

1679th meeting

Monday, 27 October 1975, at 10.45 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Olof RYDBECK (Sweden).

A/C.2/SR.1679

AGENDA ITEM 56

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (A/10003, chap. IV, sect. G):

(a) Report of the Second General Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (A/10112, A/10202 and Add.1);

(b) Report of the Industrial Development Board (A/10016, E/5712)

1. Mr. KHANE (Executive Director of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization) recalled that the Industrial Development Board at its ninth session, the Economic and Social Council at its fifty-ninth session and the General Assembly at its seventh special session had unanimously endorsed the Lima Declaration and Plan of Action on Industrial Development and Co-operation (see A/10112, chap. IV) adopted at the Second General Conference of UNIDO, held at Lima from 12 to 26 March 1975; that demonstrated the importance which the entire international community attached to the role of industrialization in the establishment of a new international economic order.

2. With regard to the tasks which UNIDO had had to complete in 1975 in addition to its technical co-operation activities, he noted that the programme budget for 1976-1977 had been duly modified to reflect the additional programmes which must be undertaken pursuant to resolution 45 (IX) of the Industrial Development Board (see A/10016, annex I). The modifications were aimed not only at intensifying operational activities, but also at facilitating consultations between developed and developing countries and among developing countries themselves, in keeping with the relevant directives of the Lima Declaration. The new programme budget would devote greater attention to assistance required by the developing countries to overcome the technological problems which they faced in various production sectors and would be guided by the overriding principle that assistance in the promotion of industrial development should meet the economic, social and cultural needs of the countries concerned.

3. With regard to the internal restructuring of UNIDO, steps had been taken to implement the provisions of the Lima Declaration calling for the strengthening of the organization to make it more responsive to the needs of the developing countries. In that connexion, in its resolution 45 (IX), the Board had emphasized the need for appropriate internal structural changes in order to take fully into account the new tasks assigned to the organization. To that end, it had been necessary in a minimum of time to adopt such measures as the establishment within the secretariat of an International Centre for Industrial Studies.

4. With regard to the draft constitution of a specialized agency for industrial development, he recalled that a note

by the Secretary-General (A/10202) on the subject had been submitted to the General Assembly at its seventh special session. The General Assembly had endorsed the recommendation of the Second General Conference of UNIDO to convert the organization into a specialized agency, and had decided to establish a Committee on the Drafting of a Constitution for UNIDO, which would be an intergovernmental committee of the whole, and would meet at Vienna to draw up a constitution for submission to a conference of plenipotentiaries to be convened by the Secretary-General towards the end of 1976. It appeared that two or three sessions of the committee of the whole would be needed to carry out that mandate.

5. Thanks to the measures adopted by the previous Executive Director and the efforts of the staff, UNIDO had been able to expand its operational activities. According to the figures currently available, it would seem that the delivery rate of technical assistance programmes had increased by some 59 per cent based on actual expenditure in the first six months of 1975, for a total of \$14.1 million, as against \$8.9 million in the first six months of 1974, inflationary factors taken into account. It was to be hoped, however, that the delivery rate would not decrease in the transitional period during which UNIDO underwent restructuring.

6. The participants in the Second General Conference of UNIDO had considered it crucial to establish an industrial development fund in order to increase the resources of the organization and to augment its autonomy and ability to meet the needs of developing countries promptly and flexibly. The terms of reference and the rules for the functioning and administration of the fund had been prepared by the secretariat at the request of the Industrial Development Board and would be reviewed by the Permanent Committee of the Board at its sixth session.

7. Following the Lima Conference, the co-ordinating role of UNIDO had acquired greater significance. With a view to strengthening co-operation between UNIDO and the other organizations of the United Nations system concerned with industrial development, an advisory committee had been convened at Geneva in July 1975 and the heads of the secretariats of the agencies and organizations concerned had expressed their readiness to co-operate with UNIDO in implementing the Declaration and Plan of Action. An effort was also being made to strengthen co-operation between UNIDO and the regional commissions by establishing joint divisions with several of the commissions.

8. It should be recalled that the implementation of the Lima Declaration and the achievement of the industrial targets set for the developing countries presupposed the political will needed to mobilize the essential resources. Nevertheless, in striving towards a world based on equity,

sovereign equality and interdependence, international undertakings in the field of industrialization must be guided not only by economic considerations, but also by human, social and cultural considerations.

AGENDA ITEM 58

Operational activities for development (*continued*) (A/10003, chap. VI, sect. A):

- (a) United Nations Development Programme (E/5646, E/5703/Rev.1);
- (b) United Nations Capital Development Fund;
- (c) Technical co-operation activities undertaken by the Secretary-General;
- (d) United Nations Volunteers programme (A/C.2/298);
- (e) United Nations Fund for Population Activities;
- (f) United Nations Children's Fund (E/5698);
- (g) World Food Programme (A/C.2/L.1427)

9. Mr. BASSIN (Finland) said that it was by co-ordinating and synchronizing as fully as possible its operational activities for development that the United Nations system could attain the objectives established by the important sectoral conferences of the past few years and by the General Assembly at its sixth and seventh special sessions.

10. While it was entirely natural that the work of the Governing Council of UNDP should focus on the planning and implementation of development assistance programmes, the over-all policy guidelines of the Programme must, however, be in harmony with the resolutions adopted by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. Among those matters of general policy, his delegation attached particular importance to integrated rural development as a means of improving the quality of life of the poorest segments of the population in developing countries, and therefore welcomed the Administrator's proposal for joint financing in the fields of integrated rural development, mass education and disease control. With regard to section V, paragraph 3, of General Assembly resolution 3362 (S-VII), which called upon each State to promote socio-economic reforms with a view to achieving an integrated rural development, his delegation expressed the hope that at its thirtieth session the General Assembly would formulate guidelines for the execution of operational activities in that field.

11. His Government considered the integration of women in development (E/5703/Rev.1,¹ chap. III, sect. D) to be an issue of major significance and was following very closely the progress made to involve women in the implementation of UNDP projects and programmes. Furthermore, the evaluation of the effects of development programmes on the status of women should assist United Nations bodies in attaining their objectives in that field.

12. With regard to assistance to Namibia, his delegation welcomed the fact that the Governing Council of UNDP had established an indicative planning figure (IPF) for Namibia (*ibid.*, sect. E, para. 187) and believed that it should be increased in the light of the changing education and training needs of the Namibians.

13. Reaffirming his country's full confidence in UNDP, he emphasized that the Programme should remain the main source of multilateral technical assistance and pre-investment activities and shared the concern of the Administrator regarding the lack of cohesion of the United Nations development system.

14. Turning to the question of the United Nations Volunteers, he expressed satisfaction at the increase in the number of volunteers assigned to the least developed among the developing countries and at the expansion of recruitment from the developing countries. The recruitment procedure should, however, be speeded up.

15. With regard to population questions, there was an urgent need for UNFPA to specify its objectives and priorities; that, moreover, was a task which should receive proper attention from the UNDP Governing Council. In addition, although the Fund had been able to increase its project implementation rate by introducing certain administrative reforms such as the adoption of a rolling plan and the conclusion of country agreements, it must nevertheless watch for bottle-necks in the implementation of regional and interregional programmes. As to the future orientation of UNFPA activities, his delegation felt that the Fund should formulate clear criteria for the allocation of resources to the various countries and projects. In so doing the Fund must seek to concentrate its activities, in other words, to fit minor projects and programmes into a larger and more coherent pattern. In addition, it should co-operate more systematically with the other United Nations agencies which should give it the necessary assistance to enable it to fulfil its mandate as a co-ordinating body and avoid burdening it with executive functions beyond its means.

16. With regard to the activities of UNICEF, his delegation particularly welcomed the efforts which that agency was making in the field of health and nutrition and the excellent administrative reforms it had just undertaken. The guidelines established in 1970 for the allocation of UNICEF aid had been quite serviceable, as was clear from annex II to the report (E/5698).² UNICEF had already co-operated successfully with WHO and it could also co-operate with FAO in the field of nutrition. With regard to the International Year of the Child, he agreed with the Executive Director of the Fund that that initiative should receive wide support and adequate financing. In addition, the objectives of the Year should be set with due regard to the available resources.

17. Mr. KJELDGAARD (Denmark) said that the United Nations system would have to devote much time and effort to restructuring its economic and social sectors if it was to succeed in better concentrating and co-ordinating its development assistance activities, thereby making them more effective.

18. With regard to technical assistance, the UNDP Governing Council had taken a vital step in adopting a decision on the new dimensions of technical co-operation (E/5703/Rev.1, para. 54). Denmark's attitude towards the new dimensions was positive, as demonstrated by the fact that

¹ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 2A.

² *Ibid.*, Supplement No. 6.

20 per cent of its total development assistance for the fiscal year 1974/75, almost \$36 million, had gone to UNDP, UNFPA and the United Nations Capital Development Fund.

19. With regard to the programming cycle for 1977-1981, he said that, in approving national and regional IPF's for that period, UNDP had translated into action the decisions adopted in the 1970 Consensus (resolution 2688 (XXV), annex). The Programme should have the necessary resources to finance planned activities. In that connexion, the Danish Government's contribution in recent years had amounted to 9 to 10 per cent of total contributions received by UNDP. While it continued to attach the utmost importance to the Programme's work, it could not be expected to increase its contribution substantially in the future. It must be hoped that not only traditional donors, but also the developing countries whose export earnings had increased, would contribute substantially to the Programme's future activities. In addition, a certain number of countries at the upper end of the GNP scale which currently received UNDP assistance should forego their IPF's.

20. After paying a tribute to Mr. Peterson for the dynamism he had demonstrated in past years, without which UNDP would not have become the efficient programme it currently was, he pointed out that the main problem remaining was that the resources made available to the Programme were increasing at much too slow a rate.

21. With regard to the United Nations Capital Development Fund, he expressed satisfaction with the implementation of the new principles adopted in that connexion by the Governing Council at its eighteenth session.³ With regard to the activities carried out through the Office of Technical Co-operation, the progress attained in the areas of development planning, statistics and population should be particularly welcomed as it testified to the Programme's ability to meet the changing needs of the developing countries.

22. Turning to the question of the United Nations Volunteers programme, he noted with satisfaction that no effort was being spared to attain the goal of posting 500 volunteers to developing countries by the middle of 1976. His Government was particularly pleased at the increase in the number of volunteers working in the least developed among the developing countries and at the growing number of volunteers from the developing countries, and it was prepared to continue and to increase its assistance to that programme. Nevertheless, it regretted the slow pace of formalities for the approval of volunteers in certain countries.

23. He expressed appreciation of the efficient way in which UNFPA had followed up the decisions taken at the World Population Conference, held at Bucharest from 19 to 30 August 1974, and gratification at the interest in UNFPA activities which had resulted in demand for assistance outstripping available resources, whence the difficulty of establishing priorities for the allocation of funds. Under the

circumstances, UNFPA was right to give increased weight to country agreements and to give priority to country programmes over regional programmes. It should also seek alternative financing by establishing closer co-operation with donor country aid agencies and establishing funds-in-trust. In addition, his delegation noted with satisfaction that the programme implementation rates of UNFPA had increased considerably in 1974 and it supported the suggestion that a pledging conference should be held for the Fund in 1976.

24. He noted with satisfaction the activities carried out by UNICEF to assist children in a large number of developing countries. In that connexion, he noted with interest that the Executive Board of UNICEF had adopted a new approach entailing the provision of a package of basic services in interdependent areas such as food and nutrition, water resources, health, family planning, women's education and other matters, adding that his Government intended to work closely with UNICEF in those areas. In addition to its direct contributions to UNICEF, the Danish Government also co-operated through the Danish International Development Authority. A case in point was an ongoing water supply project implemented in Bangladesh, whose cost to the Danish authorities amounted to approximately \$4.5 million.

25. Concerning WFP, his delegation was particularly pleased at the priority given to assistance to the 25 least developed among the developing countries which constituted the list approved by the General Assembly in resolution 2768 (XXVI), and to the 42 countries most seriously affected by the current economic crisis.⁴ It fully supported the restructuring of the United Nations/FAO Intergovernmental Committee of the Programme, as that would create a clearer division of labour between FAO and WFP and ensure better co-ordination of the multilateral and bilateral food aid activities. The goal of \$750 million for pledges to WFP for 1977-1978 which had been set by the Intergovernmental Committee was acceptable to his delegation. His Government had contributed substantially to WFP for many years but was not currently in a position to increase its contribution and felt that the new goal could be attained only if the countries in a position to do so increased their contributions.

26. Mr. CHIRILA (Romania) said that, although international co-operation played an important part in the economic development of the developing countries, they must also mobilize their own resources to develop their national economies. His delegation appreciated the efforts made by the UNDP Administration to define the future role of the Programme in world development and to indicate the new dimensions of technical co-operation in that context, including the volume and orientation of operational activities for the second planning cycle.

27. In order to improve the United Nations development assistance system, the objective of the activities of UNDP and other similar organs should first be adequately defined. The universal character of UNDP should be maintained and even strengthened and no financial or other considerations

³ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 2A*, para. 281.

⁴ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirtieth Session, Supplement No. 1*, chap. VIII.

could be invoked to justify the exclusion of a country or group of countries from the Programme's activities. Similarly, States Members of the United Nations must give proof of their political will to use the United Nations operational system to establish the new international economic order so as to implement the instruments adopted at the sixth and seventh special sessions of the General Assembly. His delegation agreed with others which had stressed the importance of the decision adopted at the twentieth session of the Governing Council (E/5703/Rev.1, para. 54) concerning the guidelines for the future orientation of UNDP in the field of technical co-operation.

28. With regard to the execution of projects, the resources placed at the disposal of the country programmes should be used more rationally and attention should be paid to ensuring the delivery of equipment and recruitment of specialists within the stipulated time-limits. In his delegation's view, the criteria of cost, technical level, quality and competence were no justification for the current limited number of donor countries, and more rapid and less expensive ways must be found to execute assistance projects. Technical co-operation among developing countries was a good way to promote their participation in operational activities and advance their technological and scientific progress; any action aimed at strengthening such participation should be supported. With regard to regional programmes, his delegation would like UNDP funds to be more equitably shared among the various regions of the world, for the purpose of promoting co-operation among the European States in particular. With regard to the recommendation concerning the promotion of regional or subregional integration projects, his delegation shared the view of others which felt that efforts to that end should conform to the wishes of the countries concerned.

29. Turning to the financing of the assistance programmes of the United Nations system, he suggested that various countries, particularly those that were economically advanced, should undertake to increase their contributions in accordance with the real needs of development financing. His delegation felt that it was for each State to decide when it wished to acquire the status of a net contributor to the Programme, and that greater flexibility should be applied in establishing the lower limit of *per capita* income in the countries called upon to become net contributors. In view of inflationary phenomena and currency erosion, which had led to a reduction of the volume of assistance, his delegation felt that the IPF's should be revised and that measures to remedy the situation should be identified. Those phenomena should be taken into account in deciding on the volume of resources and their allocation during the coming planning cycle. His delegation subscribed to the consensus in UNDP concerning the need to give greater attention to the specific problems arising in countries which had recently become independent.

30. In conclusion, he referred to the excellent co-operation between UNDP and Romania, which had benefited from the Programme's assistance and hoped to continue to do so. His Government also hoped to co-operate more closely with UNDP in completing its national programme and to participate to a greater extent in the execution of the projects of other developing countries. He was glad to note that the projects planned for the current cycle were

well advanced and attributed that success to the Office of the UNDP Representative at Bucharest.

31. Mr. CORREA (Chile) underlined the important role to be played by UNDP with regard, in particular, to the establishment of the new international economic order and the application of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States as well as the provisions of General Assembly resolution 3362 (S-VII). One of the main tasks of the Programme was to promote technical and economic co-operation among developing countries and, in that context, he stressed the need to strengthen technical co-operation at the subregional, regional and interregional levels. Indeed, much remained to be done, particularly at the interregional level, before the countries of the third world could industrialize and reduce the gap which separated them from the developed countries. However, the resources available to UNDP, which amounted to about \$4 billion, were insufficient to accelerate the development of the economically less advanced countries. UNDP should therefore endeavour to obtain supplementary resources which would enable it to meet the additional costs resulting from international inflation and to increase the indicative planning figures of countries and prevent them from stagnating during a five-year period. In that spirit, his delegation urgently requested the developed countries, the oil-exporting countries and recipient countries at the upper end of the GNP scale to increase their voluntary contributions to the Programme.

32. From the administrative point of view, his delegation supported the policy aimed at decentralizing UNDP activities and entrusting greater responsibilities to the resident representatives; indeed, the Governing Council's decision at its nineteenth session (see E/5646, para. 22) to extend the authority of resident representatives to approve projects, raising the upper limit to \$150,000, was in line with that policy.

33. His delegation wished to express its support for the measures taken by UNDP to assist colonial countries and peoples and to provide financial assistance to the liberation movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity. Similarly, it endorsed the recommendation requesting the Administrator of UNDP to revise IPFs proposed for Angola, Guinea-Bissau, the Cape Verde Islands, Mozambique, Namibia and Sao Tome and Principe, in view of their special problems.

34. Furthermore, on the basis of Chilean experience in that field, he felt that UNDP should promote the execution of interagency or intersectoral projects, take into account the existing capacities of the developing countries themselves in the execution of its projects, and call upon local experts.

35. With regard to UNFPA, his delegation also believed that population and development were closely linked and should be considered in the context of global assistance for economic and social development. The increase in the activities of UNFPA was proof of the importance which Governments attached to population problems in the

context of economic and social development. The Fund was carrying out important projects in Chile, but each country should determine its population policy in accordance with its own needs. The Chilean Government had launched a vast integrated programme of national development which included a population policy aimed not at birth control but at fertility control. His Government supported the work of UNFPA and attached particular importance to the implementation of the World Population Plan of Action adopted at the 1974 World Population Conference.⁶

36. His Government was glad to note that the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration had become operational and that its Director had been appointed. Chile—essentially a mining country—attached tremendous importance to the work of the Fund, which would facilitate the exploration of metallic and non-metallic minerals as well as energy resources. In that context, the possibility that UNDP might deal with the exploration of energy resources, such as coal, which could replace oil, was especially important. Chile was rich in mineral carbons and was particularly interested in the study of that question, which could help to solve a very topical problem.

37. Referring to the United Nations Capital Development Fund, to which Chile was making a financial contribution as evidence of its interest in the Fund's activities, he reiterated Chile's dedication to the principles underlying development and international co-operation and its support for the organizations responsible for putting those principles into effect.

38. With regard to the activities of UNICEF, his delegation considered that the world community could not remain impassive before the worsening situation of millions of children; nor could it accept such a slow rate of increase in UNICEF revenue. With UNICEF's assistance, Chile was at present carrying out programmes to assist children and adolescents. Efforts were also being made to improve the situation of mothers. His Government attached such importance to the welfare of children that it whole-heartedly supported the idea of proclaiming 1977 an international year of the child.

39. Mr. ŠTRAUSS (Czechoslovakia), after emphasizing the advantages of co-operation between countries with different social and economic systems, particularly the co-operation policy of the socialist countries, said that Czechoslovakia was devoting special attention to UNDP, which played a significant part in the development of multilateral co-operation among all countries and in the granting of assistance to developing countries. Since 1970, the Czechoslovak Government had regularly increased its contribution to UNDP; in 1975 it had amounted to 7 million Czechoslovak crowns. Czechoslovakia was implementing an increasing number of projects in co-operation with the United Nations and the specialized agencies and was organizing numerous seminars, courses and symposia to help in the training of specialists from developing countries. Generally speaking, the projects undertaken by Czechoslovakia were designed to serve international co-operation,

taking special account of the needs of the developing countries.

40. It was apparent from the data on the activities of UNDP that successes had been achieved with the active assistance of many member countries. The financial means at UNDP's disposal came from the voluntary contributions of member countries and were designed to finance the granting of technical assistance to developing countries. Since those resources were not inexhaustible, the greatest attention should be paid to economic ways of carrying out UNDP projects and other activities.

41. His delegation noted with satisfaction that, in addition to carrying out medium-term and long-term programmes, UNDP was responding to emergencies resulting from natural disasters and calling for immediate assistance. It felt that the prestige of the Programme would be enhanced if increased assistance were granted to national liberation movements and assistance to the Chilean junta and the Seoul régime were terminated.

42. His delegation stressed that country programming made it possible for the Governments of the developing countries to determine their priorities when accepting technical assistance. The assistance granted to developing countries should encourage them to pursue policies that would introduce progressive changes in their socio-economic structures and stabilize their economic development. It had been demonstrated that societies which based their economic development on planning, the utilization of their own resources and a purposeful application of the experience of other countries, were able to bring about progressive changes in their socio-economic structure. In that way, the developing countries could take advantage of the experience of the industrialized countries in the development of their own industries and at the same time avoid the negative phenomena which accompanied industrial development. In the programming of assistance attention should be given to the strengthening of the economic independence of the recipient countries and to establishing a sound basis for speedy economic advancement in keeping with the interests of the people.

43. While the main responsibility for national development rested with the Governments of individual developing countries and their main source of financing was the mobilization of their own national resources, his delegation considered that it was the developing countries which must benefit from the activities of UNDP and from international private capital.

44. In conclusion, he emphasized that Czechoslovakia regarded UNDP as a universal organization and therefore the principle of equitable geographical representation should be observed in the filling of expert posts and UNDP secretariat posts. Like other socialist countries, Czechoslovakia had enough qualified specialists whose services might be used for the provision of technical assistance to developing countries. A flexible personnel policy which would take into account the experience of specialists from countries with different socio-economic systems, including specialists from developing countries, would certainly facilitate the work of the United Nations.

⁶ See E/CONF.60/19 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.XIII.3), chap. II.

45. Mr. GAJENTAAN (Netherlands) said that the seventh special session of the General Assembly had provided the United Nations system with a new impetus for international economic co-operation. If the operational activities of the United Nations system were to benefit from the guidance provided at the special session, however, it was necessary to define the means to translate those decisions into concrete action with a view to establishing a new international economic order.

46. The Netherlands, which had participated in the debate on new dimensions in technical co-operation in the Governing Council of UNDP, had cited four basic reasons for a reorientation of UNDP: the creation of appropriate conditions for a new international economic order, the growth of self-reliance, the promotion of mass participation in the development process, and the necessity of alleviating the immediate needs of the poorest groups. With regard to the guidelines for the future orientation of the Programme, which had been adopted by the Governing Council and subsequently endorsed by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 116 (LIX), he said that his delegation especially supported the principle that the promotion of self-reliance would be the basic purpose of technical co-operation and that the necessary measures to strengthen managerial, technical, administrative and research capabilities in developing countries would have to be approached in terms of the results to be achieved rather than in terms of inputs. The choice of the necessary inputs, i.e., the instruments to be used, thus depended upon the desired results. It was for the recipient country to choose, among the instruments available, those which best served its own goals, while UNDP should provide advice and ensure the accessibility of all required inputs. Any regulation that would encroach on the right of the individual Governments of the recipient countries to choose the expertise they needed would affect the quality of UNDP assistance.

47. It should be stressed that technical co-operation among developing countries had been recognized as being an extremely important new dimension of the Programme and that emphasis had been placed on the necessity to respond to the most urgent needs of the poorest and most vulnerable segments of the population in developing countries.

48. As far as country programming was concerned, it was very important that UNDP should have strong internal coherence and that it should maintain close contacts with the Governments of recipient countries and with its regional offices and services so that all aspects of development might find their proper place in one over-all programme and that national priorities and regional or global policies would be respected.

49. In order to prepare for the second programming cycle, the Governing Council would have to take a decision at the following session on the allocation of available resources for the period 1977-1981 among countries and regions. The resources of UNDP should be adequate to allow for dynamic growth in its activities, and the steps taken by countries in a position to become net contributors were of paramount importance in that connexion. In 1975 his Government's contribution to UNDP had been higher than its original pledge. Its pledge for 1976 would take account

of the need to offset inflation and to undertake new activities.

50. In connexion with the United Nations Volunteers programme, he welcomed the preparation of a comprehensive study on the role of youth in operational development activities, which was to cover volunteers, associate experts and junior officers. There was certainly a need for a comprehensive picture of the participation of youth in development and a basic assessment of the policies followed.

51. His Government considered that the new formula under which the United Nations Capital Development Fund was operating was successful. Its small-scale projects, in which investments were closely linked to technical co-operation activities and in which the policy was to concentrate on the least developed countries and the poorest sectors of the population, were very valuable, and UNDP should try to strengthen its co-operation with the Fund in that field. His Government was encouraged by the fact that several countries had joined the ranks of the contributors, and it had decided to pledge an additional contribution of \$2 million for 1975.

52. He welcomed the increased interest in the activities of UNFPA. However, in the light of the scarcity of resources and the increasing requests for assistance, UNFPA should concentrate on activities that would directly improve the quality of life. His Government endorsed the Economic and Social Council's recommendation that UNFPA should be authorized to convene a pledging conference in 1976. In June 1975 his Government had pledged an additional contribution of \$1,250,000 for 1975 and, in its 1976 budget for development co-operation, had proposed raising its contribution to UNFPA to approximately \$8.4 million.

53. Since the revolving character of the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration had at last been clearly defined, the Fund could begin operations. His Government, one of the first contributors to the Fund, would follow with particular interest the expansion of its activities.

54. The importance his Government attached to UNICEF's activities was based on the firm conviction that in general children were the most vulnerable sector of the population in many developing countries. Emergency assistance in itself was therefore not enough; what was needed was a systematic expansion and improvement of basic services for children. To that end his Government, at the request of UNICEF, would provide associate experts during the current year and would also substantially increase its contribution in 1976.

55. His delegation supported the decision taken by the Economic and Social Council (decision 119 (LIX)) to amend Regulation No. 6 of the General Regulations of WFP concerning the proportion of the resources to be used for emergency assistance, and endorsed the reconstitution of the United Nations/FAO Intergovernmental Committee of the World Food Programme as a Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes.

56. Mr. NEUHOFF (Federal Republic of Germany) said that his delegation supported the consensus which had

emerged at the twentieth session of the UNDP Governing Council on its future role in world development activities and on the new dimensions of technical co-operation. It noted with satisfaction that UNDP had already analysed those new dimensions with a view to determining new guidelines for its action; he hoped that the resulting increased flexibility would enable UNDP to adapt its activities more speedily to the economic and social needs of the developing countries and to support the efforts made by the third world countries to achieve self-reliance.

57. His delegation had listened with interest to the comments made about the 1970 Consensus on UNDP's leadership role within the United Nations development system, and in particular to the references made to paragraph 9 of the Consensus (resolution 2688 (XXV)) which stated that in the process of country programming, efforts should be made at all levels to co-ordinate all sources of assistance in the United Nations system, with a view to achieving integration of the assistance at the country level. That objective should be borne in mind, not least as it applied to the co-ordination of multilateral and bilateral aid at the country level.

58. As for the definition of the general terms of reference of UNDP, his delegation's view was that UNDP activities should not be extended beyond technical and pre-investment assistance, except in the case of complementary measures taken in co-operation with the financing institutions. His Government was prepared to give further support to UNDP and to help it to expand its activities where possible, but it was in favour of maintaining the voluntary character of individual contributions. His delegation regretted that, for reasons of budgetary legislation, it could not agree to the fixing of scales for the volume of contributions. Financial resources should be planned for the second country programming cycle on the basis of

realistic estimates of expected financial resources in order to avoid over-optimistic planning.

59. It was encouraging to learn that the number of donor countries and the volume of pledges received for UNFPA had increased. His delegation considered a shift of emphasis towards activities most likely to solve problems in developing countries essential and it welcomed the increased rate of project implementation.

60. His Government attached considerable importance to the role of the Volunteers programme in United Nations operational activities, because volunteers could render valuable services to the developing countries, particularly the least developed among them. It was clear that a volunteer service based on the principles of the United Nations enjoyed the support of many developing countries, and it was encouraging to note in that connexion that the proportion of volunteers from developing countries was increasing.

61. In addition to its contributions to the regular budget of UNICEF, his Government had provided extrabudgetary resources for implementing particular projects in emergency situations. The UNICEF Committee in the Federal Republic of Germany had been able, thanks to private initiatives, to collect an amount equal to the general contribution of his Government.

62. The World Food Programme had also been quite successful. He supported the proposal for the reconstitution of the Intergovernmental Committee as a Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes, and the target for WFP pledges for the period 1977-1978.

The meeting rose at 12.40 p.m.

1680th meeting

Monday, 27 October 1975, at 3.10 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Olof RYDBECK (Sweden).

A/C.2/SR.1680

AGENDA ITEM 58

Operational activities for development (*continued*) (A/10003, chap. VI, sect. A):

- (a) United Nations Development Programme (E/5646, E/5703/Rev.1);
- (b) United Nations Capital Development Fund;
- (c) Technical co-operation activities undertaken by the Secretary-General;
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- (g) World Food Programme (A/C.2/L.1427)

1. Mr. KOVALEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that in recent years operational activities for develop-

ment had been taking place in favourable circumstances, and the principles of peaceful coexistence among States with different social and economic systems were gaining strength in international relations. However, since the forces opposing peace and détente had not laid down their arms, further efforts were needed to make détente irreversible. It must be remembered that as early as the twenty-eighth session the General Assembly had stressed, in its resolution 3176 (XXVIII), that international peace and security were necessary conditions for the social and economic progress of all countries. The Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order (resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI)), the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States (resolution 3281 (XXIX)) and the decisions of the seventh special session of the General Assembly had opened