

TERMINAL REPORT

**Title:** ECDC/TCDC Information Support to the  
Group of 77 Chapters

**Project no:** INT/88/K01/C/95/99

**Duration:** Four years (1988-1991)

**Budget:** \$109,520

**PGTF inputs:** \$109,520

**IPS in-kind  
contributions:** \$91,200

**Executing agency:** Inter Press Service (IPS) Third World  
News Agency

**Report prepared by:** IPS, Rome

## 1. Introduction

The project aimed to strengthen ECDC/TCDC through providing information support to the Group of 77 Chapters, primarily through publication and dissemination of a regular bulletin (the Journal of the Group of 77).

Work was first funded for a three-year period, 1988-1990, and in the light of the success of the initiative further funds were made available to extend work for a further year in 1991.

## 2. Activities carried out

The main activity of the project was the production and distribution of the Journal of the Group of 77, which first appeared on 15 January 1988.

The bulletin was put together by a co-ordinating editor appointed by Inter Press Service (IPS) Third World News Agency, under the overall editorial supervision of the Chairman of the G-77 in New York.

Sri Lankan journalist Mr Thalif Deen was the co-ordinating editor for the whole of the project period.

Regular contributions were also provided by part-time editors in Geneva (Chakravarthi Raghavan), Rome (Essma ben Hamida, Baher Kamal and Jorge Piña), Paris (Patricio Tupper), Nairobi (Horace Awori) and Vienna (Federico Nier-Fischer).

IPS throughout provided telecommunications links between all the G-77 Chapters, and often the bulletin drew on other reports from the IPS wire, with a focus on ECDC and TCDC.

The bulletin appeared fortnightly for part of 1988, but from 1989 onward it was agreed to publish monthly, at a rhythm which assured the best input from each of the G-77 Chapters.

In all, 14 issues of the bulletin came out in 1988 and 12 each year thereafter.

These bulletins contained over 550 major items, from a total of more than 60 different locations. The titles of the main reports are listed in annex.

The bulletin was reproduced by IPS, and distributed to all members of the G-77 in the six Chapters.

The Chairman of the G-77 in New York provided overall editorial guidance, and his office gave administrative support.

### 3. Problems encountered and steps taken to resolve them

No major problems were encountered in the course of the work. At the start, it proved difficult to obtain timely contributions from the Chairs of the different G-77 Chapters because the bulletin was a new venture whose value was still to be established.

This was overcome by active contact on the part of the part-time editors, and as the value of the bulletin for information exchange among the Chapters became firmly established the process of collection and dissemination of information became more regular and timely.

### 4. Overall evaluation of the results of the project

The project has been an outstanding success, to the point that on its completion, IPS offered to continue publishing the Journal of the G-77 in 1992 while further resources were sought to underpin the project in future.

IPS Director-General Roberto Savio wrote on this subject to the G-77 Chairman on 6 November 1991 (then Dr Kofi Awoonor, Ambassador of Ghana):

"Our strong commitment to the G-77 in our capacity ... as Third World news agency and... as a non-governmental organization with Consultative Status (Category I) with ECOSOC, convinces us that we should continue our role as... part of a collective voice for the... developing nations."

The G-77 Chairman, accepting this offer, wrote on 2 December "This timely offer will make it possible for us to keep in circulation a Journal that has become an indispensable medium for the dissemination of information on the activities of the various chapters of the Group of 77".

The Journal of the Group of 77 has, in conclusion, established itself as a unique and irreplaceable means of promoting South-South co-operation in the fields of ECDC and TCDC.