



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 15TH MEETING

Chairman: Mr. VERCELES (Philippines)

CONTENTS

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

- (a) INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR THE THIRD UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT DECADE
- (b) CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF STATES
- (d) INDUSTRIALIZATION
- (f) NATURAL RESOURCES
- (g) FOOD PROBLEMS
- (j) ENVIRONMENT
- (k) HUMAN SETTLEMENTS
- (l) EFFECTIVE MOBILIZATION AND INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT
- (n) UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL FUND

* This record is subject to correction. Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned *within one week of the date of publication* to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, room A-3550, 866 United Nations Plaza (Alcoa Building), and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate fascicle for each Committee.

The meeting was called to order at 10.50 a.m.

DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (continued) (A/36/3/Add. 2, 12 and 15-18, A/36/8, 16, 19, 25, 116 and Corr. 1, A/36/142, 144, 149, 233, 260 and Add. 1-2, A/36/333, 356, 380, 418, 421, 452, 466, 470, 475, 497, 528, 531, 566, 567, 571, 572 and 573)

- (a) INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR THE THIRD UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT DECADE
- (b) CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF STATES
- (d) INDUSTRIALIZATION
- (f) NATURAL RESOURCES
- (g) FOOD PROBLEMS
- (j) ENVIRONMENT
- (k) HUMAN SETTLEMENTS
- (l) EFFECTIVE MOBILIZATION AND INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT
- (n) UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL FUND

1. Mr. VALTASAARI (Finland), speaking on behalf of the Nordic delegations, said that, in the context of the item under discussion, the questions bearing on North-South co-operation had unfortunately been relegated to the background and that efforts must be continued to revitalize negotiations on development and international economic co-operations. He therefore hoped that, at its current session, the General Assembly would take a decision on the launching of the global negotiations and that forthcoming Cancún meeting would open the way.

2. The Nordic delegations attached great importance to the implementation of the New International Development Strategy, especially the achievement of the agreed targets for official development assistance. He stressed the needs for a smooth-functioning review and appraisal mechanism and hoped that all countries would do their utmost to implement the provisions of the Strategy.

3. The immediate problems of development and international economic co-operation should be settled without waiting for the emergence of a new international economic order. It was noteworthy that some developing countries had been able to achieve high growth rates in spite of the current international economic situation. The Nordic countries strongly supported the open multilateral trading system which was of crucial importance to the economic development of all countries, particularly the developing countries. They therefore attached great

/...

importance to the forthcoming GATT ministerial meeting and hoped that it would result in a commitment to resist protectionism, to solve problems outstanding from the multilateral trade negotiations and to promote new trade liberalization measures. The meeting should also take into account the growing role of the developing countries in international trade and the need to promote the gradual integration of developing countries in the multilateral trade system.

4. With regard to industrialization, the Nordic countries Governments generally supported the demands of the developing countries for a larger share of the world's industrial production. They particularly welcomed the establishment of the UNIDO system of consultations on a permanent basis and were ready to accept formal rules of procedure for those consultations. It would be advisable for UNIDO, with its budgetary constraints, to be careful in setting its operational priorities and for co-ordination to be ensured with other agencies so as to avoid overlapping and duplication. The Nordic delegations nevertheless thought that, in spite of those constraints, UNIDO should undertake to finance the Senior Industrial Field Advisers programme. The UNIDO secretariat's proposal concerning the financing of industrial development had been studied carefully by the Governments of the Nordic countries which thought that there was a need for new institutional arrangements.

5. So far as natural resources were concerned, water resources management would probably remain a vital issue for some long time. The Nordic countries welcomed the action already taken by the international community and were gratified to note the progress made in implementing the Mar del Plata Plan of Action and the first positive reactions to the International Drinking Water and Sanitation Decade. The comprehensive resolution on water resources, adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session (1981/81), showed a balanced approach to the interdisciplinary components of that sector, and the governments of the Nordic countries would certainly contribute to its implementation.

6. The Nordic countries shared the view that the eradication of hunger and malnutrition was one of the most urgent tasks facing the international community. The number of people suffering from chronic hunger and malnutrition was rising steadily in the low-income countries and the situation was particularly precarious in many parts of Africa. Coherent and comprehensive food strategies must therefore be implemented, particularly in food-deficient countries, and developing countries should take urgent steps, with the support of the international community, to implement national programmes of action as proposed by the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development.

7. The Nordic countries had noted with concern the breakdown of the negotiations on the new International Wheat Agreement at a time when the participants had been close to consensus on a solution involving internationally co-ordinated national stocks. The Governments of the Nordic countries thought that that remained the best option for the solution of that urgent problem; in the meanwhile, partial solutions should be found, for example, by implementing the interesting proposal

/...

by the Executive Director of the World Food Council. The Nordic countries made large contributions to the World Food Programme and believed that a larger share of those contributions should be channelled through the Programme. They also supported the efforts being made to place the International Emergency Food Reserve on a more stable basis as further contributions were required in order to attain the 500,000 ton target for the Reserve.

8. With regard to the environment, the Governments of the Nordic countries attached great importance to the last meeting of the UNEP Governing Council; they hoped that the resolutions and decisions concerning interrelationships between people, resources, environment and development would be implemented soon. They also felt that the programme of work on the interrelationships should be more practically oriented. He then stressed the importance of the special session of the UNEP Governing Council to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment which would provide an opportunity for Governments to address themselves to those environmental problems that had been inconceivable at the time of the Stockholm Conference. The Nordic countries underlined the importance of thorough preparations for that session and urged the General Assembly to take the necessary decisions thereon. They also attached great importance to environmental law and to the high-level meeting on that subject to be held in November at Montevideo. Lastly, the Nordic countries wished to stress that the financial situation of UNEP was still very unsatisfactory and urged all Governments to reconsider their contributions to the UNEP fund.

Translated from French

9. With regard to human settlements, he underscored the importance of the role of the United Nations Center for Human Settlements. The fourth session of the Commission on Human Settlements had also been important in several respects, and had proved that the Commission as well as the Center had been able to justify their mandates. In 1981, the Commission had adopted a medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989 and defined the priorities and strategies of the Center for that period. The Nordic delegations wished to express their appreciation to the Executive Director for the active work of the Center and the quality of the medium-term plan proposed to the Commission. In addition, he wished to underline the importance of the resolution adopted by the Commission regarding the role and contribution of the construction industry in human settlements programmes and in national economic and social development. In the current International Year of Disabled Persons, he believed that special attention should be given to the disabled in the design of buildings. As for the question of organizing an international year of shelter for the homeless, the Nordic delegations strongly preferred the recommendation of the Economic and Social Council regarding the appropriate time to proclaim such a year.

10. Regarding the effective mobilization and integration of women in development, the interrelationship between key economic factors and the role of women in the economy was more clearly understood than before, and United Nations development organizations must integrate that knowledge into their regular programmes and

/...

activities and not only into those specifically designed to achieve progress for women. The Nordic countries would continue to support the work of the United Nations to ensure a progressively more important role for women in economic and social development.

11. Mr. ABDULLAH (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) drew the Committee's attention to the gravity of the world economic crisis, particularly with regard to unemployment and inflation which were now reaching levels unprecedented since the 1930s. Capitalist theories, incapable of adjusting to evolving situations, had not been able to find solutions to those problems, particularly as Governments tended to adopt measures that served their electoral interests rather than the common interest. Given the economic interdependence of countries, only a democratic dialogue among all of them would make it possible to do away with the current economic crisis, provided it was understood that the causes must be dealt with rather than the symptoms. The existing international order was marked by inequality, with certain countries accumulating many privileges, particularly in the monetary area, and others being deprived of them.

12. With regard to the world food situation, it was regrettable that no progress had been made in 1980 as compared to 1979, and the situation in Africa was particularly disquieting. Countries with surpluses must grant food aid to countries which needed it.

13. As for the environment, the existence of land-mines on the territory of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya was particularly worrisome to his country. Since the Second World War, thousands had lost their lives or been maimed by those mines, which had not been removed despite commitments by certain Governments and many resolutions adopted to that effect, the latest being General Assembly resolution 35/71. His delegation had taken note of the report of the Secretary-General on the problem of remnants of war (A/36/531) but it regretted that the specific steps called for in resolution 35/71 to solve the problem had not been proposed. On the other hand, it approved the recommendation that the Assembly should again invite all Governments to submit their views on the problem to the Secretary-General. He thanked the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme for having prepared the report under consideration, but believed that the seriousness of the problem would require that it be referred to the Secretary-General himself. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya had in any case not given up the idea of a general conference on the problem.

14. In conclusion, he said that his delegation was satisfied with the results of the Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy held in Nairobi in August 1981, but thought that its conclusions and recommendations would remain a dead letter so long as the means of putting them into effect and financing them were not found.

15. Mr. AYUBI (Afghanistan) said that assistance from advanced industrialized countries had not increased in real terms and it was regrettable that some of those countries were cutting back even further on aid to the developing countries.

/...

The Paris Conference had not succeeded, in its Substantial New Programme of Action, in reaching agreement on the target of allocating 0.7 per cent of the GNP of development countries for official development assistance. There should therefore be an attempt to increase foreign assistance in real terms and make its allocation a matter of greater concern. Thus, more care should be given to the needs of countries which were geographically disadvantaged. The land-locked least developed countries needed greater assistance from developed countries and international organizations to overcome their handicaps. Co-operation was also called for between them and their neighbours, based on the application of the principle of the right of free access to the sea. Afghanistan, for example, had to improve its domestic railway communications and secure access to the sea through neighboring countries, and in so doing it faced the obstacle of extremely difficult terrain coupled with limited financial resources.

16. With regard to international trade, the developed countries and the most advanced developing countries should do away with their protectionist policies and grant non-reciprocal tariff concessions to the least developed and land-locked countries.

17. Afghanistan had signed the agreement establishing the Common Fund for commodities; his delegation hoped that, when the list of commodities was worked out, preferential conditions would be granted to the products of the least developed countries, which were mainly agricultural products and handicrafts.

18. Economic indicators pointed to a slower rate of economic growth for the 1980s. According to the World Bank, if corrective steps were not taken, 220 million more people would be living in conditions of absolute poverty by the year 2000. As long as the developed countries did not abandon their protectionist policies and refused to absorb the exports that developing countries needed in order to reduce their payments deficits, the future of developing countries would remain precarious.

19. The industrial situation of developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, remained unsatisfactory. Among other measures, the formulation and adoption of an International Code of Conduct for the Transfer of Technology which took account of the needs of developing countries constituted a major step forward. The developing countries themselves must strengthen their technological capabilities and thereby reduce their dependence in that area on the developed countries. Afghanistan was ready to support any move in that direction.

20. Technical and economic co-operation among developing countries was a means of strengthening the solidarity of the peoples of those countries. Such co-operation, however, could be developed only in the context of a radical restructuring of the international economic system, in accordance with the progressive provisions of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States and of the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order adopted at the sixth special session of the General Assembly.

/...

21. The critical situation of food and agriculture in the developing countries was also a matter of serious concern. In the world at large, about 450 million people suffered from malnutrition. The countries that had to import foods, besides endangering their balance of payments, were forced to allocate to those imports resources that were vital for their development efforts. In that connection, the Afghan delegation was seriously alarmed by the intention expressed by some developing countries to use food as an international weapon.

22. The adoption of the new International Development Strategy for the 1980s marked an important stage in co-operation for development, and he hoped that the United Nations system would take the necessary steps to attain the modest development goals and objectives set forth in it. The developing countries for their part had taken advantage of the Conference on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries, held in Caracas in May 1981, to establish the necessary mechanisms and instruments for the promotion of such co-operation. Afghanistan hoped that the Caracas programme would speedily become a reality, and also trusted that the forthcoming meeting at Cancún would facilitate agreement on the early launching of the global negotiations.

23. The Afghan delegation called for implementation of the Nairobi Plan of Action designed to ensure a sustained supply of energy from both conventional and non-conventional sources, and welcomed the decision to establish an intergovernmental body to mobilize the resources needed to implement the Plan. Despite their inadequacy, Afghanistan welcomed the initiatives undertaken on that occasion by the multilateral financial institutions to promote the development of energy resources in the developing countries.

24. Lastly, the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Paris in September 1981, although it had not matched all the hopes of the developing countries, was in itself an important step towards a definitive solution of their problems. The Afghan delegation welcomed the agreement on the need to simplify conditions for assistance, and the fact that most developed countries had committed themselves to 0.7 per cent of their GNP as the level of their official development assistance. The commitment of many of these countries to allocate 0.15 per cent of their official development assistance to the least developed countries was also encouraging.

25. In conclusion, he stressed that a reduction in military expenditures would make it possible to save billions of dollars which could be spent far more usefully on meeting the social and economic needs of the development countries.

26. Mr. ROMUALDEZ (Philippines) said that some important countries, and the reports from various institutions, tended to cast doubt on the realism of the development targets for the 1980s, as well as the importance of the principles and measures in the new Development Strategy. Apparently, some countries had decided to adopt a rigid ideological stand. Once again, the developing countries were being exhorted to uphold the virtues of an open international trading system, yet at the same time it was admitted that the imposition of new and subtle types of import barriers or threats to impose such barriers on goods from those countries

had stunted the growth of trade. However, there was some satisfaction to be derived from the renewed commitment to work for more equitable rules of trade at the Ministerial Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade to be held in 1982.

27. The excuse given by the donor countries for reducing their development aid -- their domestic economic difficulties -- placed concessional assistance at the level of mere charity. That was a long-outmoded view of development assistance, for experience had clearly shown the pump-priming effect of the recycling of funds to developing countries. Without wishing to minimize the advantages of regional co-operation, the ASEAN countries recognized that national and regional development depended to a large extent on a general improvement in the international environment. Global solutions must not be neglected through undue concentration on regional and bilateral co-operation. Lastly, as far as the question of political stability and security was concerned, it should be noted that lack of development was a major cause of insecurity and instability. The Philippine delegation had reminded Member States of that truth in its general statement of policy in plenary meeting.

28. As for food problems, he said that the Ministerial Meeting of the World Food Council, held in May 1981, had noted that food for all would be as difficult to achieve without peace as the establishment of peace would be impossible without food for all. The Philippine delegation shared the Council's regret that the goal of eradicating hunger within a decade had been postponed to the end of the century. In fact, the seriousness of the food crisis, made still worse by various external factors such as high interest rates and rising costs for agricultural inputs, should make it the international community's highest priority. The Philippine delegation agreed with the Council that the adoption of integrated national plans was the basis of food security and would encourage external assistance. It supported the Council's appeal to the industrialized countries to reduce their barriers to the agricultural exports of the developing countries. All the industrialized countries should adopt the Generalized System of Preferences and should extend it to agricultural products, in particular processed and semi-processed products. There should also be an effort to restructure the institutions of the United Nations that dealt with the financing of agricultural development and food production. Lastly, the Philippine delegation supported the request of the Ministers that the conclusions of the World Food Council's report should be brought to the attention of the North-South Summit at Cancún.

29. Regarding the report of the Industrial Development Board, he noted with satisfaction that the System of Consultations had provided a useful forum for restructuring the global industrial pattern. He endorsed the suggestion that the Secretariat should analyse the practical results of the System, although it might be difficult to quantify certain intangible benefits. The Philippine delegation urged delegations to support the allocation of additional resources to the UNIDO system of Consultations, and was in favour of the priority attached to research into industrial redeployment based on dynamic comparative advantage, the promotion of technology transfer, and the avoidance of highly polluting industries. It would also be useful if the UNIDO secretariat were to prepare a brief summary

of the results of its work in such fields as genetic engineering, new sources of energy and micro-processors.

30. The Philippine delegation regarded the report of the Secretary-General on the World Development Fund (A/36/572) as tentative at most. The report did, however, contain some interesting conclusions regarding the potential for such a Fund, but he urged prudence: the \$120 billion estimate of the financial resources required for the first seven years meant that the establishment of the new agency would be justified only if it was assured of supplementary funds from other sources. The Philippine delegation was, nevertheless, willing to support new studies on the various aspects of the World Development Fund, but felt that it would be desirable also to co-ordinate the various studies that were under way regarding the various development financing institutions that had been proposed, such as the Industrial Development Bank.

31. Mr. LAZAREVIC (Yugoslavia) said that he had listened with interest to the opening statement of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation on the world economic situation. That situation had already been studied in detail in documents issued by the United Nations Secretariat and other international organizations, including the World Bank's Report on World Development, and the causes of the problem and the broad lines that should be followed had been identified. At their fifth meeting, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 had drawn attention to certain new concepts of development and of international economic co-operation for development which might endanger multilateral co-operation as currently practised. There was general agreement on the gravity of the world economic crisis and on its causes, and on the fact that the steps normally taken to counter cyclical crises were not enough. In view of the increasing gap between the developed and the developing countries, the question must be asked why the international community was incapable of escaping from a situation marked by low economic growth, high unemployment, and excessive rates of interest and of inflation, as well as deteriorating conditions in many developing countries. The situation would continue to get worse as long as there was no progress in current international economic and political relations, and until all countries, regardless of their socio-economic system or level of development, joined together in seeking solutions in the interest of all.

32. Where there should be agreement on measures to be taken, there was instead a failure to make headway in solving world economic problems, and negotiations between developed and developing countries were at a standstill. It was essential to begin as soon as possible the global negotiations that practically every country at the current session desired, so as to prevent further deterioration in the situation, particularly in the least developed countries, and safeguard peace and security in the world. International stability was impossible as long as the gap between developed and developing countries kept on widening, the number of hungry people increasing, and the terms of trade of developing countries deteriorating, with damaging consequences for their balance of payments and their external debt, while at the same time \$500 billion was being spent annually on armaments. Since no one denied the need to solve the problems of the developing

/...

countries by constructive co-operation calculated to strengthen peace and security, what was the reason for the delay in implementing some decisions adopted by consensus, such as those concerning tariffs on products of developing countries and official development aid? There seemed to be resistance to changing the existing relations between developed and developing countries, although they were recognized as unjust and inequitable.

33. Although the new International Development Strategy did not fully reflect the real relations between the needs of developing countries and the capacities of the developed countries, it was a positive step and a significant instrument of international co-operation in the 1980s. Its success depended on the efforts of all countries, particularly the developed countries, which, because of their predominant role in the world economy, should ensure that the goals of the Strategy were reflected in their economic policies. It was encouraging to note that the specialized agencies, such as the World Health Organization, were also participating actively in the implementation of the Strategy. The Strategy should be implemented integrally, and it was regrettable that the current world economic crisis was frequently used as an excuse to postpone the taking of urgent measures. The Strategy was an integral part of the structural transformation of the world economy and the establishment of a new international economic order.

34. As the Executive Director of UNIDO had stated, industrialization was one of the key elements of the Strategy and an essential condition for the progress of the developing countries. Unfortunately, those countries were not reaching the target figure set in the Strategy for their industrial growth rate to ensure that their share of world industrial output would increase to 25 per cent by the year 2000. The slow pace of industrial growth in Africa was a matter for concern. It was essential that the developing countries should industrialize faster so that they could develop in all other sectors and achieve a better position in relation to the developed countries which bought their products, particularly through the general scheme of preferences. It must be noted that the developing countries were not receiving flows of public or private capital commensurate with their requirements. The idea of establishing an international bank for industrial development should be carefully studied, and there should be no initial prejudice against it. There had been similar doubts when the establishment of an international fund for the development of agriculture was considered, but time had proved them unjustified. Yugoslavia believed that the adoption of a code of conduct for transnational corporations would help to create in the developing countries an atmosphere conducive to private investment.

35. Food problems were taking on dramatic proportions for millions of people, particularly in the sub-Saharan region. World cereal production had declined since 1978/79 and world grain reserves were at their lowest level. The situation was even more disastrous in the least developed countries, where per capita food production had fallen. To eliminate hunger within the next decade, in accordance with the aim of the World Food Conference, food production must be raised in the food-deficit countries, instead of constantly increasing food imports. At its

/...

seventh session in Novi Sad, Yugoslavia, the World Food Council had confirmed that such measures were the only means of arriving at a long-term solution of the problem of world hunger. In the meantime, steps must be taken to help the affected regions. The outside aid needed by the developing countries to deal with food problems was provided in particular by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, which had decided to broaden its financial facility by providing additional resources for those developing countries which were obliged to import additional quantities of cereals. Furthermore, much remained to be done to improve international trade in agricultural products and to remove the trade barriers and protectionist measures that prevented a greater participation by developing countries in that trade.

36. With respect to science and technology for development, he said it was disappointing to note that the Programme of Action adopted at Vienna was being implemented only slowly and that the contributions to the Interim Fund for Science and Technology amounted to only about \$50 million instead of the target of \$250 million. The General Assembly must make the necessary long-term arrangements to provide the means to finance activities in that field so that the Vienna Programme of Action could be implemented.

37. Mr. OLZVOY (Mongolia) thought that on the whole UNIDO had produced satisfactory results, and said it had an important task. Industrialization was one of the essential means for a country to overcome economic and social underdevelopment. But at present the newly independent nations had great difficulty in establishing an independent industrial sector, mainly because of the neo-colonialist policy of exploitation pursued by the Western monopolies, particularly the transnational corporations. In the circumstances, UNIDO's task was to help the developing countries to establish or strengthen the basis of their national industry and to restrict the scope of foreign capital. The experience of many countries showed that the strengthening of the public sector enabled a State to exercise better control over economic activity and to make basic structural changes for the benefit of the whole population. Mongolia therefore welcomed the measures taken by UNIDO to help strengthen the role of the public sector, and urged it to continue the action begun.

38. Although UNIDO should attach great importance in its activities to the economic aspects of industrialization, it should not lose sight of the social aspects. Industrial development should make it possible to raise the standard of living of the population and to promote social justice by eliminating the exploitation of man by man. In view of the different outlooks of the newly liberated countries, and consequently their different industrial development strategies, UNIDO should also serve as a clearing-house for information and experience. Mongolia had misgivings about the question of promoting investment in developing countries and establishing centres for investment aid, because of the harmful effects that such measures might have for the developing countries, which were trying to free themselves from the grip of the transnational corporations. Establishing a system of consultations on issues that did not really reflect the long-term trends of the industrialization in those countries and did not respond to their essential needs could lead to a pointless fragmentation of the efforts and resources of UNIDO.

/...

39. Turning to the question of the environment, he said that at its ninth session the Governing Council of UNEP had taken a number of important decisions. In particular, Mongolia supported the decision to hold a special session of the Governing Council in 1982 at which it was hoped that Governments would have the opportunity of assessing the results of the measures taken nationally and internationally after the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment and a new impetus would be given to international co-operation in that field. He emphasized that the usefulness of the basic documents that the UNEP secretariat was now preparing for that session would depend on the importance attached to the experience of all countries and to the interests of all parties.

40. Decision 9/9 (Solidarity with the victims of apartheid in southern Africa) should be unanimously approved, because it expressed UNEP's specific support for the struggle against apartheid. The Mongolian delegation fully endorsed the idea underlying decision 9/4 (Environment and the arms race). The UNEP secretariat should do everything possible to ensure the application of that basic decision. On the other hand, Mongolia could not support decision 9/8 (Global armaments spending), which was contrary to the letter and spirit of General Assembly resolution 3093 (XXVIII).

41. In Mongolia the protection of the environment was indissolubly linked to the Government's economic policy. The Mongolian society for the protection of nature and the environment played a basic role in that sphere. The State also organized months for the protection of nature and exhibitions devoted to environment questions. Mongolia therefore welcomed UNEP's participation in the establishment of a vast reserve in the Gobi desert.

Translated from French

42. Turning to the question of the International Development Strategy for the 1980s, the representative of Mongolia recalled that his country had steadfastly supported the principles of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, which formed the basis for a new international economic order. The Mongolian delegation therefore viewed with concern the failure to apply many provisions of the Charter attributable to the negative attitude of the developed capitalist countries that were conducting a neo-colonialist and discriminatory policy. Only through the practical application of the Charter would the desired conditions for attaining the goals of the new International Development Strategy be created. It should moreover be noted that the Strategy stipulated the existence of a close correlation between disarmament and development. Furthermore, the ultimate objective of the Strategy should be borne in mind, namely the equitable distribution of the benefits derived from development.

43. Mr. DOMOKOS (Hungary) said that over the next few years global economic conditions would become even more difficult than in the 1960s, as certain circles were seeking to bring about further disruption of the political climate required for economic co-operation. That situation could be remedied by a more equitable restructuring of the international economic order, the early implementation of the

/...

relevant resolutions of the United Nations and compliance with the principles of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, in conjunction with efforts to improve the international political climate.

44. There was no question that the developing countries, particularly the least developed, must industrialize in order to develop; however, as they were lacking in resources and were still suffering from the aftermath of colonialism, they had to rely on international co-operation. Unfortunately, the attainment of the objective of 25 per cent of world industrial output by the turn of the century set for the developing countries in the Lima Declaration and Programme of Action still seemed very remote. In 1980 the share of the developing countries amounted to a mere 11 per cent. Hungary was convinced that UNIDO had a decisive role to play in that connection and had approved the adoption of the New Delhi Declaration and Programme of Action at the Third General Conference of UNIDO in order to increase the effectiveness of that organization's activities, which were carried out with limited resources. In view of the world economic situation and the potential for mobilizing considerable resources, Hungary was opposed to the steady increase in the budget of UNIDO. There were no grounds for departing from the viable principle of financing the activities of UNIDO from voluntary contributions.

45. The role of UNIDO could be more active in the transfer of industrial technologies and the exchange of experience gained in the establishment of industrial and scientific-technical infrastructures and training facilities. At its fifteenth session, the Industrial Development Board had discussed arrangements for a system of consultations with a view to improving the effectiveness of UNIDO. While a system of consultations might allow countries to exchange information on each other's experience, to become acquainted with each other's problems and to find joint solutions, it should not give rise to inflated expectations or be unduly extended, or it would lose practical effectiveness. Given the limited resources of UNIDO, the number of consultations scheduled for the next cycle was too high. It might be advisable to wait until the secretariat had evaluated the usefulness of the consultations in 1985 before extending the system to other sectors.

46. In spite of the difficulties it was currently experiencing as a result of the international political and economic situation, Hungary devoted considerable attention to the industrialization of the developing countries, from which it was importing an increasing proportion of processed products, and whose industrialization it was promoting through assistance in drawing up plans and by providing experts and equipment.

47. The Hungarian Government was most concerned about the worsening of the food situation in the developing countries either through lack of resources or as a result of inadequate agrarian policies. As stressed by the World Food Council, instances of decline in agricultural production and per capita agricultural revenue were far from uncommon. Far from becoming net exporters of agricultural and food products, the developing countries were faced with a growth in their food requirements. It was forecast by FAO that the developing countries would import 102 to 106 million tons of grain in 1981 and 1982, against 99 million in

/...

1980. The most urgent task of the day was to eradicate hunger and malnutrition by helping countries to become self-reliant and to mobilize their own resources to a greater extent. On the basis of its own experience, Hungary considered that the development of agricultural production was inconceivable without agrarian reforms and socio-economic changes. The example of the socialist countries demonstrated that socialist large-scale farming was the best conceivable way of introducing modern methods of agriculture and of lessening the impact of adverse weather conditions as far as possible.

Translated from French

48. While it emphasized the principle of self-reliance, Hungary nonetheless acknowledged the need to increase external assistance to some developing countries. It preferred forms of assistance which were designed to raise production and to promote the food industry. It also participated actively in the training of cadres for the developing countries and shared its experience in a variety of fields. The efforts of FAO to apply the recommendations adopted by the 1979 World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development were obstructed by the negative attitude of countries whose discriminatory practices and protectionist policies adversely affected the exports of many developing countries. In fact, the socialist countries too were affected by the protectionist agricultural policies of the member countries of the Common Market. The Hungarian Government considered that the deterioration in global economic conditions and the intensification of the arms race in the developing countries. It was therefore pleased to note that the FAO had responded to a Hungarian proposal by adopting a resolution proclaiming 16 October as World Food Day.

49. Yet another major task for the 1980s was the protection of the environment, to which Hungary attached great importance. The protection of water resources, soil, flora and fauna had been given its rightful place in the national five-year plan. The Hungarian Government was also concerned with ecological problems at the international level. Although it was not currently represented on the Governing Council of UNEP, Hungary was taking an active part in its work and in various projects. With respect to the question of contributions to the World Nations Environment Fund in non-convertible currencies, it must be noted that the experience of Hungary had been positive when such currencies had been used in various UNEP projects in which it had participated. The fact that the environment could be effectively protected only in an international climate of peace and detente must not however be overlooked. Hungary had thus supported decision 9/4 adopted by the UNEP Governing Council at its ninth session with regard to the systematic analysis of the effects of the arms race on the environment and the inclusion of that topic in the agenda of the second special session of the General Assembly on disarmament. Furthermore, the delegation of Hungary considered that the jubilee session of UNEP to be held in 1982 would provide an opportunity for reviewing the results obtained, defining the targets to be attained and mobilizing public opinion.

/...

50. As to the work of the Commission on Human Settlements, the Commission had greatly contributed towards resolving the problems of the Palestinian people in pursuance of the resolutions adopted at its third session. Since the exchange of information played an important part in the work of the Commission, the competent Hungarian ministry had proposed that a "Habitat Vision" Office of Information should be set up in Budapest with a view to the exchange of information between the countries of Eastern Europe and the United Nations Habitat Centre. The purpose of the Office, which had opened in November 1980, was to disseminate the achievements of socialist countries among the developing countries and to organize consultations and Habitat Days. Moreover, the Commission must co-ordinate its work with that of other international organizations in order to improve the use of its material resources and to avoid overlapping. Relations between the regional commissions and the Habitat Centre must be strengthened. For example, the ECE countries had already launched several joint projects from which countries in other regions might also benefit.

51. There was growing awareness that world economic problems would remain insoluble as long as the arms race continued. The delegation of Hungary therefore fully supported the proposal submitted to the Second Committee by the representative of the Soviet Union, namely that the report of the Group of Experts responsible for examining the correlation between disarmament and development should be considered both by the Second and by the First Committee.

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.