the field of industrial development, e.g. by supporting partnerships, the codification of treaties, the elaboration of standards and the collection of statistics. In addition, UNIDO offers technical cooperation services. Finally, UNIDO has established a facility in support of private investment which is increasingly used for South-South cooperation. UNIDO created a network of six international technology centers to support the exchange of new and advanced technologies on a global scale.

UNIDO has been active in practically all fields of industry, often through programmes of exchange and training. In technical cooperation, major areas of emphasis are agro-based industries, chemical industry, and mechanical engineering. Priority is given to programmes of global economic integration, environment and energy, support of small scale industries, investment and technology, and rural industries.

The debate about UN reforms (→ Reform of the UN) brought UNIDO into a major crisis. The discussion was not limited to the question of UNIDO’s work efficiency, but touched, as an issue of principle, on the question whether its area of work should better be left to the private sector. The United States withdrew in 1996, and similar moves were discussed in government circles of the United Kingdom and Germany in 1997, though both countries did not declare their withdrawal. UNIDO reacted with a reform package, including substantial streamlining of organization, action programme, and budget. These measures came into force in 1998.

In 2004 UNIDO started a second round of programme reforms which further focused its activities and technical services responding to development priorities. These reforms enabled UNIDO to retain its capacity to act in the key areas of its work.

New emphasis is laid in the work of UNIDO on trade-related capacity building and on the work related to the “Montreal Protocol on Substances that deplete the Ozone Layer” (→ Environmental Law, International).

With regard to its finances, total contributions amounted in 2005 to 138 million US dollars (80 million US dollars from governments, 45 million US dollars from the Montreal Protocol Multilateral Funds, and 13 million US dollars from other sources). Technical assistance expenditure was reported at the level of 112 million US dollars.

Manfred Kulessa


Internet: Homepage of UNIDO: www.unido.org.

UNIFEM – United Nations Development Fund for Women

UNIFEM (United Nations Development Fund for Women) emerged from the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women (VFDW) in 1985 by a decision of the → General Assembly of the UN (A/RES/39/125). The VFDW had been founded in 1976 at the recommendation of the World Conference on the International Women’s Year in Mexico City in 1975 (→ World Conferences), to help to realize the aims of the International Decade for Women (→ Women and the UN); it took up its work in 1978. The seat of UNIFEM is in New York. Though associated with the → UNDP, it is legally independent from it.
UNIFEM offers direct technical and financial aid to support women’s initiatives in developing countries. Projects for poor women in LDCs are of particular concern. UNIFEM also promotes the inclusion of women in development by means of their active participation when planning, carrying through and evaluating programmes and projects. A matter of controversy is the support for projects in Eastern Europe from 1994 onwards. When planning and carrying through projects, UNIFEM requires the support of the UNDP, the Regional Economic Commissions (→ Economic Commissions, Regional) and of → specialized agencies of the UN.

The activities of UNIFEM are closely connected with those of → INSTRAW (International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women). Therefore → Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali proposed a merger of INSTRAW and UNIFEM in 1993 as a matter of the reform of the UN (→ Reform of the UN). However, as the issue was not taken up by the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995, it has not been pursued further.

The most important source of income of UNIFEM are voluntary contributions from the member states of the UN. Today, the Nordic states are the most important donors. Further means are obtained from women’s organizations, foundations, corporations and private persons. After the World Conference on Women in 1980 in Copenhagen, UNIFEM had to deal with a serious financial crisis – the conference’s explicit support for the PLO sparked off the loss of support of the American Women’s movement and thus of the US as the most important donor. However, the results of the World Conference on Women in Nairobi in 1985, in particular the association of UNIFEM with the UNDP brought about a consolidation of the financial situation. In 2000 UNIFEM had a budget of 26.7 million US dollars UNIFEM supports various projects and activities in about 100 developing countries.

UNIFEM is persistently confronted with serious budget constraints, and is only able to support half of the projects considered deserving of its support. Being a small programme of development aid (→ Development Cooperation of the UN System), UNIFEM cannot on its own guarantee the adequate involvement of women in the process of development. Therefore it is important that other organs giving development aid, such as the UNDP and the World Bank (→ World Bank, World Bank Group) include women’s concerns in the programmes.

Andreas Blätte


Addendum

The role of the United Nations Development Fund for Women UNIFEM has expanded since the year 2000 through successive General Assembly resolutions and decisions of the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board, which is the board in charge of decisions with regard to UNIFEM. The United Nations reform process, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) – calling for a stronger participation of women in conflict prevention, peacekeeping and peacebuilding – have strengthened UNIFEM’s role as a bridge and convener, bringing together the UN system, governments and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and have brought UNIFEM together with other development cooperation entities increasingly into the arena