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The Role of The Unique National Plan in Romania's Economic and Social Development

The problems of the strategy of economic and social development, of the improvement of the leadership of society, have a decisive importance in the building of the manysidedly developed socialist society — fundamental objective of the Romanian Communist Party Policy. The scientific foundation of the strategy of the planned leadership of the entire economic and social life, is our party's teaching and social progress, the teaching substantiated by dialectic-materialism, by the practical experiences of our socialist construction.

In the thirty years which have passed since the country's liberation, the Romanian people has obtained outstanding results in the building of the socialist order; it has covered a period of profound changes in all fields, boasting remarcable successes in the economic and social development, in the fulfilment of the programmes set forth by the Romanian Communist Party.

Every measure adopted by the party, every five-year and annual plan have given new impulses to the creative capacity of the Romanian people in the building of their bright future; they made our economy develop steadily and multilaterally, made the living standards grow continually and the working people fully enjoy the results of their own work, the advantages of the socialist order.

The country's development, the dynamic picture of the economic and social structures is greatly impressive. The industrial potential of the country will be this year 28 times bigger than that of 1938. Socialist Romania produces in 1974 over 8.6 million tons of steel and the country's energetic force sums up in 51.5 billion kW/h, in comparison with only 284.000 tons of steel and only one billion kW/h in 1938. Machine building and chemistry — decisive branches for a modern economy, of high efficiency, have increased their share in industrial production from 13 per cent to over 42 per cent. Continuous progress characterizes our agriculture, as well as the other branches of the

national economy. Consequently the national income has grown from 100 dollars to 900 dollars per head of the population.

In the post war period the population's life expectancy was 43 years; now it has reached 69 years. We may say that each year which has passed since the country's liberation, has added years to the general life-span of socialist Romania's inhabitants.

On the basis of the party's ideological programme the socialist awareness of the masses is steadily growing, the appropriation of the highest values of science and culture is being ensured; the spiritual profile of our people is acquiring new forms in accordance with the requests of socialist ethics and equity, of the rules of work and life corresponding to the manysidedly developed socialist society that we are now building.

These results of historic importance confirm the correctness of the party's general policy line, which in concord with life, has proved to reflect in the most true-to-life manner, the interests of the working class, of the peasantry and intellectuals, of all working people, irrespective of nationality; the interests of our entire socialist nation.

The historic experience of building socialism has shown that the building of the new socialist order is the result of a broad-scale political and organisational work, of the leadership, by the party, of all fields of social activity. The direct relationship between the progress of society and the party programme expresses the fundamental principle, tested by the contemporary evolution of our country: *the growth of the role of the Romanian Communist Party as the leading force of society* in establishing the strategy and tactics of the development of our economic and social life, in mobilising the masses in the achievement of the targets of building the socialist society. Historical evolution itself has sanctioned the Communist party as the leading political force of our socialist society.

Planned leadership is the activity through which the concentratian and maximum efficiency guidance of all the forces of the nation, of the material and human resources are being achieved with a view to attaining the political aims and objectives of our party. Through the unique national plan, our party and state ensure the mobilisation and rational utilisation of resources, for the harmonious development of all sectors of social life, the sustained growth of the productive forces, the permanent strengthening of socialist ownership and the continuous improvement of the socialist production relationships, the increase of the efficiency and the systematic raising of the people's living standard. That is why the plan is based on the Romanian Communist Party programme, which establishes the general strategy of the country's economic and social development, mirroring the scientific prognosis on society evolution, according to the objective laws of historic evolution and the conditions of each and every phase of our socialist construction.

Leadership based on the unique national plan derives from the very nature of our socialist order, based on socialist ownership over the means of production; from the necessity of efficiently coordinating the entire process of larger socialist reproduction.

The modern economy, charactereizd through a high degree of the socialisation of production, through ample structural changes, through the rapid diversification of the links between the productive units, implies the

sinchronisation of all activities on a national scale. Much more, in the socialist society, which objectivelly has the necessary conditions for the coordination of reproduction in its totality and can apply the consciencious guidance over the entire social life, the settlement of the complex problems of development is directly linked to the unitary leadership, based on plans. Thus, the objective demands come down to the working people not via the destructive effects of spontaneous mechanisms, but as well-understood necessities, conscienciously acquired by society and transformed into deliberate aims and targets of social activity.

In tackling the problem of the economic and social leadership, our party sets out from the fact that *with the progress on the road of building the new order, the role of the plan in the activity of guiding society increases ever more.*

In his remarcable exposition made at the opening of the colloqui on problems pertaining to the science of society leadership, President Nicolae Ceaușescu underlined: In *our entire work we must keep in mind that only by ensuring the union of all efforts and a unitary, harmonious leadership — which should facilitate the rapid progress of all fields of activity, on the basis of a unique, central paln — we shall be able to implement the programme of the building of the manysidedly developed socialist society, we shall be able to create conditions for passing on to the building of the communist society*".

The Romanian Communist Party policy of building the manysidedly developed socialist society blends in one single system the achievement of a powerful technical and material base, keeping pace with the newest conquests of world science and techonology; the creation of an advanced economy, with a modern industry and a high efficiency agriculture, the judicious repartition of the productive forces on the country's territory; the upsurge of science, the steady development of culture and the raising of the degree of education of all citizens; the repartition of the consumption fund in the spirit of socialist equity and the raising of the people's living standards; the improvement of the relations between the members of society, of the organisation, leadership and planning of social activities; the development of the working class democracy, the ever more active participation of the working class, of the entire people in the leadership of society. The carrying out of these objectives implies an intensive, creative, systematic work, rigurously organised on scientific bases, within an all-nation plan, which should include all sectors of economic and social life.

Our party has unfolded an ample political and organisational activity for the settlement of the complex problems of the revolutionary process of socialist construction; it has launched measures for the improvement of leadership and planning, in cognizance of the deep-going changes which have taken place in our society, of the tasks of every stage of the country's economic and social development. The preoccupations of our party in this field start out from the principle, tested by life itself, that the forms and methods of leadership and social organisation are not imovable, established once and for all, that they must be continuously improved keeping pace with the changes taking place in life, ensuring concord between the development of the productive forces and the production realtionships.

The 9-th and the 10-th Congresses, the two National Conferences of the R.C.P. in 1967 and 1972, have been decisive moments in the country's life;

they marked the beginning of a new stage of unprecedented achievements, of major opening for our speedier economic and social development.

The measures of improving the forms and methods of leadership and planning have been based on the profound and multilateral study of all aspects of social reproduction, on the critical analysis of the economic realities, on the minute examination of the achievements obtained in our country and in other countries in the field of management and leadership. The whole set of measures was the object of broad-scale consultations with people in various domains of activity; it has been submitted to ample debates on the national plane, which has confered on it a realistic character in full, concord with the demands of socialist construction in our country. The fact is of paramount importance that the adoption of the measures of the improvement of the planned activity has taken place in a period of economic upswing, of the steady increase of the productive forces.

No domain of our social and political life has been left outside the general process of improvement along these years of great creative effervescence in our socialist society. *Summing up the brilliant contribution made by President Nicolae Ceauşescu to the working out of the postulates of the science of the socialist society leadership, the concept of society management has today, in all fields of activity, a new content, characterized by originality, inovating spirit nd scientific realism.*

In our society the positive consecquences of an ever better management, based on solid political and scientific principles, are more and more evident, a management powerfully embued with the realism of our country's conditions, taking in cognizance the international events, the tendencies and trends in the world, harmoniously blending the current and future tasks.

All actions launched by our party, on the initiative of its general secretary, for the improvement of the leadership of social life, have contributed to the betterment of economic activities, being reflected in our programmes of accelerated economic growth and of profound social changes.

The force and dinamism of our socialist system lie in the fact that they are based on a *unitary conception of centralized leadership* — a decisive factor for the planned development of the national economy, of the concentration of the material and human resources towards those objectives and tasks which have a decisive significance for the country's progress.

In leading socialist construction, the party and the state have blended the attributions of central leadership with the stimulation of mass initiative. The large consultation of the working people over the fundamental problems of improving socialist construction, their mobilisation into the leadership of social life, have become defining features of the working style and methods promoted by our party.

The leadership by the party of the entire economic and social life based on the unique national plan is directly linked with an essential feature of planning in our country; namely, that *it is a fundamental and inalienable attribute of the socialist state's sovereignity and independence.*

The plan establishes the political, economic and social objectives and tasks of the development of our society on the road of socialism, implies the natural resources as well as the labour force and financial means of the country, including the entire responsibility for the present and future of the Romanian

people. It determines the directions and rates of increase of the national economy, the fundamental proportions on branches, sub-branches and territorial profiles, the programme of investments, and directs the efforts towards the rational utilisation of raw materials, energy and fuel resources, towards the top-efficiency use of productive capacities and high productivity utilisation of the labour force; the plan reflects the policy of the formation of the population's incomes, the prices policy, commercial and import-export prices, of raising the living standards of the working people.

These objectives and tasks are being carried out in the most efficient way through the full exertion by our party and state of all prerogatives of political, economic and social leadership. The party and the state decide on the ways and means of using the resources and the factors of economic growth, in concord with the interests of the entire nation, fully exerting the attributions and responsibilities with which they have been invested by the people. National sovereignity and state independence have a profound social character, expressing the inalienable right of the working class, of the entire people to decide freely over the strategy and tactics of Romania's development. The planned leadership of Romania's economic and social activity, the working out of the plans belong to the party and the state, the only representatives of the national will.

Starting from the fact that in modern society one of the fundamental requests of the progress of each and every country is the intense participation in the international exchange of values, in the world division of labour, our party ensures, through plan, the sustained development of the economic, thus creating conditions for the extension of economic collaboration, of industrial, technical and scientific cooperation, of trade exchanges with the member countries of the Council of Mutual Economic Assistance, with the other socialist countries, with all states, irrespective of their social system, on the basis of equality, mutual advantage, in the spirit of the principles of respect for national independence and sovereignity.

In our country the unique national plan *includes all domains of economic and social life.* The blending, within the plan, both of the sphere of material production and the objectives regarding various social activities, and the necessary means for their development, is a necesity which derives from the unity and the dialectic interaction of the multiple sides of the complex process of building the manysidedly developed socialist society.

On the basis of the plan, the activities of all units in industry, agriculture, transports, goods-circulation, research, education and other economic and social fields, are taking place in a unitary conception, harmoniously coordinated for the entire economy on branches and on territorial level. It goes without saying that the unique national plan includes all social sectors, — the state sector, the cooperative sector, the petty agricultural producers and artisans, the relationships with the entire population — taking into account the characteristic features, the peculiaries of each and every sector. Such an all-including plan unites all creative activities of the working people in a joint effort for the carrying out of the party's policy of developing the entire society. Through its objectives *the plan gives the orientation to all sectors of activity towards those directions which ensure the maximum efficiency utilisation of the national income, the creation of modern structures, the intensive use*

of the economic potential with a view to speeding up the country's multilateral progress, the sistematic raising of the people's welfare.

In this context the plan permanently aims at harmoniously blending the present and future interests of the socialist nation, the optimum repartition of the national income for the fund of economic and social development and for the consumption fund. It concentrates the material and human resources in such a way as to achieve a priority growth of the highly efficient branches of production. One of the important objectives of the plan is the harmonious repartition of the productive forces over the territory, the aim being the raising of the economic potential in all zones of the country and the raising of the people's living standard.

A central place in the country's economic and social development is held by the qualitative aspects of economic growth; its intensive factors, the orientation of all units towards the maximum efficiency utilisation of the entire productive potential they dispose of. Consequently, among the fundamental problems of the plan are the ever higher efficiency utilisation of investments, raw materials and materials, the renewal, modernisation and diversification of production, the raising of the products's quality, the rapid growth of labour productivity, the cutting down of production costs, the speeding up of the rotation of the material and financial funds with a view to obtaining an ever higher efficiency of economic activity.

From the fundamental principles of planned economic and social development of Romania derives one of the defining features of our concept of the unique national plan, namely, *its compulsory character, its character of law.* The firmness of its provisions makes the plan be an active tool for the leadership and continuous improvement of the organisation of production and labour, for the ever better turning to account of the creative capacities of the working class, of the entire people; it ensures the implementation of the tasks for the fast economic and social development of the country. Hence derive the obligations of the socialist units to act firmly for the continuous development of the high spirit of existency in the activity of working out and fulfilling the plan, for the rigurous observance of the planned tasks and the continual strengthening of plan discipline.

The concept "*the unique national plan of economic and social development*", an all-containing and all-including plan, reveals more exactly the mutiple functions of the plan and of planning for the country's economic and social progress. Consequently, we are speaking about a national plan, because it unites at the scale of the entire nation, all human and material resources of the country, directing them towards the building of the many-sidedly developed socialist society and creation of the premises for the gradual passing on to communism. It is a *unique plan*, since it represents the only framework within which the relations of inter-dependence are correlated, the complex elements and necessary means for the achievement of the enlarged socialist reproduction — on the whole of the economy, on branches and sub-branches, on territorial level — for the settlement of the problems of economic and social development in the close relationships existing between them. Hence also *the indivisible character of the plan*, in the sense that all its component aspects and sides are correlated and organically blended into

a unitary ensemble; none of these aspects or component parts being able to exist by themselves without the unique national plan.

One of the essential coordinates of the planned leadership activity of the economic and social development is the consistent application of the principle of democratic centralism, the organic blending of its two sides, the leadership of the entire society on the basis of the unique national plan and the functional unity of the economic, social-cultural and administrative-territorial untis.

A fundamental principle of the leadership and organization of economic and social activities, democratic centralism has a dialectic content, a concrete-historical content, in the various stages of socialist construction. In the process of building the socialist society, the application in practice of the principle of democratic centralism, the relationship between its two sides bear the print of the stage of development of the productive forces and of social life in general.

Taking into consideration the changes which have occured in the years of socialist construction, the increase of the dimensions and of the degree of complexity of activities in all compartments of society, the diversification and amplification of relation among entreprizes, economic branches and territorial units, the measures adopted in the past few years have expressed the requests of the present stage, of strengthening the role of the unique national plan, to more flexibly blend central leadership based on plan with a large operational autonomy of the units.

The adopted set of measures firmly maintains the principle that in the decisive economic and social problems — as are the rates and proportions of material production development, the programme of investments, the foreign trade policy, the policy of incomes, of prices and in general the raising of the living standard, the territorial development of the productive forces — the decisions must be taken by the leading organs of the party and the state, as exponents of the interests of the entire nation.

At the same time, through the measures which are adopted our party aims at consistently acting in the direction of broadening the functional autonomy of the economic units, by granting them increased competencies and attributions, which give them the possibility to manifest a large initiative in the elaboration of the draft plan and the adoption of decisions linked with the efficient administration of their material and financial resources, with a view to fulfilling and over-fulfilling the tasks encumbent on them from the unique national plan.

In everything that has been undertaken in the field of improving planned leadership, the aim was, consequently, to ensure simultaneously the growth of the plan's role in directing the economic and social processes and the increase of the attributions and responsibilities of the basic units in the process of the working out and execution of the plan, thus achieving a real deepening of the application of the principle of democratic centralism.

Being an expression of the major decision, at national level, the country's economic and social development plan is, in the conditions of our socialist economy, the framework for the manifestation of the freedom of decision; hence it is deriving the rights on decision-making of the leading boards of the socialist units, and, at the same time, the responsibilities encumbent on them for the achievement of the volume of activity from the unique na-

tional plan, which they assumed through their own plan. The rights and larger attributions granted to the industrial groups and enterprizes are a help for the adoption of ever better grounded plan decisions at higher levels and create conditions for operational measures to be taken which should ensure the fulfilment of the tasks set forth. In such a conception, the consistency and firmness in achieving the objectives included in the unique national plan are organically blended with mobility and flexibility as well as adaptability in the settlement of current problems in the process of the implementation of the plan.

Underlining the significance of the consistent application of the principle of democratic centralism, President of the Socialist Republic of Romania, Nicolae Ceauşescu pointed out at the Conference of the party and state active of ministries and central institutions — that this principle "give the guarantee letter to blending in a sole direction of all efforts, experience, from the lowest to the highest echalons, of our firm advance, of strenghtening order, discipline, the unity of will and action, of the state of the entire people".

The participation of the masses in the elaboration and application of the party and state general policy is organically blended with the attraction of the working people in the direct management of activities in industrial and construction enterprizes, in agriculture, transports, trade, in scientific research, education, health protection, culture. *The promotion of collective work and management in all sectors is one of the basic principles of the planned leadership of the country's economic and social activity.*

Starting out from the fact that the achievment and the consolidation of the new social order are the work, consciencious work, of the masses, our party has been permanently preoccupied that through the measures adopted, it should create an ever more adequate organisational framework for the large participation of the working people in the leadership of all fields of activity. The creation of the working people's committees and councils, as collective management organs invested with large competencies, the institutionalising of the working people's general assemblies, higer forms of collective leadership, as well as the application of the decisions adopted by the Party National Conference of July 1972, for the unitary improvement of the juridical and institutional frame, have lead to the appearence of a truely democratic leadership system.

In concord with the requests of the science of the socialist society leadership, our party aims at the rationalisation of the hierarchic steps, the simplifying of functional relations and the elimination of paralelisms, bringing the leadership closer to the place where the plan is actually being fulfilled.

The territorial-administrative reorganisation of the country, the improvement of the organisational structure of the economy by the setting up of industrial groups, the improvement of the organisation of agricultural state enetrprizes and of cooperative units, of construction and transport enterprises, of research, designing and educational institutes, the broadening of the spere of the attributions of socialist units, the application of some unitary rules regarding the organisational structure and staff of ministries and industrial groups, as well as of other economic, scientific, social and cultural units, have led to the position of being able to renounce to some intermediary links, to the elimination of some beaucratic activities; they have brought

leadership closer to the basic units, which has contributed to the continuous increase of efficiency in all sectors of economic and social life.

The organisation of planing activity, the stages and rates of elaborating the plans, the attributions and responsibilities on various organisational levels in the drawing up and carrying out of the plan are so regulated as to ensure the translation into life of the basic principles of planned leadership, the steady application of democratic centralism and the deepening of socialist democracy, the promotion of the principle of collective work and leadership, the unfolding of planning activity in acocrdance with the demands of the science of the socialist society leadership. Thus *the unique national plan can include all attributions which are characterizing it, as a collective national creation, of those called upon to carry out the plan provisions.*

The drawing up of the plan is taking place simultaneously and is coordinated at all organisational levels. On the basis of party directives, regarding the general orientations and objectives of development, the central synthesis organs elaborate proposals concerning the macro-economic and social indicators, which characterize the rates, proportions and the main relationships of ballance in economy, both for the quantitative aspects and for the qualitative sides of the process of reproduction; the ministries examine the basic indicators, which are aimed at the coordinated development of the economy's branches and sub-branches, of the groups of products and the main products; the county people's councils elaborate the indicators of economic and social development for the respective territories, and the economic, social and cultural units present proposals for the draft five year and annual plans, corresponding to the potential and profile of their activity. In this general framework the process of working out the unique plan starts at the economic, social and territorial administrative basic units, a fact which represents one of the fundamental principles of planning in this country.

The permanent contacts that are achieved in the process of working out the plan on all hierarchic levels and between the economic and social units, as well as on territorial levels, create conditions for our programmes of economic growth to be ever better grounded and correlated and their provisions to be better known by those who must carry them out. Thanks to this large dialogue, to these confruntations and permanent, constructive collaboration in which million of workers and peasants, economists, engineers and tehnicians, experts of the most various domains participate — the plan can contain valuable initiatives within a well-ballanced framework which should correspond to the necessities and possibilities of the economy and to impress on the programmes of activity of each and every unit in turn and on the unique national plan in its ensemble, not only the firmness, but also the realism of Romania's economic and social development.

The achievement of the maximum blending of efforts in the direction of carrying out the objectives of economic and social development, established by the party, objectivelly calls for the working out of the five-year and annual plans, profiled on branches, territories and departments, blending in one single unitary and ballanced enseble the three inseparable sides of the unique national plan.

The elaboration of the plan, first of all on branches, sub-branches, groups of products and important products, takes into consideration the

fact, that within the social decision of labour, the enterprizes are grouped on domains of specialized activity, with common characteristics as regards the destination of products, raw materials or technological processes; structures on branches — and within this frame on sub-branches and groups of products — and the links of inter-dependence which necessarily appear between them are of major importance for the planned leadership of economic and social development.

The concretisation through the unique national plan of some compulsory tasks for the branches, sub-branches and products is objectivelly reclaimed by the necessity of ensuring the continuous modernisation of the economy's structure by the intensification of the process of concentration, specialisation and cooperation, of coordinating and correlating the connections between the branches, sub-branches and groups of products with a view to the proportional and efficaceous development of each sector of activity in part and on the ensemble of the national economy.

It must be emphasized that as regards the working out of long-term plans for the branches and sub-branches, a rich experience has been accumulated especially in the process of elaborating the present five-year plan and during the action of laying the foundations of Romania's economic and social development in the 1976—1980 five year-plan period. These programmes, setting forth targets for the whole branch or subbranch, irrespective of organisational subordination, are of great importance in the promotion of top technologies —, characteristic for a modern structure of industrial production, as well as in establishing the necessary means for the envisaged development in each sector of activity.

In concord with the decisions of the Party National Conference of July 1972, of the provisions of the Law on Romania's planned economic and social development, the plan for 1973 has established, for the first time, the production tasks of the entire machine-building industry, irrespective of the subordination of enterprizes. With a view to deepening on this line the actions of planning, for 1974 — for economic sectors and a number of branches and sub-branches — plan obligations have been established regarding production, investments, exports labour productivity and deliveries for the market. Measures have been taken for the improvement of the present classification of the national economy's branches, the aim being to adapt them to the changes which have taken place in our economy in the past 10 years, to the new requests of planning, of using modern instruments in planning activity, as for instance the ballance of relations between branches.

The carrying out the harmonious repartition of the productive forces over the entire territory of the country — a fundamental objective of our party's policy — makes it necessary *to elaborate the unique national plan on territorial profile.* It must ensure the complex development of all counties, the more intense growth of economic activities and first of all of industry in the less developed counties and the gradual levelling of the economic standard of areas, the increase of the working class in all zones of Romania, to create conditions for the full manifestation of the economic and social equality among all the citizens of the country.

According to the Directives of the Party National Conference of 1972, a new regulation has been applied to the content and working out of the ter-

ritorial plans. The essence of this regulation lies in the fact, that the entire economic and social activity taking place in the counties is planned and controlled as a unitary ensemble, irrespective of the organisational subordination of the units. To be able to respond to the new tasks in the fields of territorial planning, the people's councils have been granted rights and obligations as regards the organisational, guidance and control over the whole planned economic and social development of the respective territory. The working out and control of the achievement of territorial plans are concentrated with the Executive Committees of the People's Councils, at the level of which — following the attributions confered on them — all conditions have been secured for the achievement of a well-grounded territorial planning activity.

With this aim in view, territorial planning comissions have been set up in all counties, subordinated to the State Planning Committee and the Executive Committees of the Poeple's Councils. The latter have the tasks of preparing the necessary operations for the elaboration of the draft five-year and annual plans of the counties' economic and social development, including both the activities of republican interest, as well as of local interest, to control and to act for the rhytmic and total fulfilment by all economic and social-cultural units of the tasks included in these plans.

Through the organisation of a close and permanent collaboration between enterprizes, industrial groups, ministries, central institutions and the People's Councils all along the period of drawing the plans, conditions are ensure for the harmonious correlation of the draft plans of all units on the given territory, in accordance with the demands and tasks of the economic and social development of each and every county and of the country's territory in general; the organic integration of the territorial plans into the unique national plan being ensured.

We must underline the fact that for the first time the territorial profile plan for 1974 was elaborated and endorsed parallel with the branch and departamental plan. The positive experience we have accumulated so far will be further developed in the direction of deepening territorial planning, through the improvement of the basic elements considered, the broadening of the system of indicators and lists of products, in accordance with the specific features of each and every county.

The elaboration of the unique national plan *in departamental profile* takes into account the fact that the economic and social activities are blended together according to organisational structures between various links — enterprizes, industrial group, ministry — close connections being formed in the process of elaborating and carrying out the plan. In this profile, the plan concretizes the tasks and means of production, on socialist units, on plan asignees; it serves, at the level of units, to the efficient, direct leadership of activities, deriving from the unique national plan.

Through the way the tasks and responsibilities have been established in connection with the working out and carrying out of the plans, the concentration of planning activity was aimed at, where all conditions exist for the adoption of optimum solutions in the administration of the assets of the people, as well as the ensurance of a sistematic cooperation among all interested factors, on all organisational levels.

In this context, the process of elaborating the plan starts in enterprizes, which know best their productive capacities and thus have the possibility to give a well-grounded foundation to the intensive turning to acccunt of their entire potential of the machines and installations of raw materials and of the labour force.

The setting up of the industrial groups has created the premises that these big integrated economic units should study the tendencies of economic, technical and scientific evolution in the world, to develop their research and designing activity, to ensure the modernisation of production, the introduction and extension of new technologies in all units; to permanently adapt production to the requests of the domestic and foreign markets, to firmly act for the maximum efficency use of materials and financial funds. Consequently, the industrial groups have been granted the role of basic units in planning activity, since at this level, all conditions exist, as well as the labour force, necessary for carrying out through analysis, which should effectivelly ensure the competibility of the plan with the achievements and possibilities of the component units, as well as the operational and efficient settlement of the complex problems of the planned management of production.

As from 1974 the unique national plan includes for the industrial groups tasks regarding the volume of production, the assimilation of new products, investments, the fund of salaries and wages, the number of staff and labcur productivity, production expenses, deliveries for the domestic and foreign markets.

The increased attributions granted to the industrial groups in the field of planning do not mean the diminishing of the ministries' role in working out and scientifically substantiating the plans. On the contrary, their role increases, if we think of the tasks encumbent on them, of participating in the working out of the draft plans in industrial groups, of analysing, synthethising and correlating their proposals, of integrating them in the draft plan of the entire branch under their competence.

In its turn, the State Planning Committee has the duty, in clcse collaboration with the ministries and the central economic synthethis organs, with the industrial groups and Executive Committees of the People's Councils, to organically include the branch, sub-branch, territorial and departamental draft plans in the unique national plan of Romania's economic and social development. At the same time, a central concern of the State Planning Committee is the permanent control over the carrying out of the plan provisions and the working out of proposals, ment to ensure the fulfilment of all tasks established for branches, sub-branches, groups of products and products, for territories and departments.

Our party conceives the planned leadership of the economic and social life as a continual activity, which takes into account both the present and the future tasks. With the daring and profound system, President Nicolae Ceauşescu examins the present and future problems, he has always given us a brilliant example of dialectic, prospective analysis of Romania's economic and social development.

The economic and social changes in today's world, ever more insistently reclaim the elaboration of a long-term strategy, prognosis for a longer

period to come of the economic and social phenomenon, with a view to giving a solid foundation to economic policy decision-making. The scope and intensity of the technical-scientific revolution, the demands for the ever more rational use of material and human resources, the intensification of economic relations among states determine the effervescence of preoccupations for long-term economic and social development. In the conditions of the socialist society, the long term planning activity is not only necessary, but receives an ever larger radius of action, due to the unitary character of the economy.

In order to give a scientific foundation to the five-year-plans, many long-term development studies have been worked out in the years of socialist construction. Our own experience has proved that the five-years horison of the plan can not be satisfying, especially when problems will have to be solved, which, by their nature, reclaim a larger perspective as are the development of science and technology, the resources of raw materials and energy, staff training, as well as the evolution of structural changes in the economic and social life. That is why, the present five year-plan has been integrated into a plan-structure of larger perspective, spanning 10 years. At the same time, the examination of the problems in a modern vision and in a broad perspective was possible also due to the studies and economic forecasts elaborated on the initiative of the higher party and state leadership with a view to the development of several sub-branches of major importance of our machine building and power industries, as well as the nuclear programme, the national programmes of irrigations and the development of cattle-breeding and those regarding the training of staff and scientific research.

The growth of the role of the unique national plan has also brought about the intensification of actions in the direction of long-term perspective research, which is ment to estimate the probable evolution, quantitative and qualitative, in the next 15—20 years, or even for a longer period, of some economic and social processes regarding the dynamics and modifications in the structure of material production, the progress of science and technology, the raw material stocks and their superior turning into merchandize, the demographic changes and the mutations in the labour force, the territorial repartition of the productive forces, the evolution of economic cooperation, of industrial and scientific collaboration, as well as the country's foreign exchanges, the raising of the people's material and cultural living standards. Within the long-term development studies worked out in our country, the evolution of the factors which influence the future processes are thoroughly examined and so are the probable and maximum possibilities of economic growth, starting from the demands imposed by objective laws, from the results and experience acquired by our people, from the assesment of the economic tendencies in the world. Being prior to the practical actions of planning, the long-term development programmes offer a rich material for the singling out of the priorities, of the options and decisions pertaining to the country's economic and social progress.

The role of prognosis in the ensemble of leadership activities, the organic link between them and the unique national plan have been clearly defined in the report presented by General Secretary Nicolae Ceauşescu at the Party National Conference in July, 1972. The long-term prognosis

is ment to secure the foundation for the major strategic objective of our party — the building of the manysidedly developed socialist society; the prognosis and the five-year-plans of Romania's economic and social development are part and parcel of the general program of the Romanian Communist Party.

The organic blending of the plans and the prognosis of long-term economic and social development, the turning of the prognosis into a constituent element of leadership, create conditions for planing the current activities into a strategy of long perspective.

Prospecting and surveying the future is conceived to be a permanent, systematic and organized activity, starting from down the enterprizes level, up the ensemble of the economy, of the entire society. In this framework our party has taken a number of measures due to which the planning and prognosis activity has considerably grown in scope at all levels.

With ever better forms and methods the aim set forth in the elaboration of a dynamic planing, the inclusion of the current tasks of the socialist units in the long-term development tendencies of Romania's economic and social evolution.

We must underline that the actions regarding our country's economic and social development in the 1976—1980 period are unfolding under the conditions, when — on the basis of the directive lines approved by the Party National Conference of July 1972 — many long-term develompent studies for the ensuing 20 years have already been worked out, thus securing a thorough basis for the future draft five-year-plan and a better link-up between the plan periods.

The growth of the role of the unique national plan in the leadership of the entire economic life calls for greater exigency as regards the substantiation of the plan.

In the activity of socialist planning — since the institutionalisation of which a quarter of a century has already passed — our party has acquired a rich experience, has made an original contribution to the solution of the problems of major scope and complexity of socialist construction. In this period of time many highly specialized planning experts have been trained, the methods and techniques of economic calculus and future analysis have been improved and renewed; with every passing year our plans have been better and better grounded. The 9-th and 10-th Party Congresses, the National Conference have powerfully stimulated the process of scientific research into the requests of the development of our socialist society, critically revaluing and abandoning the out-dated practices, launching new forms and methods of planned leadership of higher economic and social efficiency.

Our Party policy of continuously deepening socialist democracy in all fields, the planning activity included, of attracting the masses of the working people into the management of economic and social life, is the guarantee of having plans grounded on reality, on the possibilities and requests of the society's multilateral progress. The large participation of the masses in the leadership of society, the broadening of the collective character of work, necessarily ask for all activities to unfold in concord with the existencies of the science of the socialist society leadership.

The necessity of profoundly knowing the realities of all levels of activity derives from these very requests; but special stress must be laid on the knowledge of the activity of factories and plans, of industrial groups, of the local organs and ministries, on the permanent contacts with the party organs and organisations, with those who are carrying out the production programmes and ensure the elaboration of thoroughly founded and deeply realistic plans.

Planning activity implies, as a decisive condition, *the permanent, systematic control of the way the established objectives are being realized*, the envisaged rates and proportions, the aim being the maintanance of the material, financial, monetary and foreign trade ballance as well as to prevent the appearence of draw-backs in the execution of the plan provisions.

The control and analysis of the way the provisions of the unique national plan are carried out include all aspects and organisational levels, from the basic unit to the entire economy. The exigent analysis of the results obtained in the process of the execution of the plan, the direct participation of the masses in solving the problems raised by production, ensure the full turning to account of the existing reserves in our economy, the continuous improvement of production and labour organisation, the strengthening of order and discipline in the entire economic activity. Planned leadership thus blends in a unitary manner the activity of drawing up the plans and the control over and the analysis of the way they are implemented.

In the conditions of the level reached in the development of the productive forces in our country, the use of an algorythm based only on the procedure of successive test and on the bi-nome "experience-intuition", can no longer ensure the necessary exactness for the correlations defining the complex system of planing the national economy and conditions the coherence and equilibrium of the plan's structure. Our party and state leadership grants special attention to *the promotion of modern methods and efficient techniques of calculus and economic analysis.* Such methods and techniques are scientific working tools for conjuring up several variants of economic growth, so that the decision-making organs can have in due time the elements they need for the thorough foundation of the priorities and options. The tasks of socialist construction ask for the further development of our economic science, which must go deep into the study of the economic and social phenomena and processes, raise the level of the activities of substantiating the plans, using for this purpose the methods of mathematics, informatics and cybernetics and of the modern calculus technique. At the 10-th Congress of the Romanian Communist Party, General Secretary Nicolae Ceaușescu, referring to the introduction of modern methods in economic activity, said: "The researches in the field of applied economy will persue the promotion of the advanced methods of planning, management and organisation of economic processes, based on modern means of calculus and data processing, economic cybernetics and economic informatics research will be extended and so will be the researches on the management and administration of enterprizes."

In the past few years a number of achievements have been obtained in this field. Thus our first ballance of relations between branches has been elaborated and at present we are working on the integration of this instru-

ment in the process of the substantiation of the next five-year-plan, and on the drawing up of other economic- mathematical methods, based on ballance information. Several test macroeconomic models and sector models have been elaborated, which have been experimentally used especially in the long-term development programmes. For the current planning activity various systems of algorythms and programmes of electronic computer processes for operations pertaining to some sections of the unique national plan — including the territorial profile plan — have been worked out, operations, the carrying out which reclaim a large volume of labour. At the level of industrial groups and enterprizes, ever more frequently used are the models of production programming, as well as the models of the optimum utilisation of stocks, of techincal and material supplies and transports.

However, it is necessary to intensify preoccupations in this domain, where there still are defficiencies in relationship with the requests of planning activity. Our party leadership calls on specialists to draw up more studies for branches and sub-branches, which should include proposals ment to contribute to the raising of economic efficiency, of social labour productivity under its most diverse aspects — the use of the fixed and moving assets; the superior turning to account of the natural resources; the use of the labour force, the modernisation of economic structures; the efficiency of investments and of foreign trade. Special attention will have be granted to the working out of some viable economic-mathematic models to be used planning, the achievement of a system of models, which should create the possibility for us to examine a large range of problems pertaining to economic growth. The problematics of improving the informational social-economic system must be similarly enlarged, in cognizance of the requests of the utilisation of electronic techniques and data processing.

Another direction towards which we must permanently orientate our attention are the *indicators, norms and standards.* The particular importance of this direction of improving the plan derives from the fact, that via the indicators, norms and standards, the concrete objectives and tasks are expressed — quantitative and qualitative —, included in the five-year and annual plans, as well as the means allotted for their achievement; these measures, in phisical, value or in natural-conventional units expression, ensure on all organisational levels the connection between the plans of the economic units and the provisions of the unique national plan.

Within the framework of improving planning, the extension of the qualitative indicators has been aimed at, as well as of those which concretize to a great extent the plan's phisical aspects. Particular attention has been granted to the necessity of further using of indicators launched in the past few years, and which turned out to be greatly useful, as are those pertaining to the turning to account of raw materials and materials, the qualitative improvement of products, staff training and international economic cooperation. At the same time, new indicators have too been introduced, as for instance netto production, which expresses the contribution of each unit to the growth of the national income. The action of improving the indicators is accompanied by the gradual broadening of the standards basis of the plan — in a first stage through the introduction of some economic standards

to substantiate the plan, and then the compulsory ones, of stimulating the enterprizes in carrying out their plan obligations.

One of the main directions of improving planning activity to which our party calls on our attention, is a *more detailed planning, the greater concretisation of the duties established through the unique national plan.*

Considerable progress has been achieved in this direction, in the past few years; on the line of establishing a bigger number of indicators in phisical units; the improvement and the extension of the lists of products for industrial production, material ballance-sheets, the deliveries of products to the domestic and foreign markets; the nominalisation through the unique national plan of all investments; the phasing out of the plan provisions for three months and one month period in the case of the main indicators.

Also, in the future, we shall have to make efforts for the implementation of the indications of our party leadership, to have an ever more concrete planning, through which we should achieve a detailed correlation of the volume and structure of production with the phisical capacities of production, with the technical and material supplies and with the demands of the domestic and foreign market; practically to ensure all conditions for the most efficaceous use, in the spirit of a severe regim of saving, of all material and labour resources, of the entire productive potential.

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The rich ballance-sheet our party, our entire nation, are drawing up today, on the occasion of the 30-th anniversary of the homeland's liberation and the 11-th Party Congress, is a telling embodiment of the creative capacity, the talent and diligence of our people.

The working class, the peasantry, the intellectuals, all working people, inspired by these events, with profound significances in Romania's political, economic and social life, are carrying on an intense activity, working selflessly for the speeding up of our economic and social progress, for the fulfilment of the five-year-plan ahead of term.

Through the continuous improvement of the planning activity and the permanent raising of its scientific level, the unique national plan contributes to an ever greater extent to the carrying out of the Romanian Communist Party programme of building the manysidedly developed socialist society in our country, to the steady upsurge of socialist Romania.

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