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Contribution

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Mr. Nour of the African Development Bank evoked the problems encountered by Development Banks in trying to make the most efficient use of the funds available to finance the foreign exchange components for projects in developing countries. He mentioned specially the problem of overdesigning projects for LDCs. Overdesign not in relation to the projects' capacity but overdesign in relation to the country's financial and economic capabilities.

He gave some examples such as a sewage project designed for the capital of one of the poorest 16 countries in the world by a consultant from a developed country. The project was technically excellent and with most up-to-date electronic equipment, but the cost was over \$ 60 millions which was simply prohibitive for the country concerned.

As a result, the bank could not finance it as presented. A team of experts from ADB and WHO was sent to the country and did cut down the project to a level which the country can afford. This exercise delayed the project's implementation by six months at least with all the consequences in price escalation.

He also gave other examples of overdesign in relation to the technical capabilities available in the LDCs.

He asked the consultants of the developed countries to give due attention, in preparing and conceiving projects for LDCs, not only to the technical aspects but also to the countries' financial and economic capacity.