was necessary. Members were therefore requested to review the draft and send their reactions directly to the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat for further consideration.

32. CCPOQ expressed its thanks to WHO for providing the conference room and facilities for its meeting.

Annex I

AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Operational activities for development: progress report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 47/199.
3. Drug abuse control:
 - (a) Report on the development and implementation of a system-wide action plan on drug abuse control;
 - (b) Report to the Economic and Social Council on the status of international cooperation in drug abuse control within the United Nations system.
4. ACC biennial report on programmes and resources of the United Nations system: guidelines for preparation of the 1994-1995 report.
5. Role and functioning of CCPOQ:
 - (a) Follow-up to ACC and OC;
 - (b) Agenda and dates of next session;
 - (c) 1994-1995 CCPOQ programme budget.
6. Any other business: draft ACC comments on the JIU report on the specific development needs of small Member States and the responsiveness of the United Nations development system to those needs (JIU/REP/93/4).

Annex II

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Chairman: Y. BERTHELOT (Economic Commission for Europe)
E. HEIN (Food and Agriculture Organization of
the United Nations)

Secretary: D. DEANE (United Nations Office at Geneva)

United Nations, its entities and programmes

Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development	J. Brister
Department for Development Support and Management Services	D. Stillman
United Nations Centre for Human Settlements	L. Ludvigsen
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development	J. Burley P. Tsyba
United Nations Children's Fund	M. Kamau
United Nations Development Programme	P. Matthews
United Nations Population Fund	M. Simonen
United Nations International Drug Control Programme	G. Papuli
World Food Programme	J-M. Boucher
International Trade Centre	P. Jouvenat
<u>Specialized agencies and IAEA</u>	
International Labour Organization	R. Zachmann
Food and Agriculture Organization of	E. Hein

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the United Nations

United Nations Educational, Scientific
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P. Berry

International Civil Aviation Organization

B. O. Asante

World Health Organization

H. Wassef

Universal Postal Union

K. K. Samawi

World Meteorological Organization

J. Lincoln

International Maritime Organization

D. J. Kerlin

World Intellectual Property Organization

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ILO Turin Centre

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