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at 3 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 37th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. MURGESCU (Romania)

later: Mr. XIFRA (Spain)

CONTENTS

AGENDA ITEM 59: OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 68: TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (continued)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 59: OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 68: TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (continued)

1. Mr. ØRNHØI (Norway) expressed disappointment at the results of the recent United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities and particularly at the fact that several of the traditionally large contributors had been unable to announce pledges. The results of that Conference seemed to indicate that, as in previous years, a substantial part of the financing of UNDP for 1980 would come from the contributions of a few small industrialized countries. In that connexion, it could not be expected that the Nordic countries would continue to contribute more than one quarter of the resources of UNDP, as they had done for the past few years, when a number of other countries could make much larger contributions. If that trend of stagnation persisted, UNDP would not be in a position to deliver the indicative planning figures for the second programming cycle. At the special session of the Governing Council to be held in February 1980, it would be crucial to reach agreement, for the third programming cycle, on a growth target which would enable UNDP to continue to play a central role in funding and co-ordinating operational activities for development. Yet there was unlikely to be any sustained growth in UNDP unless the responsibility for providing resources was shared more equitably.
2. Norway hoped that an increasing share of the resources provided would be channelled to the least developed countries, because it would then be easier for donor countries to obtain necessary public support for increased contributions to the development programmes of the United Nations system. It also believed that contracts for the purchase of goods and services should be more equitably awarded, in particular by giving special attention to developing countries; that would also give impetus to co-operation among those countries.
3. Since the UNDP programming cycle was based on a five-year period, the Norwegian Government believed that donor countries should consider the possibility of making multi-year financial commitments. In that connexion, it welcomed the decision taken by the Governing Council at its twenty-sixth session to establish an Intergovernmental Working Group on the long-term financing of UNDP. His Government advocated the extension to the entire United Nations development system of the rolling multi-year programme budgeting already adopted by UNICEF and UNFPA.
4. The assistance provided by the United Nations should be co-ordinated at the level of the governing bodies of the various organs in the system, at the level of the headquarters and at the country level. The Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation could play an important monitoring role in that regard.

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5. His delegation hoped that it would be possible, on the basis of the report on the comprehensive policy review of operational activities which was to be prepared by the Director-General in accordance with Assembly resolution 33/201, to consider further measures to achieve a more co-ordinated approach to development assistance provided by the United Nations system. At the country level, that was the responsibility of the resident co-ordinator, who should bear in mind the objectives and priorities of the Government concerned.

6. In conclusion, he stressed the need to make available to the United Nations development system the financial resources which it needed in order to cope with an ever-increasing work-load.

7. Miss Løf (Denmark) recalled the importance which her country attached to the activities of UNDP and stressed the need to increase the effectiveness of UNDP assistance programmes and in particular to reduce administrative costs. It had to be admitted, however, that the total amount of official development assistance was far below not only the developing countries' needs but also the commitments given. She therefore urged other developed countries to follow the example of Denmark, which despite its current economic difficulties was devoting 0.7 per cent of its GNP to official development assistance, as envisaged in the Strategy for the 1970s.

8. A system of multi-year pledges would make it possible to envisage a fairer sharing of financial responsibilities towards UNDP. In that connexion, her delegation welcomed the establishment of an Intergovernmental Working Group to study the question.

9. With regard to the preparations for the third programming cycle, and particularly the question of the distribution of resources, the members of the Governing Council had shown, despite the divergence of views expressed at the twenty-sixth session, that their overriding concern was to reach a solution through consensus. It was in that spirit that the Danish delegation would participate in the special session of the Council to be held in February 1980.

10. More contracts for the purchase of goods and services should be awarded to small industrialized countries and to developing countries. In that connexion, she welcomed the decision taken by the Governing Council to diversify UNDP sources of supply.

11. Her delegation welcomed the adoption of a medium-term plan by UNICEF, and expressed the hope that the existence of such a plan would encourage pledges of contributions on a multi-year basis. It also welcomed the General Assembly's decision that UNICEF should be the lead agency for the United Nations system's follow-up activities for the International Year of the Child and hoped that the decision would result in increased support for UNICEF activities in both developing and developed countries.

12. Lastly, without going into details about their work, she wished to stress the importance which her delegation attached to the activities of WFP and UNFPA.

13. Mrs. SANDIFER (Portugal) stressed the importance which her Government attached to UNDP activities, particularly with respect to the encouragement of technical co-operation and the promotion of self-reliance in development. UNDP had a /...

(Mrs. Sandifer, Portugal)

key role to play in the establishment of the new international economic order. Her delegation had noted with interest the ambitious work plan of the Special Unit for Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, established within UNDP, and hoped that the forthcoming high-level meeting on TCDC to be held in 1980 would have a significant impact on further development activities.

14. The Portuguese delegation was most appreciative of the vital role played by UNICEF in development, and particularly of that agency's work in the areas of primary health care, nutrition education and drinking water supplies. The efforts made by the Fund to decentralize services to the community level had been most constructive. Portugal also noted with satisfaction the outcome of the meeting on infant and young child feeding held recently in Geneva. UNICEF was to be congratulated on the action which it had taken to put an end to the unnecessary and often dangerous practice of advertising infant formula in developing countries.

15. The role of UNICEF was constantly growing, since it had just been given the responsibility of co-ordinating the development aspects of the follow-up activities for the International Year of the Child. That task, together with the Fund's continued activities in emergency relief operations, not only in Kampuchea but also in the Sudano-Sahelian and other regions, placed on it a heavy burden.

16. With regard to the World Food Programme, the Portuguese delegation was concerned that very little headway had been made in reducing the structural imbalances in the world food economy, despite the increase in world cereal supplies. The increased reliance of the developing countries on food imports was disquieting. Her delegation again expressed the hope that a new food aid convention, with a minimum target of 10 million tons of cereals, would soon be adopted.

17. Lastly, UNFPA was to be congratulated on the growth in its activities, especially as it had kept administrative costs at an exceptionally low level. The role of UNFPA in helping to implement the World Plan of Action and in establishing appropriate population programmes in the different countries and regions was crucially important from a development point of view. Portugal supported the continued expansion of that role so that an optimal number of countries could benefit.

18. Mr. FORNARI (Italy) said that in view of the achievements of the various United Nations operational development organs, his Government had decided to triple its financial contribution to UNDP and to increase its contributions to other bodies such as UNFPA, the Revolving Fund for the Exploration of Natural Resources, UNICEF and WFP. It had also decided to increase substantially its contribution to the Advisory Group for International Agricultural Research, a unit which depended mainly on UNDP, FAO and the World Bank.

19. Those decisions and the establishment of a department of co-operation for development in the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs with a budget of \$370 million spaced over five years were the most tangible proof that Italy was determined to adopt a new approach to the question of development assistance.

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(Mr. Fornari, Italy)

20. However, in the interest of balanced development, the emphasis should be placed not only on public development assistance, but on the quality of that aid, which should be given and received in a spirit of co-operation among all the parties concerned, North-South, South-North and South-South. The developing countries should be especially careful to see that existing financial, technical, legal and institutional resources were used most efficiently. For their part, United Nations bodies and, particularly UNDP, should see that the aid reached the most disadvantaged segments of the society. In that connexion, when the distribution of development assistance came up for discussion in February, his delegation would support the proposal to favour the less developed countries and those with a per capita income under \$500.

21. After recalling his Government's interest in the Revolving Fund for the Exploration of Natural Resources, to which it had pledged \$1.2 million, he said that his delegation felt that the Fund's activities should be extended to other fields such as geothermal resources. The international community should consider financing the execution of projects identified by the Fund.

22. The Italian Government had also pledged a contribution to UNFPA because it considered its activities of great importance and hoped to become more active in elaborating its policies. It had also indicated its interest in the problems of the world's children by quadrupling its contribution to UNICEF.

23. Finally, with regard to the world hunger campaign, the Italian Parliament had recently decided to increase substantially the bilateral and multilateral aid it gave to the competent organizations. In that context, Italy had more than doubled its contribution to WFP, which was helping by its short-term and long-term programmes to cope very effectively with the problem of hunger.

24. Mr. FESENKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the basic issue relating to operational activities for development was how to make them more efficient. Those activities should meet the real needs of the developing countries and at the same time be in keeping with the recommendations of the Charter on the Economic Rights and Duties of States and the Declaration and Programme of Action on the establishment of the new international economic order. It was encouraging to note that the Administrator of UNDP was continuing to take steps to improve the use of resources, particularly contributions in local currencies, and to achieve a better distribution of those resources among the recipient countries.

25. However, both in UNDP and in other specialized bodies, project planning and execution was still unsatisfactory, as shown by the report of the Administrator (DP/380), which also detailed the efforts made to correct the situation, particularly by increasing the number of global and interregional projects and the growing importance of the role played by the Governments of the developing countries in project execution. His delegation supported proposals to strengthen UNDP's function as co-ordinator of the technical assistance provided by the various United Nations bodies, and stressed the importance of continuing to respect the principle of universality and of voluntary contributions as well as the sovereign right of the recipient States to determine their own development goals.

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(Mr. Fesenko, USSR)

26. In that connexion, it should be borne in mind that if the developing countries were to be helped to develop their economic potential, they should receive assistance in establishing national planning units, in industrializing, in developing the key sectors of the economy and especially in strengthening the public sector.

27. In order to continue to strengthen the co-ordination and efficiency of United Nations technical co-operation activities, the structure of the system would have to be improved by financing the regular Technical Co-operation Programme from the UNDP budget, that is, from voluntary contributions.

28. As was clear from the report of the Administrator, UNDP was focusing attention on the training of local staff, but he wondered why the experience of the Soviet Union in that field was not drawn on more. His country was prepared to increase its co-operation with the United Nations development system by organizing courses and seminars and providing other forms of training for specialists from the developing countries.

29. It was regrettable to find that in the United Nations technical co-operation system, the principle of equitable geographical distribution was not being strictly adhered to, either in posts in the UNDP secretariat or in selecting experts to work in the field. But it was essential for an international organization, if it was to function properly, to be able to draw on the experience of countries with different economic and social systems and that applied equally to the reorganization now in progress of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development.

30. TCDC was assuming an increasingly important share of the work of the specialized agencies dealing with technical assistance and of the deliberations in the various international forums. The Soviet Union fully supported the developing countries fighting for their economic and political independence and against the attempts of the transnational corporations to exploit them. It believed that the problem could only be solved in the context of a global restructuring of international economic relations on the basis of equality and mutual advantage. Moreover, that co-operation would be effective only if the developing countries themselves instituted reforms designed to give government a larger role in the national economy, to develop the public sector, to accelerate industrialization and to eliminate antiquated methods of farming. The Soviet Union had provided substantial assistance in that field to the developing countries and was continuing to do so.

31. His delegation wished to draw attention to the constructive way in which UNFPA had used his country's contribution and enabled several States to resolve their demographic problems by taking advantage of a course in demography organized at Moscow University.

32. The Soviet Union recognized the important work done by UNICEF - it provided bilateral aid to various countries in that field - and was also participating in UNICEF activities. He would not dwell on that point because a statement on it had already been made in the plenary.

33. Mr. WHYTE (United Kingdom) said that in planning for the future, the Governing Council of UNDP should take into account that it was highly unlikely that the /...

(Mr. Whyte, United Kingdom)

major donor countries could continue to increase their contributions at the same rate as they had done in recent years. Although most of the factors which determined the level of resources available to UNDP were entirely beyond its control, the Governing Council could at least influence two factors of particular importance, namely efficient management of the Programme and its responsiveness to the needs of its major donors.

34. It was of course true that efficiency was difficult to define, especially in an organization like UNDP, but it was important not to depart from certain principles of management such as that of competitive bidding or the recruitment of experts on the basis of competence. With regard to the second factor, while the developing countries had the right to decide on their own development priorities, whether individually or collectively, it was also important that decision-makers in donor countries should continue to feel that their Governments had a voice in determining how their money was spent. The Governing Council's practice of reaching decisions by consensus was evidence that it had been possible in the past to reconcile the two requirements. However, certain countries should be careful not to upset that balance by adopting uncompromising attitudes towards the donor countries' wish to see UNDP's assistance concentrated in the poorer countries.

35. His delegation hoped that UNFPA would during the coming years continue to concentrate on core programme activities and that it would resist the temptation to become involved in peripheral activities or activities which could be performed by other organizations.

36. With regard to UNICEF, he said that the International Year of the Child had highlighted the important contribution which it had made to the welfare of the world's children.

37. Finally, he said that the recently created Department of Technical Co-operation for Development should permit a more efficient utilization of the expertise available to the Secretariat. The Department should seize the opportunity quickly, above all to develop its capacity for speedy and efficient delivery of technical assistance projects.

38. Mr. KOROMA (Sierra Leone) expressed his delegation's agreement with the substance of the statement made by the Administrator of UNDP and commented on three points which seemed to him to be of interest both with regard to the operation of the Programme and for the developing countries which benefited from them.

39. First, attributing the fact that no decision had yet been taken concerning the introduction of a system of multi-year contributions to UNDP to the fact that the donor countries were still not convinced of the advantages which such a system would offer and that, moreover, there was still some doubt as to which countries would be in a position to make such disbursements, he said that his delegation was fully in favour of holding a special meeting the following year during which the donor countries could discuss their intentions in that regard.

40. He saw the expansion of the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office, which was now a joint UNDP/UNEP enterprise, as a sign of the interest of the international

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(Mr. Koroma, Sierra Leone)

community in that region and warned against the dangers of parallel aid which, all too frequently, had proved incapable of promoting indigenous development capacity, as the difficulties encountered by CILSS for more than five years showed. Nevertheless, he welcomed the fact that, since 1976, UNSO had become more aware of the importance of its relations with CILSS, even if their collaboration remained limited because of the principles governing the utilization of United Nations funds.

41. Referring to the utilization of human resources in development and regretting that the practices of UNDP and UNFPA were still extremely timid in so far as the execution of some projects by beneficiary Governments, or the use of national experts, was concerned, he observed that the situation was such as to undermine the confidence which the developing countries had placed in those two institutions. He was gratified, however, that a report on the real progress achieved in that area, both qualitative and quantitative, was in course of preparation.

42. UNFPA was one of the best managed operational activities for development and his delegation would support any measure designed to bring the development of that institution more into line with the new needs for international assistance to population activities.

43. Mr. RAMADAN (Egypt) said he thought that operational activities for development constituted the very basis of the United Nations contribution in the establishment of a new international economic order and commented on various aspects of those activities.

44. He welcomed the progress made in the activities of UNDP and expressed the hope that the study to be published on the execution of some projects by beneficiary Governments would be more than descriptive and would take full account of the views of the Governments concerned. Egypt was in favour of various measures which had been taken or were contemplated, such as the establishment of investment promotion centres to assist the under-developed countries, in particular the most severely affected among them, and the use of national institutions for the training of project execution personnel. His Government was very interested in measures to assist the Palestinian people and he urged Member States to increase their contributions to the Programme.

45. After emphasizing the importance of the United Nations Capital Development Fund, he said he welcomed the development of the United Nations Volunteers programme, in particular the fact that 60 per cent of the volunteers now came from developing countries, and he called upon UNDP to strengthen the effectiveness of that programme.

46. Egypt was aware of the obstacles to development attributable to population problems and welcomed the activities undertaken by UNFPA. It considered, however, that UNFPA should be restructured in order to take better account of the concerns of the developing countries, including the role of women in development, and he appealed to Member States to strengthen the financial resources of the Fund.

47. His country had approved the medium-term plan of action of UNICEF and he

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(Mr. Ramadan, Egypt)

hoped that co-operation between UNICEF and WHO would be intensified. He urged the Governments present to help UNICEF to resolve the problems of children in the world by increasing the amount of their contributions to that organization.

48. With regard to WFP, he emphasized the importance of food aid to the developing countries and announced that his Government had approved the financial targets of WFP for 1981-1982. He hoped that an agreement on the production of food-stuffs could be concluded rapidly on a world scale.

49. Finally, he said that in his view only TCDC would bring about the industrialization of the developing countries, thus contributing to the establishment of a new international economic order. He urged all Member States to approve the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, emphasized the importance of maintaining the Special Unit for TCDC, and appealed for all forms of international co-operation.

50. Mr. BOUBACAR (Guinea-Bissau) commended the quality of operational activities for development which, in his view, should receive increased financial support, and reviewed the progress made in TCDC before examining the outlook for the future.

51. The Buenos Aires Plan of Action had stressed the interaction between TCDC and the concept of national self-sufficiency in the establishment of a new international economic order. Referring to the mandate given to the Special Unit for TCDC, in particular in the preparation of the high-level meeting planned for 1980, he welcomed the positive results already achieved in such fields as research activities, the formulation of new programming methods and the improvement of the information orientation system.

52. TCDC offered the developing countries an opportunity to resolve their problems through new forms of co-operation which were not the exclusive preserve of the United Nations system. However, in so far as the development of those countries could only benefit all the countries of the world, it was even more necessary to reaffirm the principles of mutual assistance and international co-operation, which were at the very basis of United Nations activities. In the circumstances, everything should be done to promote the development of TCDC which, in his view, also had a political aim, that of improving the lives of thousands of millions of human beings.

53. Mr. Xifra (Spain) took the Chair.

54. Mr. GAGLIARDI (Brazil) reiterated his delegation's support for UNDP and its Administrator and commented on three points relating to its activities.

55. First, he welcomed the fact that, at its twenty-sixth session, the Governing Council had unanimously approved the country programmes submitted, which had highlighted the universality of the Programme's activities. It was important at the present stage to continue along the same lines, particularly at the special meeting of the Governing Council to review preparations for the third cycle, with a view to ensuring equitable treatment for the various regions of the world, including Latin America, the special protection due to the under-developed countries, and compensation for the effects of inflation, which could be achieved by such means as an increase in contributions.

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(Mr. Gagliardi, Brazil)

56. Until recently, technical co-operation had belonged essentially to the sphere of North-South relations. Now, with the emergence of TCDC, new possibilities were opened up. He reaffirmed his delegation's interest in that form of co-operation and, in that connexion, he noted the resolution adopted by the Governing Council of UNDP according to which the special contribution made by Brazil to TCDC activities would be treated as a third party cost sharing contribution, and referred to the projects and countries which had already received financing from the first instalment of that contribution. He also expressed the hopes which he placed in the high-level meeting planned for 1980.

57. He warned the Director of the Special Unit for TCDC, as well as the Governments of Member States, of the danger that the Unit might be transformed into an advisory body. That would be contrary to the very spirit of TCDC which, by definition, was a form of intergovernmental co-operation, and it might, moreover, lead to a regrettable overlapping of activities in view of the urgent needs of the developing countries.

58. Mr. LIPTAU (Federal Republic of Germany) said that his Government had repeatedly voiced its interest in close co-ordination of UNDP programmes with its own bilateral co-operation schemes. Moreover, his Government was actively engaged in a large number of interagency collaborative efforts, such as training and research on tropical diseases, the co-operative action for drinking water supply and sanitation, and the special public works schemes.

59. In response to the concern expressed by the Administrator over the problem of debt and dependency during the last decade, the Government of the Federal Republic had decided in 1978, after a review of each case, to convert into grants loans already extended to the least developed among the developing countries. Sixteen countries had already benefited from that measure.

60. The Federal Government considered that the systematic expansion of its economic relations with the countries of the third world was the best way of enabling those countries to become more and more integrated into the world economy. Thus, trade between the Federal Republic of Germany and the developing countries had increased very substantially in the last few years. Its imports from non-European developing countries (excluding OPEC States) had risen from \$3.5 billion in 1972 to \$12 billion in 1978. During the same period its exports to non-European developing countries had gone up from about \$3.8 billion to over \$11 billion. Its imports of manufactured and semi-manufactured goods from those same countries had shown a particularly rapid increase. Between 1972 (\$1.2 billion) and 1978 (\$5.5 billion) they had almost tripled. The Federal Government intended to pursue systematically that policy of opening up its markets. Recognizing the growing importance of technical co-operation among developing countries, it had adopted a series of measures for providing technical and financial support. For example, a service for the exchange of appropriate technology had recently been established within the German Agency for Technical Co-operation (GTZ) and the Federal Republic was co-financing certain technical co-operation projects carried out by one developing country in another developing country and was granting to nationals of certain developing countries scholarships for training and further training in other developing countries.

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(Mr. Liptau, Federal Republic of Germany)

61. As regards the follow-up of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, the prospectus for the interim fund was currently being considered by the Bonn authorities. Finally, after paying a tribute to the staff of UNFPA and UNICEF, he recalled the draft resolutions which had been previously adopted on measures to assist countries which did not, or did not yet, belong to the group of least developed countries. His delegation had joined in the consensus on those draft resolutions, in spite of certain reservations, because it agreed with their basic objectives. However, he wished to stress the position of his Government that it was not possible to extend to countries other than the least developed the special terms for official development assistance granted to such countries.

62. Mr. BA-ISSA (Democratic Yemen) said that by the end of the century the population of the developing countries would attain 5 billion persons, most of whom would live in abject poverty. In such circumstances, a heavy responsibility must be assumed by those bodies seeking to raise the standard of living of millions of poor and needy persons, and in particular UNDP.

63. His delegation noted that the increase in the prices of capital goods exported by the developed countries, combined with the decline in the prices of exports from the developing countries, cancelled out the advantages which such countries derived from development aid. Accordingly, UNDP needed increased resources to help them and Democratic Yemen was seeking to increase its own contribution to the Programme. As for the criteria governing the granting of UNDP aid, such factors as population and per capita income did not take into account sufficiently the real situation and the level of living in the least developed countries which, because of their low human and material potential, should have absolute priority. Democratic Yemen considered that the IPF should be fixed on the basis of other criteria, such as the economic infrastructure, the rate of industrialization, export capacity or indeed the efforts made by Governments to improve the lot of the most needy groups.

64. The Government of Democratic Yemen appreciated the support given by UNDP to the national liberation movements and noted in particular the project for assisting the Palestinian people, whose full implementation it awaited, however inadequate it might be when compared with the needs. His Government also welcomed the activities of the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration, which should allow the developing countries to utilize their resources without being victims of the exploitation and blackmail which usually accompanied investment operations. He recognized the considerable importance of technical co-operation between developing countries and wished to stress particularly the effective and ever-growing role of UNFPA in the process of development. He also thanked other bodies such as UNICEF and WFP whose efforts were particularly appreciated in his country.

65. Mr. TURYANSKY (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that, to judge from the report of the Governing Council of UNDP (E/1979/40) and the introductory statement of the Administrator, the Programme had usefully helped to solve certain highly topical problems of the developing countries. It could only be praised for having increased its assistance to colonial countries and peoples - particularly in dealing with the refugee problem - and to national liberation movements.

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(Mr. Turyansky, Ukrainian SSR)

66. However, as in previous years, it might again be wondered whether the efficiency of UNDP could not be increased, particularly regarding the rate of execution of national, regional and interregional projects. Furthermore, priority should be given to projects designed to accelerate the industrial development of developing countries and to enable them to build the foundations for an independent national economy. Such priority was not always forthcoming in practice.

67. The efficiency of UNDP could certainly be increased by an improvement in the recruitment procedures for Secretariat staff and experts who, at the moment, were still being recruited for the most part in the Western countries, while the human resources of the socialist countries were being neglected.

68. The training of national cadres in the young States would also be a step in the right direction. The socialist countries possessed all the resources and all the experience necessary to provide such training in all spheres. For example, in recent years, the Soviet Socialist Republic of the Ukraine had trained more than 12,000 experts and specialists from the developing countries in its technical schools. It also organized seminars on questions relating to industrialization and planning and, at the moment, more than 4,000 Ukrainian specialists were working in the developing countries. Furthermore, for many years, refresher courses for electrical and mechanical engineers from the developing countries had been organized in the Ukraine. The cost of those operations was deducted from its contributions to the technical assistance funds of the United Nations. However, it should be stressed that the Ukraine could do much more and would like its voluntary contributions to be used more widely.

69. Mr. ROCHE (Canada) said his Government was very conscious of the important tasks performed by multilateral institutions such as UNDP, UNICEF and UNFPA. It was for that reason that Canada, subject to final parliamentary approval, pledged \$Can 41 million to UNDP, \$Can 9 million to UNICEF and \$Can 7 million to UNFPA.

70. Canada continued to be a strong supporter of UNDP, whose comprehensive technical assistance programme for developing countries focused on one of the most critical current problems, the shortage of knowledge and skills, which were essential if the developing countries were to move forward on a path towards development.

71. Observing that the tasks assigned to UNDP far exceeded the available resources, he said that the results of the UNDP Pledging Conference had been very disappointing. While the resources pledged were substantial, they had fallen well below the projected over-all target growth rate of 14 per cent, and indications were that the growth rate would be more like 6 per cent. The political responsibility for that failure fell on the donor countries and the Governing Council. The managerial responsibility fell on the senior officers of UNDP. Projects could be designed and approved under financial restraints, provided adequate checks and balances were built into the system. He therefore hoped that UNDP would be in the vanguard of the development of control systems and techniques.

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(Mr. Roche, Canada)

72. The problem of indicative planning figures for the third cycle would dominate the forthcoming sessions of the Governing Council. His delegation would be guided in that regard by two principles, the first being that UNDP should devote an increasingly large share of its scarce resources to the least developed countries. While not in favour of any country being excluded from participation in the Programme, his delegation felt that countries which had attained a certain level of income should no longer be eligible for an IPF and that their participation in the Programme above some established point should be outside the IPF system. Secondly, the Governing Council should establish more objective, apolitical allocation mechanisms for funding activities currently covered by the Programme Reserve, the fund for future participants and other claims.

73. UNICEF remained the Organization's strongest symbol of the world's humanitarian concerns, as had been confirmed at the recent Pledging Conference, since UNICEF expected to come close to its target of \$250 million. In 1979, two series of UNICEF activities had been especially notable, those relating to the International Year of the Child and the emergency relief programme in Kampuchea. The success of the International Year of the Child had been due largely to the organizational grass-roots approach taken by those responsible. In regard to the emergency relief operation in Kampuchea, few organizations would have been capable of mounting an operation of that scale and complexity. It was fitting that UNICEF, together with ICRC, should be one of the prime movers behind that operation, because the situation in Kampuchea was tragically affecting the children of that country. A massive relief effort was needed to prevent the annihilation of an entire generation of Kampuchians.

74. In 10 years, UNFPA had become a major funding organization which channelled more than a quarter of all international aid flows to activities relating to population. The questions of development and population were inseparable, since a declining birth-rate was closely connected with a rise in living standards. UNFPA had made a significant contribution to the world's understanding of the complexity of the population issue, and had in a variety of ways assisted the developing countries seeking to modify their population patterns. He therefore welcomed the decision of the UNDP Governing Council to discuss more thoroughly and review UNFPA's work and future orientation.

75. Lastly, he wished to emphasize briefly the importance of the high-level meeting on technical co-operation among developing countries scheduled for 1980. He hoped that it would provide an opportunity for a discussion of the constraints on technical co-operation among developing countries which had already been identified, and also for a discussion by the developing countries themselves on the ways in which they had taken advantage of the opportunities offered by TCDC. The progress made since the Buenos Aires Conference would show clearly the political will of the developing countries to move towards collective self-reliance.

76. Mr. AZIZI (Afghanistan) expressed gratitude for the assistance his country received from UNDP, but also expressed the hope that the Programme would be able to make a greater contribution to the attainment of the goals and objectives of the Five-Year Development Plan of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, aimed

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(Mr. Azizi, Afghanistan)

at remedying the causes of the country's economic and social backwardness and ensuring the people of better and more decent living conditions. His Government welcomed the special multinational programme for the seven least developed countries of the Asia and Pacific region, and had decided to be represented at a high level at the meeting to finalize the Programme for 1979-1981.

77. With regard to the criteria for establishing IPFs for the third programme cycle, his delegation hoped that the supplementary criteria adopted for the second cycle would be not only maintained but strengthened to take into account the special needs of the land-locked developing countries. In that connexion, his delegation wished to draw the attention of the Committee to the fact that the United Nations Special Fund for Land-locked Developing Countries established three years earlier had not yet begun operations, and that the results of the 1979 Pledging Conference had been disappointing in that regard. He once again urged the countries which had not yet contributed to the Fund to do so in accordance with General Assembly resolution 32/113 and requested UNDP in the meantime to take urgent steps to enable the Fund to begin operations.

78. His delegation wished to express its gratitude to UNFPA for the help it had provided in connexion with the first national population census in Afghanistan and for its assistance in the area of family planning. It also wished to pay a tribute to UNICEF for its activities on behalf of children and stressed that the health and education needs of children were among the priority objectives of the Afghan development plan. With regard to food programmes, his delegation hoped that the donor countries would increase their contributions so as to enable the World Food Programme and the International Emergency Food Reserve to attain their financing objectives.

79. His Government had done all it could to meet the needs of landless farmers and smallholders, who since the establishment of the new revolutionary order in Afghanistan had been freely cultivating the former estates of the feudal lords and big landowners. In order to increase the country's production of subsistence crops, the Government had established agricultural co-operatives to provide farmers with seed, fertilizers, credits and subsidies, but the attainment of those goals would take time and his delegation hoped that WFP would provide it with the necessary assistance. It also wished to draw the attention of WFP to the fact that thus far Afghanistan had received no assistance from the International Fund for Agricultural Development, which had been established to help developing countries increase their agricultural production.

80. Lastly, his delegation was awaiting with interest the 1980 high-level meeting on technical co-operation among developing countries, and hoped that it would spur the implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing TCDC.

81. Mr. ABDALLAH (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said the developing countries placed all their hopes in UNDP because of the important role it could play in their economic and social development. They welcomed the efforts already made by Mr. Morse which had made it possible to improve the lot of certain developing

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(Mr. Abdallah, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)

countries, notably the least advanced developing countries. His delegation approved of the decisions concerning assistance to national liberation movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity and assistance to the Palestinian people adopted by the Governing Council of UNDP at its twenty-sixth session. Although the material assistance envisaged for the Palestinian people was not very large in volume it nevertheless represented moral support which would be very useful.

82. His delegation also supported the efforts of UNDP to give effect to the concept of TCDC and implement the resolutions relating to the new international economic order, but could not endorse the provisions aimed at allocating available country IPF resources on the basis of the population and per capita GNP of each country. The per capita GNP was not an adequate criterion and other criteria, such as the level of industrialization and the degree of technological development, should also be taken into account. His delegation paid tribute to the work of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, whose policy was to have projects executed by Governments themselves. The development of UNFPA activities aimed at helping developing countries to solve the problem of internal migrations would be very useful, and his country hoped that more countries would contribute to UNFPA.

83. UNICEF's programmes were of the greatest importance for the developing countries, since the children in those countries still suffered from a large number of diseases, and in most cases did not have satisfactory health and education facilities. His country welcomed the co-operation between UNICEF and WHO, and the wide range of UNICEF activities, above all in the rural areas. UNICEF's study on handicapped children was also very important, particularly in view of the forthcoming International Year for Disabled Persons.

84. TCDC was of basic importance to the establishment of the new international economic order and promotion of the collective self-reliance of developing countries, and must therefore be regarded as a primary goal. Consequently it was essential that the Programme of Action adopted at the Buenos Aires Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries should be fully implemented.

85. Mr. Morgescu (Romania) resumed the Chair.

86. Mr. JAMTOMO (Indonesia) said that because of the precarious state of the world economy official development assistance by most of the developed countries had fallen below the established target, and consequently operational technical co-operation activities had been affected. However, despite those constraints UNDP had been able to adapt its operational activities to the international situation, and strengthen the technical and administrative capacities of developing countries. It was certainly encouraging to note from the Administrator's report (DP/380) that for the second time since UNDP was established its total expenditure exceeded one billion dollars, while programme delivery had increased by 32 per cent in 1978 compared with 1977, and a further increase was projected for 1979.

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(Mr. Jamtomo, Indonesia)

87. However, if UNDP was to continue its work, it must have the necessary funds, and the contributions announced at the 1979 United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities had fallen short of the increase of 14 per cent over the level of the preceding year which was necessary if the Programme was to maintain its existing level of delivery. His delegation therefore sincerely hoped that the Governments that had not yet announced their pledges would do their utmost to help UNDP to meet the target set for 1980. It would also be most useful if Governments could announce their contributions on a multi-year basis. He wished to take the opportunity to announce that the Indonesian Government would increase its contribution by 14 per cent compared with the preceding year.

88. Turning to TCDC, he said that his delegation welcomed the progress made since the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, and the steps taken to strengthen the Special Unit for TCDC. He agreed with the Administrator that the first high-level meeting to be convened in May 1980 to undertake the over-all intergovernmental review of technical co-operation among developing countries, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 33/134, would be of critical importance. It was to be hoped that that meeting would provide additional impetus to implementation of the Plan of Action and help to integrate the concept of TCDC into development policy.

89. The United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) had achieved a marked expansion, since its inception in 1967, in the scope and number of its activities, and had scored a number of important successes. It had been able to draw the attention of Governments to population problems and had helped to bring about a reduction in fertility rates in some developing countries. In view of the Fund's expansion and of the many aspects of the population problem that still had to be resolved, his delegation considered that the time had come for UNFPA to be given the capacity to respond effectively to all the needs of developing countries in that sphere, and in particular to help them to include the population element in their development policies and plans.

90. With respect to the operational activities of UNICEF, the Indonesian delegation considered that, as indicated in the report (E/1979/41), the Fund should strengthen primary health care centres in developing countries for training, research and advisory services. It was encouraging to note that UNICEF had decided to promote technical co-operation among developing countries by helping them to strengthen their national child care services. The proposal to prepare case studies on programmes, so as to contribute to a practical exchange of experience among developing countries, was excellent.

91. In conclusion, he said that his delegation wished to reaffirm its conviction that the implementation of the various United Nations operational programmes for development was of great importance to the developing countries.

92. Miss LOECKX (Belgium) praised the system of country programming introduced a few years earlier by UNDP and now used by other specialized agencies. Her delegation also wished to report that it supported UNDP's central role as a main source of financing for technical co-operation activities in the United Nations system.

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(Miss Loeckx, Belgium)

93. As to the status of the resident co-ordinator, the Belgian delegation entirely endorsed the views of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (CPC) as set forth in its report at its nineteenth session (A/34/38). The functions of resident co-ordinator could well be assumed by UNDP resident representatives, who were in fact already performing very similar duties, and whose position in the United Nations system should be redefined in the light of the provisions of section V of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197 on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system. The Belgian delegation emphasized that the essential point was to have a resident co-ordinator for the United Nations system with responsibilities confined to operational activities for development. Her delegation had misgivings about the FAO practice of appointing representatives rather than advisers in the field.

94. She thought that full use had perhaps not been made of evaluation of successful projects. However, two very useful evaluation reports had been prepared on rural development and over-all development planning. They would have been even more useful if they had included specific conclusions and recommendations for action.

95. Sound project preparation required a knowledge of the facts. It was therefore regrettable that the common register of development activities (CORE) had not yet been issued, particularly since CORE I consisted merely of an analysis of the expenditure of the various agencies by sector and by country under the heading of the development activities of the system. Her delegation was pleased that CPC and ACC had decided that activities in connexion with CORE I would begin without delay and that UNDP was prepared to offer its leadership.

96. She expressed her satisfaction with the work done by the United Nations Volunteers. She also attached great importance to the work of the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO). The environmental aspects of development activities could no longer be neglected: wherever possible, development projects in that region should include an anti-desertification component, where scientific features should be studied by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and UNSO.

97. In conclusion the Belgian delegation wished to pay a tribute to the work of the Executive Director of UNICEF.

98. Mr. AL-SHARAFI (Yemen) welcomed the increase in resources available to UNDP after the financial crisis of the years 1975-1977. UNDP's recovery had been brought about by administrative and financial measures adopted by the Administrator. It was nevertheless unfortunate that not all countries able to do so had announced an increase in their contributions to UNDP for the following financial year.

99. With regard to the formulation of guidelines for the third programming cycle, particularly the indicative planning figures, the use of criteria such as population and income would go against the development efforts of many developing

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(Mr. Al-Sharafi, Yemen)

countries. In that connexion, the views expressed by the Governing Council at its twenty-sixth session and the discussion at the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development should be kept in mind.

100. His Government hoped that the technical assistance it was to receive from UNDP would allow it successfully to complete its current five-year plan and to launch its second five-year plan in mid-1982. The political stability in Yemen was such that its political leaders had been able to create a democratic atmosphere conducive to the protection of human rights and to economic and social development. Yemen's experience in the field of co-operatives had been successful, and had facilitated the building of an economic base for the country.

101. He wished to thank all the specialized agencies for their activities during 1979, and hoped that Governments able to do so would increase their contributions to those agencies. He also expressed the hope that economic assistance would continue to be provided to the Palestinian people.

102. Mr. KOROSSO (United Republic of Tanzania) expressed his delegation's regret that the World Food Programme had not received additional contributions of \$210 million so as to reach its target of \$950 million for the current biennium. It likewise regretted that the minimum annual target of 500,000 tons of grain required for the international emergency programme had not been fully met.

103. The structural imbalances in the world food situation continued to prevail, so that numerous developing countries were increasingly compelled to meet their food requirements through imports. Moreover, many of those countries were chronically in debt, which hindered their development. His delegation therefore hoped that the international community, especially the major international creditors, would respond swiftly to the repeated appeal of the developing countries for measures to ease their unbearable external debt burdens.

104. While it welcomed the progress made in some areas by UNDP, UNICEF and the World Food Programme, his delegation was disappointed to note that the world community had failed to reach certain targets, for example, for official development assistance flows during the current decade. He urged the international community to contribute generously to operational activities for development. In that connexion, the appeal made by the Administrator of UNDP for generous pledges, preferably on a multi-year basis, should be considered expeditiously.

105. His delegation felt that increasing the national technological capacities of recipient countries should be the main criterion for evaluating development programmes. It therefore welcomed steps taken by UNDP to give more importance to the development of human resources in developing countries.

106. He stressed the need for more frequent use of the experts, equipment, subcontracting and fellowships available in the developing countries. Such a measure would help promote TCDC and minimize the debate among major developed donor countries regarding equitable utilization of the financial resources allocated for operational activities for development.

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(Mr. Korosso, Tanzania)

107. He stressed the importance his Government attached to the catalyst role of those operational activities, which stimulated and supplemented local and national development efforts.

108. Mr. BIRIDO (Sudan) said that it was significant that expenditures to support UNDP programmes had increased still further during the previous biennium to a record level of more than \$434 million. He was particularly pleased to note that the least developed countries would receive at least one third of all country programming resources during the second five-year cycle, to end in 1981. He also welcomed the assistance provided by UNDP to the African liberation movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity, and to the Palestinian people.

109. Technical co-operation among developing countries was an essential part of the efforts to establish a new international economic order. The implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action would cement the concept of self-reliance among developing countries. For that reason, his delegation supported the various measures taken by the Administrator of UNDP, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 33/134, to arrange a high-level meeting of all States in 1980 to review technical co-operation among developing countries within the United Nations system. The establishment of the Special Unit for TCDC was another important step towards the attainment of the objectives of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action.

110. With regard to the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, his delegation was pleased to note that its resources had exceeded \$600 million and that 2,500 projects had been approved in 1979. It therefore supported the proposal to make UNFPA a viable entity within the United Nations system in order that UNFPA might respond more effectively to the various needs in the field of population. His delegation was grateful to the Fund for the mission it had sent to the Sudan and the assistance it had provided.

111. He expressed support for the services and efforts of the United Nations Children's Fund, and hoped that it would continue to maintain and expand its programmes in the least developed countries.

The meeting rose at 6.30 p.m.