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at 10.30 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 6th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. VERCELES (Philippines)

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The meeting was called to order at 10:50 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 70: OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT (continued)

(e) UNITED NATIONS FUND FOR POPULATION ACTIVITIES

1. Mr. SALAS (Executive Director, United Nations Fund for Population Activities) said that the final figure for pledges and contributions to the Fund for 1980 had been \$125.5 million, an increase of 12 per cent over 1979. Project allocations had totalled \$150.5 million, including \$25.3 million in unexpended allocations carried over from 1979, and expenditures had totalled \$147.5 million. Administrative expenditures had absorbed 8.8 per cent of total 1980 income. The implementation rate for 1980 had been over 90 per cent, the highest attained thus far, with family planning programmes continuing to absorb the largest percentage (41.7 per cent) of UNFPA allocations, followed by basic data collection (19.2 per cent), communication and education (11.6 per cent), population dynamics (11.4 per cent), multisector activities (8.5 per cent), formulation and evaluation of population policies (5 per cent), special programmes for women, youth and other groups (1.6 per cent) and implementation of policies (1 per cent).

2. Although resources had increased by 12 per cent, pledges and contributions had fallen some \$12 million below the total approval authority for 1980. In 1981, a further shortfall was expected; about half of it would be due directly to losses resulting from the recent appreciation in the value of the United States dollar. The shortfalls had necessitated an adjustment in the programming; that had been done in accordance with the directive issued by the Governing Council to the effect that, in the event of a shortfall, programme budgets should be rephased or reduced in an equitable and flexible manner and in consultation with the recipient countries. A much more rigorous programming review had been introduced and all existing project allocations had been carefully examined and, where possible, rephased to future years. Cost estimates had been carefully scrutinized to see whether amounts not needed could be trimmed from budgets and, most important, planned activities had been postponed in consultation with executing agencies and Governments. However, such rephasing could not continue for long without having an adverse impact on national programmes.

3. It was difficult for UNFPA, as it was for most other voluntary agencies, to make resource projections since, with two exceptions, it was not known until November of each year what donors planned to pledge for the next year and even in November several of the largest contributors were unable to make a definite pledge. Furthermore, in the past year, because of unexpected exchange rate fluctuations, actual payments in dollars would for the most part be considerably less than the amounts pledged. Under the circumstances and given the current state of the world economy, it was even more difficult to programme ahead. He therefore called the attention of members of the Committee to the forthcoming United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities for 1982, which was scheduled for November. In that connexion he noted that, as a result of UNFPA's participation in the past two such pledging conferences, there had been a total

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(Mr. Salas, UNFPA)

of 31 first-time donors to the Fund and he appealed to all donor Governments to increase their annual pledges at the forthcoming conference.

4. At its recent session, the Governing Council had adopted a major decision requesting a complete review and reassessment of the Fund's total programme for the next four years in the light of current resource expectations, keeping in mind the following order of priorities: family planning, population education, communication, motivation and dissemination of information, basic data collection, population dynamics and formulation and, lastly, implementation and evaluation of population policy. The Governing Council had also requested him to submit a report on the Fund's experience with the application of the system of priority countries and to explore the possibilities of introducing additional criteria in the future.

5. During the past 12 years the Fund had succeeded in promoting awareness of population problems and securing the commitment of developing countries to population programmes as vital components of economic and social development programmes. The most tangible result of that awareness and commitment was the present capability of countries to implement population programmes within their economic development plans, and to implement them with increasing allocations of national resources in keeping with the view that countries must become more self-reliant. He recalled that United Nations medium projections indicated that world population stabilization appeared feasible at 10.5 billion people by the year 2110. A lower figure for stabilization was possible at an earlier date if current population programmes were implemented on a sustained basis. However, international assistance was vital to the continued commitment of Governments to their population programmes. In that connexion, the Fund was gratified by the final communiqué issued by the heads of State at the close of the two-day Ottawa Summit Conference.

AGENDA ITEM 69: DEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (continued)

(j) Environment

6. Mr. SRIVASTAVA (Secretary-General, Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization), introducing the report of the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization (IMCO) concerning problems relating to marine pollution (A/36/233), expressed profound gratitude to the General Assembly for the recognition and support it had given to IMCO in its resolution 34/183. In calling upon States which had not already done so "to examine the possibility of ratifying at the earliest opportunity the international conventions designed to ensure protection of the marine environment, to improve the safety of navigation and to guarantee the training and competence of crews", the Assembly had been lending its moral and political support to IMCO's current major objective, namely, the promotion of the widest acceptance and the most effective implementation of the global standards and regulations embodied in IMCO's conventions and other international instruments.

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(Mr. Srivastava, IMCO)

7. Recent significant developments in IMCO and changes in its institutional structure and work methods had made it more capable of discharging its mandate. In particular, there had been a substantial increase in membership, which now stood at 121 full members and one associate member. The increasing participation by all member Governments meant that the global nature and world-wide significance of IMCO's mandate had become even more widely recognized. The important amendments to the IMCO Convention which had been adopted by the IMCO Assembly in 1975 had been accepted by the requisite number of members and would enter into force in May 1982. Among other things that would result in the agency being renamed the "International Maritime Organization". Another effect would be to institutionalize certain committees of IMCO, including the Marine Environment Protection Committee, and underline the central coordinating role of the Council in the establishment and operation of the IMCO work programmes. Other amendments, adopted in 1977 and 1979, were expected to enter into force in the near future and would complete the process of restructuring. All those changes had been initiated from within and had met with the unanimous consent of member Governments.

8. IMCO had also given attention to the equally important task of securing greater economy and efficiency. The number of annual meetings had been reduced substantially and specific steps had been taken to reduce the volume of documentation. Substantial economies had thus been effected without in any way sacrificing efficiency and in fact the pace of implementation of IMCO's work had been demonstrably accelerated both in the review and improvement of standards and regulations incorporated in existing conventions and, more important, in the development of a pragmatic programme to help promote the most effective application of those standards and regulations on the widest possible scale. The various aspects of that programme and the measures which had been or were being undertaken were explained in detail in the report.

9. Prevention and control of marine pollution from ships was one of the most important responsibilities of IMCO. Such pollution occurred, firstly, in marine accidents - which sometimes resulted in massive spillages, as in the case of the Torrey Canyon - and, secondly, in the course of loading and unloading operations or during the voyage. The latter was known as operational pollution. The only effective way of dealing with accidental pollution was to make every endeavour to enhance maritime safety. IMCO had been developing and improving international standards relating to the hull, machinery and equipment of different types of vessels, particularly tankers, and to their safe navigation. The most important instruments developed by IMCO in that regard were the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974, and the Protocol thereto of 1978, and the Convention on the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972, all of which were already in force. Operational pollution which was the main source of pollution from ships, was caused when oily water was discharged overboard and when loading and unloading operations were not carried out with the requisite skill. International standards had been adopted and they had begun to produce significant results. IMCO's new standards required that tankers should have separate ballast tanks in which oil must not be carried so that they might be

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(Mr. Srivastava, IMCO)

available for filling with clean water only. As more tankers were fitted with such tanks the problem of discharge of oily mixtures would be resolved.

10. The most important of IMCO's treaty instruments for the prevention of marine pollution was the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto. Those instruments, known as the 1973/78 MARPOL instruments, constituted a comprehensive set of international rules which, inter alia, prohibited or regulated the discharge from ships of oil, oily wastes and other pollutants into the sea. They were supplemented by a large body of recommendations and guidelines to assist Governments in enforcing the Convention and in organizing arrangements for dealing with pollution incidents. Although the 1973/78 MARPOL instruments were not yet in force there was good reason to believe that the conditions for their entry into force, would be fulfilled within the next few months.

11. IMCO had now decided to place greater emphasis on the promotion of the effective and wider implementation of the rules and standards it had developed. For that purpose it was adopting a number of measures, including the organization of seminars, symposia and workshops, the provision of advisory services to developing countries, particularly for the promotion of projects to improve training of maritime personnel world-wide. The emphasis on training was the result of the general realization that the human element was the major factor in the fight to improve maritime safety, since all available information indicated that most accidents at sea were caused by human error.

12. The provision of advisory services to countries was accomplished largely through the Technical Co-operation Programme, whose purpose was to assist developing countries to establish and improve their institutional and physical infrastructure for maritime activity, to train the necessary personnel and to develop training schemes for providing such personnel on a continuing basis. The usefulness of that Programme, and particularly of the services of IMCO technical advisers and consultants, was borne out by the increasing number of requests which IMCO was continually receiving from developing countries. Thanks to the co-operation and generosity of the donors, IMCO had been able to develop a programme whose results were widely welcomed and appreciated. In that connexion he expressed IMCO's gratitude to the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme, national donor agencies, in particular, the Norwegian Agency for International Development and the Swedish International Development Agency and the Governments of Belgium, the Federal Republic of Germany and the Netherlands. Unfortunately, owing to the atmosphere of economic crisis and general financial stringency, IMCO was not able to meet all of the important requests for assistance. That was a matter of great concern to member Governments, for the continued viability of the Technical Co-operation Programme was essential to the success of IMCO's efforts to promote safety at sea and the preservation of the marine environment. He therefore entreated the General Assembly to consider how it might lend its support and influence to IMCO's appeals for continued and increased financial assistance for its Technical co-operation programme.

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AGENDA ITEM 72: SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE

(a) OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS DISASTER RELIEF CO-ORDINATOR: REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

13. Mr. AKHUND (United Nations Co-ordinator of Assistance for the Reconstruction and Development of Lebanon), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on assistance for the reconstruction and development of Lebanon (A/36/272), drew attention to Chapter II, which outlined developments in the political and security situation, adding that an Arab conciliation committee had been meeting regularly with the aim of restoring normal life in the country, strengthening the authority of the Government and helping the people to resolve their political differences. Its next meeting was scheduled for the beginning of November. Chapter III of the report described the Government's programme and plans for the reconstruction and development of the country and the factors which delayed their implementation. The government's policy towards the unsatisfactory security situation reflected both an awareness of the limits imposed and a determination to go forward. The broad aims of the reconstruction programme drawn up in 1978 remained unchanged. They were: to respond to immediate needs (repair of houses, hospitals, schools and industry), to carry out major infrastructure projects (rebuild and expand Beirut harbour and airport and repair and construct major roads) and to stimulate private sector activities. Action had been initiated in all three fields and noticeable progress had been registered in a number of projects.

14. Chapter IV drew attention to the main economic indicators. The performance record mixed, but on the whole the balance sheet was positive.

15. The final portion of the report focused on the United Nations system's activities to assist the Government of Lebanon in carrying out its reconstruction and development programme. The problems of southern Lebanon were treated separately because of their special nature and the particular difficulties which the region faced. The presence of a United Nations peace-keeping force (UNIFIL) gave the United Nations a special role and responsibility in the area.

16. The emphasis in United Nations activities had shifted from emergency relief to reconstruction and development in the past year. The outbreaks in April and July had caused some displacement of persons and a general disruption of services and had brought a request from the Government for some emergency assistance, but the needs were limited in scope and nature. Various commodities and articles to meet the needs of some 25,000 affected families had been provided promptly by FAO. In both Zahle and southern Lebanon, a spirit of self-reliance had prevailed and the Government was confident that it could mobilize its own resources to repair damaged property and facilities. Makeshift crossings had been erected only days after bridges had been destroyed and since then the Government from its own resources, had acquired and installed temporary bridges over some of the more important crossings. The damage to the Zahrani oil refinery had been repaired and oil supplies through the pipeline restored.

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(Mr. Akhund)

17. The Government of Lebanon intended to review and revise its reconstruction programme in early 1982, and hoped that the United Nations would play an active role in helping to carry it out. A request for an increase in the IPF had been favourably received by the UNDP Governing Council, and he hoped that the Council would grant it, in the spirit of General Assembly resolution 33/146 and subsequent resolutions asking all specialized agencies and organs of the United Nations system to give special consideration to Lebanon's needs and requirements. Given the vast scale of Lebanon's reconstruction and development needs, even a much larger IPF would be miniscule, but the importance of United Nations aid lay not in its size but in its nature. The Government attached special importance to United Nations assistance at the present stage because it comprised technical assistance, equipment and organizational and managerial inputs, all of which were as urgently needed as financial help.

18. Turning to the conduct of United Nations operational activities in Lebanon, he said that a new system had been established in all countries, consisting of the appointment of a Resident Co-ordinator responsible for exercising team leadership and holding at the country level, a multidisciplinary discussion of sectoral development assistance programmes. He referred interested delegations to a note by the UNDP Resident Representative (A/35/381, annex II) describing how that system worked.

19. Two projects had yielded concrete results: long-term planning and the programme for the south. In connexion with the former, the President of the Council for Development and Reconstruction had requested assistance in setting up a Technical Support Group to help the Council evaluate the long-term aspects of its reconstruction programme and strengthen its ability to engage in long-term planning. The project, to be financed by UNDP, had been approved and several experts had already visited Lebanon under it, doing preliminary work in identifying problems and prospects. It was hoped that the Technical Support Group would get fully under way in early 1982. The European Economic Community had pledged support so the project promised to be truly international.

20. In the context of the programme for the south, discussions had been held between the Commander of UNIFIL and the United Nations Co-ordinator on assistance which the United Nations system could provide in restoring the economy and normal living conditions in southern Lebanon. A set of proposals had been submitted to the Government, and in October 1980 an agreement had been signed under which the Government would make available to UNICEF approximately \$50 million for various projects to repair and restore drinking water supplies, school buildings, hospitals and clinics. The money would come from aid pledged for the reconstruction and development of Lebanon at the Arab Summit held at Tunis in November 1979. The project was fully under way and had not been hampered by the disturbed conditions in the region. The possibility of extending it to include various agricultural projects to be carried out with FAO assistance had been discussed and welcomed. Those projects would be small-scale, for example the building of water storage tanks, and the distribution of better-quality fertilizer and seeds, and most would be of a communal self-help nature, with the United Nations system providing advice

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(Mr. Akhund)

and Lebanese citizens furnishing the labour. Projects of that type undertaken so far had generated tremendous enthusiasm, and it was hoped that they would promote the restoration of normal economic activity. As the programme for the south developed and if the situation permitted, other organizations of the United Nations system should be able to make contributions in their respective fields.

21. Turning to bilateral and other sources of assistance, he said the most important was the foreign assistance provided by the Arab League, which would amount to \$2 billion, to be delivered in equal instalments over a period of five years. \$206 million had been delivered in the first year and \$30 million in the current year. More was expected in the remainder of the year, but the total might not amount to the \$800 million which was due. The troubled security situation was part of the reason for that delay, but even under such conditions substantially greater amounts of foreign aid could be used than had been forthcoming. It was hoped that the progress being made in the reconstruction programme in the south would reassure all concerned. The Lebanese Government, for its part, was attempting to improve the country's capacity to absorb aid and was hopeful that aid would be forthcoming in the promised amounts and in timely fashion, for without it a substantive reconstruction programme could not be envisaged.

22. Aid from other sources also had an important role to play in implementing the reconstruction programme. Lebanon was to receive loans of 50 million European units of account from the European Economic Community, to be used to expand power plants, provide technical training and scholarships and carry out an industrial statistics survey, *inter alia*. A loan of \$9.75 million from the Islamic Bank would help in the development of the teaching of science. The United Nations system would assist in administering that aid and the project, to be executed by UNESCO, had been drawn up. A French treasury had been made available at 3.5 per cent interest, to be repaid over 20 years, for the construction of an incinerator plant and the installation of electronic telephone exchanges. Smaller loans had been granted by Belgium and the Netherlands. The United States Agency for International Development had supported reconstruction projects amounting to \$42 million in the fields of health, technical and vocational training and agriculture. In June 1978, the Government of Lebanon had signed a loan agreement with a syndicate of private international banks for \$145 million on commercial terms, which indicated Lebanon's credit standing in the international money market. The loan would be used for road rehabilitation and the expansion of power plants.

23. In addition to the Technical Support Group project, the Government was implementing a number of measures and proposals aimed at improving co-ordination and strengthening the ability of various ministries and departments to plan and execute reconstruction and development projects. For example, it had decided to have a separate budget for development and reconstruction expenditures and to establish a high-level Economic Policy Co-ordinating Committee. The Committee was considering the possibility of issuing Government reconstruction bonds to provide financing until the promised external funds were received.

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(Mr. Akhund)

24. The security situation remained the principal concern of Lebanon and all its friends. Various factions controlled different regions and sometimes engaged in murderous battles; bombs killed innocent people in cinemas, shopping areas, on beaches and in other crowded places; and traffic between parts of the country was difficult and hazardous at times. Even a sympathetic observer might conclude that the country's future was at the mercy of rival political and ideological factions and overwhelming forces from outside. The idea of planning for the long term or launching a major reconstruction programme might appear quite unrealistic in such circumstances.

25. A climate of political stability and the maintenance of law and order were essential for day-to-day economic activity and planning for the future. On the other hand, the prospect for political understanding were closely related to the solution of some of the country's past social and economic problems. The armed men who roamed city streets needed to be offered alternative occupations to induce them to lay aside their guns. The task of restoring the Government's authority and reinforcing its legitimacy was a matter not simply of strengthening its law enforcement institutions but of building up the State's ability to meet the people's needs in the social, economic, cultural and other fields. The restoration of security, political stability, and economic reconstruction and development had to go hand in hand and a comprehensive effort in all those fields was needed to restore Lebanon to normalcy.

26. It was encouraging that the threat to security was localized and that in parts of the country, life went on and business was done. Notwithstanding the threat of attack, the Government's reconstruction activities and much private building was going on in southern Lebanon, and services such as water supply, telephones and electricity were functioning. In Beirut, traffic across the demarcation line, despite its dangers, was always heavy, attesting to the economic and social integration of the seemingly divided city. Despite the violence which threatened day-to-day life and the uncertainty enveloping the future, the sense of unity and common purpose had grown stronger among the people of Lebanon, whatever their creed, political belief or ideology. As President Sarkis had stated recently, the Lebanese were now a unified people because of their sincere determination, supported by Arab goodwill and world recognition of the need for the survival of Lebanon as a united and sovereign State playing its proper role in the world once more.

27. He hoped that the General Assembly would continue to show strong interest in the future of Lebanon and maintain its support of that country's endeavours to restore its social, economic and political structures.

AGENDA ITEM 71: TRAINING AND RESEARCH (continued)

(a) UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE FOR TRAINING AND RESEARCH: REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (A/36/14)

28. Mr. NICOL (Executive Director, United Nations Institute for Training and Research), said that several meetings of the Board of Trustees had been held over the past year owing to changes in the Directors of the Department of Research and of Finance and Administration and in the financial allocations.

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(Mr. Nicol, UNITAR)

29. The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) had taken on four additional programmes, with strict financial control. All had been financed by special purpose grants, for which the Institute was indebted to Member States, foundations and corporations.

30. The UNITAR/UNDP Information Centre on Heavy Crude and Tar Sands had begun operations. One of its main functions was to help developing countries by providing information about those important sources of fossil energy. A unit had been established in Dakar to deal with alternative development strategies for Africa and to investigate the continent's mineral potential. It had held a successful meeting recently in Addis Ababa. In New York, the programme on regionalism and the new international economic order was firmly established and financially self-supporting. It had arisen from a major conference held on the subject in New York in 1980. The United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, had been placed on a firm academic footing and had launched several important schemes, including the establishment of a computer data bank on disarmament at Grenoble, France.

31. Several important conferences and consultations had been held over the year, one being the Joint UNITAR/Uppsalla University seminar on international law and organization for a new world order. Held in June 1981, it had brought together some 60 jurists from all parts of the world, including three judges of the International Court of Justice at The Hague.

32. Inspired by the resolution introduced in the Second Committee in 1980 by Kuwait and sponsored by 27 delegations, the General Assembly, at its thirty-fifth session, had agreed to cover the greater part of UNITAR's financial deficit. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Fifth Committee had held extensive consultations on UNITAR's financial situation.

33. As to fund-raising, the response of non-contributing Member States to the General Assembly's appeal in resolution 35/53 B had so far been disappointing. Only a few States were increasing their contributions to match inflation, and many had given the same amount as they had in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Thus, their contributions had actually diminished each year. Although strenuous fund-raising had doubled UNITAR's income from 1972 to 1981, in real terms the income had remained practically the same as in 1972, whereas expenditure had doubled over the period. Only special purpose grants and redoubled efforts on the part of the staff and contributing delegations had enabled UNITAR to expand its activities. The objective now was to reduce the project's support staff and make individual research schemes self-supporting by means of special purpose grants. The programme on regionalism and the new international economic order was an example of the success of that approach: outside support had been sought and sufficient financing received from Governments to carry it out.

34. The General Assembly had to decide how UNITAR could continue to play a useful role. If it was to do so, it should be given further financial support through increased voluntary contributions or subventions from the United Nations central

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(Mr. Nicol, UNITAR)

funds. The enthusiasm shown by some Member States, despite their own national development needs and the widespread financial crisis, was very encouraging and the response to UNITAR's appeal to the General Assembly to cover its deficit had been gratifying. Some donors which had traditionally been opposed to giving subventions to institutions supported by voluntary contributions had waived their position, although temporarily, and others had increased their contributions greatly. Trinidad and Tobago had given an outright grant of \$100,000 to assist in reducing the deficit.

35. Since there had been no substantial increase in voluntary contributions, the 1981 deficit had not been eliminated, but it had been reduced considerably and efforts were being made to achieve a balanced budget for 1982. UNITAR could not terminate the contracts of many of its members, especially permanent staff in the General Service category. It was exploring possibilities for their absorption into the United Nations Secretariat. Because of inflation, the reduction of the deficit in 1981 and balancing the budget in 1982 meant that expenditure had been reduced by 20 per cent and had not increased in real terms. If that drastic reduction of the General Fund continued, UNITAR would have to depend more and more on special purpose grants, which would lead to a loss of its ability to give priority to original research and general training for all delegations. A proper balance must be struck between general work and specially commissioned activities restricted to the wishes of donors, however worthy they might be.

36. The Executive Director and the Board of Trustees requested the General Assembly, in accordance with resolution 35/53 B, to provide UNITAR with sufficient funds to cover the remaining estimated deficit for 1981. A definite figure could not be given because of the fluctuations in the exchange rate of the dollar; however, it would be less than the amount requested in 1980.

37. UNITAR's work had been directed towards establishing the framework for the alleviation of poverty, hunger, and natural and man-made disasters. Research units had worked towards that goal by holding conferences on apartheid and racial discrimination, examining co-operative efforts between the third world and the industrialized countries in a changing economic order and setting legal norms. Its seminars in many capitals had brought together great intellects to exchange views and enhance professional skills. With the encouragement, support and guidance it would gain from the Second Committee, UNITAR looked forward to a busy and productive year.

The meeting rose at 12.25 p.m.