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at 3 p.m.
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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 30th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. VERCELES (Philippines)

later: Mr. RINGNALDA (Netherlands)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

1. The CHAIRMAN said that he had been asked by a number of delegations to postpone the deadline for the submission of proposals on agenda item 69 because some of the relevant reports were not yet available. He suggested, therefore, that the deadline should be 11 November 1981 at 6 p.m.

2. It was so decided.

3. Miss EVANS (United Kingdom), speaking on behalf of the members of the European Community, said that the delegations of those countries wished to speak on the second part of agenda item 69, with particular reference to subitems (c), Trade and development, and (i), Restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system. Two important documents on those subitems were still to be issued, and she therefore requested that discussion of item 69 should not be closed until those reports were available; the members of the European Community reserved the right to speak on the subitems in due course.

4. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee was amenable to keeping item 69 open, on the understanding that once the existing list of speakers had been exhausted the debate would be limited to subitems (c) and (i).

5. It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 69: DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (continued)
(A/36/3/Add.2, Add.4, Add.13, Add.14 and Add.29, A/36/15, A/36/37 (Parts I, II and III), 45 (Parts I and II), 116 and Corr.1, 240, 333, 356, 380, 419 and Add.1, 421, 477, 483, 497, 528 and Corr.1, 536, 538, 566, 573, 576, 577, 584, 605. and 631 and Corr.1; A/CN.11/21; A/CONF.100/11; A/CONF.104/22 and Add.1)

6. Mr. GRECU (Romania) said that the activities of the United Nations over the previous 10 years had thrown into relief the relationship between science and technology and development. The international community's growing concern that advances in science and technology should be used for development reflected its recognition of the fundamental role of science and technology in the progress of all nations and at the same time bore witness to the way in which the efforts of all States should be directed in the fields of science and technology. Unfortunately, many of the major scientific technological discoveries were being used to produce sophisticated weapons of mass destruction, in particular atomic weapons.

7. In a world where under-development and chronic malnutrition persisted and where the economic crisis was growing worse, science had an important role to play. It had a duty to contribute to the discovery and exploitation of new sources of energy and raw materials and to make the earth more fertile and increase production, thus solving the world's food problem. It should also help to protect the health of peoples throughout the world, and to safeguard the environment. Those ideas

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(Mr. Grecu, Romania)

had been the topic of an international symposium, "Scientists and Peace", held at Bucharest in September 1981 under the patronage of the President of Romania. The message addressed by the President to the Symposium, which had been distributed as an official document of the General Assembly (A/36/528), stressed the enormous responsibility of scientists for the present and future of mankind; the place of scientists, it said, was at the side of the peoples struggling to defend their right to live and work in peace and to devote their resources and energies to their material and spiritual well-being. The participants in the Symposium had appealed to scientists and intellectuals throughout the world to co-operate in ensuring that science was used in the service of mankind, that scientific discovery was used to close the gap between rich and poor countries, and that the money being spent on armaments was diverted to social and economic development programmes in all countries. An International Action Committee had been set up to expose the dangers of the arms race and formulate specific measures to avoid them and to prepare for a world congress of scientists in the service of peace.

8. His delegation welcomed the adoption at the third session of the Intergovernmental Committee for Science and Technology for Development of an operational plan for the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action. Unfortunately, arrangements for the long-term financing of science and technology for development were still uncertain, and his delegation stressed the necessity of arriving at a constructive decision at the current session on the establishment of a United Nations Financing System for Science and Technology for Development, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 34/218.

9. Although there had been some limited progress in UNCTAD's activities during the year, they had in general been influenced by the impasse reached in the international economic dialogue as a result of the actions of certain developed States. UNCTAD's ability to deal with problems of trade and development and to contribute to the establishment of the new international economic order was being undermined by the tendency of some developed countries to disregard UNCTAD as a forum in which those difficulties might be solved, thereby weakening the whole framework of multilateral economic co-operation.

10. The problem of protectionism and structural adjustment should be a central concern of UNCTAD. Easier access to the markets of developed countries for developing countries' exports had become a necessity for the progress of the developing countries. Another of UNCTAD's major concerns should be the access of developing countries to capital markets, from which unduly high interest rates currently excluded them. His delegation regretted that a few developed countries had refused to support the draft resolution submitted to the Trade and Development Board by the Group of 77 requesting a study of access to capital markets. It hoped that special importance would be attached by UNCTAD in the coming year to securing consensus on the draft code of conduct on the transfer of technology so that the code could be finally adopted during 1982.

11. The aim of the Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy had been to ensure a progressive and equitable transition to a diversified system of energy resources in the interest of all States. Conventional energy sources, oil in particular, would have to continue to be used to satisfy the energy requirements

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of States and of the developing countries in particular, which made it essential that countries possessing such conventional sources should give deficit countries access to them, but new and renewable sources should provide an increasing share of the energy consumed in all countries. The adoption by consensus of the Nairobi Programme of Action was encouraging, but the regrettable fact was that no agreement had been reached on some fundamental aspects. The United Nations system should have an important role in developing and strengthening international co-operation in the field of energy, and his delegation was in favour of appointing an intergovernmental United Nations body to that end, together with appropriate arrangement within the Secretariat to deal with problems of new and renewable sources of energy. It hoped that at the 1982 session of the Interim Committee consensus would be reached on the institutional machinery and financial resources needed, so that the General Assembly would be in a position at the thirty-seventh session to adopt the decisions that would secure the full implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action.

12. His delegation was gratified by the outcome of the second session of the High-Level Committee on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries. In addition to the development of bilateral co-operation, regional and interregional activities, including activities in the regional economic commissions, should be intensified in order to implement the recommendations of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action. The existing situation, in which most TCDC activities were financed by the developing countries themselves, was not satisfactory and it was essential that the developed countries, the development banks and funds, and the United Nations system should increase their contributions substantially. Each country had the sovereign right to establish its own machinery and financial arrangements for participation in TCDC and to decide in which multilateral agreements it would participate. For the future, the implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action would demand long-term co-operation based on mutually advantageous long-term agreements on TCDC projects.

13. At future sessions the High-Level Committee should analyse progress in implementing the recommendations of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action concerning support for TCDC from the developed countries, the promotion of greater technological autonomy, the development and strengthening of interregional co-operation, and the control of the brain drain from the developing countries. In that connexion, he stressed the particular importance that Romania, as a developing country, attached to developing its co-operative relations with other developing countries. A number of important agreements had been concluded at meetings between the President of the Socialist Republic of Romania and the Heads of State of other developing countries.

14. In 1981 the attitude of the international community to the situation of the least developed countries had begun to change. The specific measures adopted by the Conference on the Least Developed Countries were a step in the right direction. As his delegation had stated at the Conference, Romania believed that the developed States had a special responsibility to assist the least developed countries, but not, of course, at the expense of other developing countries which were still striving to lessen the gap between them and the developed countries. His Government was steadily expanding its relations with the least developed countries in all fields, from trade to the training in Romania of specialists from those countries and the dispatch of thousands of Romanian experts to work there.

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15. Mr. LA ROCCA (Italy) said that owing to goodwill and a spirit of co-operation on the part of all concerned, the Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy had been highly successful. It was essential to build on that success and to continue the dialogue in the General Assembly. Italy had a keen interest in helping to implement the objectives of the Programme of Action adopted at the Conference and in assisting developing countries in general, in order to contribute to the North-South dialogue. His Government had accordingly invited the proposed intergovernmental committee on new and renewable sources of energy to meet in Rome in 1982, and he hoped that the Committee would recommend acceptance of that invitation.

16. He reaffirmed the proposals made at the Nairobi Conference by the Italian Minister for Scientific and Technical Research, which adhered strictly to the guidelines of the Programme of Action. As a follow-up to the recent visit to Rome of the Secretary-General of the Conference, special attention would be given to training programmes for developing countries. They would involve fellowships or training periods in 12 specialized centres in Italy, seminars, and the dispatch of Italian experts to developing countries to carry out research in the area of new and renewable sources of energy and in energy assessment and planning. Several of the proposed programmes were already under way. Another initiative proposed by Italy at the Nairobi Conference had been the creation of training centres in developing countries. Italy was currently setting up such a centre in Nairobi and believed that it and future centres might well be converted into regional centres in due course. Italy also hoped to finance in the near future feasibility studies for large demonstration projects in Latin America, Africa and Asia. Those projects would concern particularly problems of agro-forestry development. A comprehensive analysis of the structure of such projects was in progress, and specific proposals based on studies undertaken by Italy would be submitted to the meeting of the proposed intergovernmental committee in 1982.

17. There were other programmes of Italian assistance in the sphere of new and renewable sources of energy, either under way or shortly to be implemented, which Italy would like to carry out in close liaison with the United Nations and on which the Secretary-General of the Conference had agreed to provide guidance and advice. His Government was also contemplating initiatives in favour of the least developed countries, including assistance in preparing their energy assessments and plans. In view of the special emphasis in the Nairobi Plan of Action on the role of new and renewable sources of energy in agriculture, the Government intended to establish a pilot farm in a developing country that could be used as a model for other such enterprises. It was also prepared to discuss with other interested countries the possibility of joint projects to be carried out in developing countries.

18. His Government attached particular importance to co-ordination in the field of new and renewable sources of energy, with a view to achieving the best possible results in implementing the decisions taken at Nairobi. All the agencies, organizations, programmes and bodies of the United Nations system should remain in close touch, avoid any duplication of work, and provide relevant information on the activities of programmes to the Office of the Director-General and to the Secretary-General of the Nairobi Conference in order to contribute as efficiently as possible to the preparations of the 1982 meeting of the intergovernmental committee. His

(Mr. La Rocca, Italy)

delegation was confident that the heads of the organizations concerned would do their utmost in that connexion, and through constructive participation in the ad hoc meeting of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination would ensure a successful follow-up to the Nairobi Conference.

19. Mr. SCHUMANN (German Democratic Republic) said that the report of the Trade and Development Board and the statement to the Committee of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD had shown once more that the solution of important trade and development issues must be based on a true analysis of the state of the world economy and of international trade, including an examination of the growing interrelationship between economics and politics. The arms race and the dangerous course of confrontation being pursued in certain aggressive imperialist quarters had exacerbated the international situation by undermining confidence among States, and had caused the prospects for international trade and fruitful economic co-operation to deteriorate. The continuing crisis in the capitalist economic system had also gravely impaired international trade relations. UNCTAD had important responsibilities in the search for ways of remedying that situation.

20. In that connexion, the detailed assessment of the international economic situation submitted to the twenty-third session of the Trade and Development Board by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD had been very useful. It gave the essential reasons for the difficult economic situation of the developing countries and drew attention to the protectionist practices of certain capitalist industrialized countries. Those practices were also adversely affecting his country's trade relations and, in general, trade between States with differing social systems. His delegation endorsed the call for effective measures against protectionism and other trade discrimination contained in the joint statement of the Group of 77 at the conclusion of the twenty-third session of the Trade and Development Board.

21. His delegation also welcomed the decisions adopted by the Board on further activities to support the people of Namibia and the Palestinian people in their legitimate struggle for national independence. In that context, particular importance should be attached to increased co-operation between UNCTAD and the legitimate representatives of those peoples, SWAPO and the PLO.

22. His delegation was, however, deeply concerned at the failure of the United Nations Conference on an International Code of Conduct on the Transfer of Technology to achieve any progress at its fourth session. It regarded the completion of the Code of Conduct as an important milestone on the road towards the democratic restructuring of international economic relations and would support any measures that would lead to the completion and speedy adoption of the Code.

23. In connexion with the Secretary-General's report on the establishment of an international labour compensatory facility (A/36/483), a number of representatives had referred to the extremely negative effects of the so-called "brain drain" from the developing to the capitalist industrialized countries. His delegation firmly supported the demand for measures to remedy that depletion of the intellectual resources of the developing countries; indeed, at the eleventh special session of the General Assembly in September 1980, his country's Minister of Foreign Affairs

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had suggested that the United Nations should devote greater attention to that harmful neo-colonialist practice. The outflow of highly qualified personnel from developing to industrialized countries seriously impaired their efforts to mobilize their own resources and to achieve economic independence.

24. The alarming proportions of the brain drain and its negative effects on the developing countries were obvious from a number of studies carried out by the United Nations, UNCTAD, WHO, ILO, UNESCO and other international organizations and bodies. Since the beginning of the 1960s the transnational corporations, in particular, had been systematically enticing away highly qualified scientists and experts from developing countries. According to estimates made by UNCTAD in 1979, between 1961 and 1976 nearly 61,000 physicians, more than 100,000 engineers and scientists, and 123,000 technicians had left the developing countries for the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom, and another 100,000 experts had gone to other Western European capitalist countries. Between 1961 and 1972, the losses accruing to the developing countries from such practices had been \$60 billion, whereas the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom had gained \$46 billion from the brain drain. That indirect transfer of profits had exceeded the official development assistance of those three countries to the developing countries in the same period.

25. The fact that, since 1977, the capitalist industrialized countries which profited from the brain drain had published hardly any data on it indicated that its magnitude was such that it had to be concealed from the public eye. It was time for the United Nations to examine the phenomenon thoroughly in connexion with the establishment of a new international economic order and to adopt measures to counter the negative effects of the brain drain and ultimately to halt it. Earlier resolutions of the General Assembly and of UNCTAD on the development aspects of the reverse transfer of technology should be implemented more speedily. The study to be prepared by the Secretary-General, which could be based on former analyses and particularly on the report on the reverse transfer of technology submitted at the thirty-fourth session (A/34/593) should cover possible international, regional and national action to regulate and contain the brain drain, and the developing countries' right to compensation from those capitalist industrialized countries which profited from it.

26. The report before the Committee (A/36/483) was part of such a complex analysis. Paragraphs 22 and 23, and 25-28, and the guidelines contained in paragraphs 32-40, contained interesting proposals that should be elaborated and translated into practical measures. The brain drain phenomenon, it should be remembered, was connected, directly or indirectly, with the transfer of profits by capitalist industrialized countries from the developing countries. The fact that the brain drain reflected the inferior position of the developing countries in the world division of labour had not so far been taken sufficiently into account in United Nations studies. The necessary progress towards the democratic restructuring of international economic relations depended on effective steps being taken against it. That would include effective co-ordination within the United Nations system. Paragraph 6 of the Secretary-General's report, however, stated that the Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions, in assessing the implementation

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of General Assembly resolution 34/200 on the reverse transfer of technology, had concluded that there was no need for further measures to co-ordinate the treatment of the question within the United Nations system. His delegation did not agree. Because of the problem's interdisciplinary aspects and its fundamental importance for the establishment of a new international economic order, such co-ordination should be intensified. The Secretary-General should submit proposals for action-oriented measures to the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly.

27. His delegation commended the progress made at the third session of the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development. It endorsed the proposals for measures in the eight project areas in which the Vienna Programme of Action was primarily to be translated into action. Unfortunately, two years after the Vienna Conference, there was still no agreed provision regarding some of the fundamental aspects of the Programme of Action. Those aspects were already the target of the obstructionist policies of certain capitalist industrialized countries in other bodies, namely, the question of disarmament and development, regulation of and control over the activities of transnational corporations, and the transfer of technology. It was time for those States to agree to a substantive discussion of those questions and for a settlement to be reached. With regard to the financing of activities to implement the Vienna Programme of Action, he emphasized that arrangements for a system of financing science and technology for development must be based strictly on the principle of voluntary contributions.

28. His Government considered the results of the Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy to be generally favourable. Any bilateral and multilateral co-operation in seeking solutions to global energy problems must be governed by the relevant stipulations of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States. The exercise of sovereignty by any State over its natural resources meant that that sovereignty must not be violated by force or threat of force. Assistance to developing countries for exploring, developing and planning alternative sources of energy could not take the form of private capital investment or new operations by transnational corporations. With regard to the organizational follow-up measures, he advocated the efficient utilization of the capacity of the Committee on Natural Resources and the United Nations Department for Technical Co-operation for Development. New activities should be financed, within the framework of the United Nations system, through the existing funds of United Nations bodies and organizations, including the relevant voluntary assistance programmes of the United Nations system. Moreover, transnational corporations and capitalist private firms which drew maximum profits from the exploitation of natural resources of developing countries should be obliged to contribute additional funds. Measures to that end should be discussed in the comprehensive study by the Secretary-General on the transfer of profits from developing countries to capitalist industrialized countries proposed by the delegation of the USSR.

29. The United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries had been an important step in the process of democratically restructuring international economic relations. The Substantial New Programme of Action provided a good foundation for action to overcome the disadvantageous situation of the least

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German Democratic Republic)

developed countries in the capitalist world economy, for which the former colonial Powers and the capitalist industrialized countries were chiefly to blame. His delegation supported the demand that the capitalist industrialized countries should significantly increase their assistance to the least developed countries. His country would actively participate in the implementation of all measures aimed at promoting the least developing countries' independence and enhancing their economic development and social progress. It would continue to shape its co-operation and solidarity with those countries according to principles which were in line with the socialist order of the German Democratic Republic and met the legitimate interests of the parties concerned.

30. He welcomed the fact that the emphasis of the Substantial New Programme of Action was on national activities and the sovereign decision of each least developed country as to which measures were to be taken in co-operation with which partner countries and international organizations, and as to the financing of those activities and measures. That new form of follow-up activity could be an important contribution toward promoting the least developed countries' development policies. Some of the least developed countries had expressed their concern with regard to the suspension, on political grounds, of assistance to them by some Western donor countries and international financial institutions, and had called upon those countries and institutions to reconsider their position. A credible commitment to the Substantial New Programme of Action meant being guided by the objective economic needs of the least developed countries, which excluded an approach based on political objectives. In that connexion, he pointed out that the United States of America, backed by some Western States, had recently blocked a \$5 million rice irrigation project for Viet Nam proposed by the World Food Programme. It was doubtful whether those who tried to misuse food and its production as a political weapon and attempted to discipline progressive States by a policy of hunger were seriously prepared to comply with the demands of the Substantial New Programme of Action.

31. His Government took the view that, with regard to follow-up activities of the Paris Conference, the potential, capacities and funds of existing competent agencies and bodies within the United Nations system should be used to the full. UNCTAD should continue its co-ordinating function within its field of competence and the regional economic commissions could also play an important role in that respect.

32. The results of three and a half decades of planned socialist economic management in his country furnished clear proof of the advantages inherent in socialism and of its historical superiority. With its highly developed socialist industry and agriculture, the German Democratic Republic continued to be willing to make available to other countries the experience accumulated in development analysis and planning. It was also interested in improving its own knowledge of other countries' pertinent experience and achievements and believed that an exchange of ideas and experience within the framework of the United Nations would be of interest to many countries and could stimulate effective international economic co-operation. It therefore supported the proposals submitted by various delegations to continue and intensify United Nations work on a unified approach to development analysis and planning and on long-term trends in economic development.

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33. Mr. SANGARE (Mali) said that although the 1974 World Food Conference had adopted a Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition, the food situation of millions of people in developing countries remained extremely precarious. The world economic crisis was undermining the efforts of the developing countries to achieve food self-sufficiency. His Government believed that the achievement of food self-sufficiency required a global approach to rural development and the implementation of an endogenous development strategy. The rural sector would receive 30 per cent of the total volume of investment envisaged under the new five-year economic and social development plan, the objectives of which were to meet the population's food needs, provide raw materials for industry, develop exports and improve the technical, economic and social status of the population. The planned activities would be implemented by the people themselves.

34. For his country's development programme, international co-operation was important and necessary. His delegation was grateful to FAO for its constant and urgent appeals for the establishment of an emergency food reserve and for its medium- and long-term programmes. His delegation welcomed the recommendations made by the World Food Council at its seventh session and hoped that they would be implemented promptly. It also welcomed the recent decision of the International Monetary Fund to establish a food financing facility. His Government hoped that the Common Fund for Commodities would become operational in the near future.

35. Given the fact that the world food situation had been deteriorating for several years, the international community must resolve to take the necessary measures to strengthen world food security. The minimum target of 10 million tons set by the 1980 Food Aid Convention, and the minimum target of 500,000 tons of grains for the International Emergency Food Reserve should be reached as soon as possible.

36. The energy crisis was causing world-wide distress, yet sources of energy were not lacking. Science and technology had made it possible to expand and even to renew them. In addition to prospecting for and exploiting traditional sources of energy, his country had begun a major programme to develop new and renewable sources such as solar, wind and biomass energy. It believed that the determination manifested at the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy that just and equitable solutions to the energy crisis must be found should have culminated in a commitment to pursue those solutions by, inter alia, establishing a world body with the necessary financial resources. The establishment of a special "window" of the World Bank would have served that purpose.

37. The novel feature of the Conference on Least Developed Countries was that concrete solutions to the problems of the least developed countries had been sought and ten-year programmes formulated by those countries themselves. In its programme, Mali had given priority to rural development and transport and communications infrastructures, which were the essential foundations for a viable economy. His delegation hoped that the follow-up machinery established by the Conference would ensure that commitments made within the framework of the Substantial New Programme of Action were fulfilled.

38. Mr. OLZVOY (Mongolia), referring to the report of the Trade and Development Board (A/36/15), said that UNCTAD was the most nearly universal organization within the United Nations system. Its function was to develop all forms of trade between

(Mr. Olzvoy, Mongolia)

countries with differing socio-economic systems and levels of development, and its activities were designed to promote the implementation of the General Assembly's resolutions on a democratic restructuring of international economic relations, including those concerning the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States and the Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order.

39. His delegation welcomed resolution 231 (XXII) of the Trade and Development Board on the rationalization of the permanent machinery of UNCTAD. The rationalization process should be directed towards strengthening UNCTAD's role on the basis of the principle of universality and enhancing the effectiveness of its activities through the rational use of existing potential and resources and strengthening the Main Committees which, in turn, would obviate the need to convene so many ad hoc groups of experts.

40. His delegation also welcomed resolution 226 (XXII), which recommended the establishment of a sessional committee to facilitate the regular discussion of problems of protectionism and discrimination. It was concerned, however, about the undue delay in the preparation of the Code of Conduct on the Transfer of Technology. During the discussion on the venue for the sixth session of UNCTAD, delegations had witnessed a display of neo-colonialist attitudes, blackmail and stonewalling on the part of the United States. It was the sovereign right of any Member State to serve as host for a United Nations conference.

41. His delegation supported the two resolutions adopted by the Trade and Development Board on assistance to national liberation movements. It was pleased to note that the Trade and Development Board was to consider the contribution UNCTAD might make to the implementation of the decisions of the forthcoming special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament. Given the fact that the expansion of international trade and economic relations depended to a great extent on achievements in the field of disarmament, that action was especially timely.

42. Mongolia attached great importance to the development of science and technology and to the application of scientific and technological advances to socio-economic development. While his Government paid special attention to national efforts in that sphere, it also advocated the development of equitable and mutually profitable co-operation between countries in science and technology. Co-operation with and assistance from the USSR and other socialist States played a major role in enhancing his country's scientific and technological potential. His delegation considered it important to develop, on the basis of the Vienna Programme of Action, mutually profitable co-operation among countries with differing socio-economic systems in the fields of science and technology, and it regretted that no agreement had been reached on the establishment of a financing system for science and technology for development. In principle, his delegation had no objection to the establishment of such a system and hoped that a solution satisfactory to all would be found.

43. His country, having achieved accelerated socio-economic progress without experiencing the ill effects of capitalism, supported the efforts of newly-independent States to eliminate the burdensome legacy of colonialism and accelerate their economic and social progress. It fully endorsed the holding within a United Nations framework of global negotiations on raw materials, energy, trade,

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development and monetary problems. Such negotiations would represent real progress in the restructuring of international economic relations on a just and democratic basis. At the national level, only radical socio-economic change, the exercise of sovereignty over a country's own natural resources and economic activities, and the mobilization of internal resources would make it possible to achieve the goals of the International Development Strategy for the 1980s.

44. During the 30-year history of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, the national incomes of its member countries had risen more than nine-fold, at a rate 2.4 times as fast that which had prevailed in the developed capitalist countries in the same period. Industrial output in the CMEA countries had increased by a factor of 15, three times the rate of the corresponding indicator in the capitalist countries. His country enjoyed mutually profitable co-operation with other members of CMEA under the new type of international relations being established among socialist States.

45. Mr. KANTE (Guinea) said that the importance of the role that science and technology played in the development process was illustrated by the high priority that developing countries gave to science and technology. The international community recognized that the gap between developed and developing countries was largely due to the difference in their levels of scientific and technical knowledge and had recommended, in the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, an increase in the scientific and technical capabilities of developing countries. The Vienna Programme of Action was directed towards the achievement of that objective. The developing countries themselves lacked the human, institutional and financial resources to tackle the tasks alone. Unfortunately, it was clear that the help they needed would not be forthcoming from the Interim Fund for Science and Technology for Development, to which only \$40 million had been pledged towards the target of \$250 million. At the same time, it was reliably reported that 500,000 scientists throughout the world were engaged in military research and that world military expenditure in 1981 was over \$US 250 billion.

46. In view of those facts and of the increasing number of projects being submitted to the management of the Interim Fund, his delegation supported the proposals contained in paragraph 77 of document A/36/37 (Part II) and proposals to encourage technical co-operation among developing countries in conformity with the Buenos Aires Plan of Action.

47. Although the developing countries themselves were primarily responsible for ensuring the success and financing of technical co-operation for development, developed countries should contribute to that endeavour in conformity with recommendations 35 and 36 of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action. In fact, many developed countries had begun to implement those recommendations. Moreover, the objectives of the Lagos Plan of Action, with regard to technical co-operation between African and other developing countries, deserved the support of the international community. The regional economic commissions were already willing to support initiatives of that kind, as document A/36/577, section IV, paragraph 26, indicated.

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(Mr. Kante, Guinea)

48. The fact that the Conference on the Least Developed Countries had taken place at all was a hopeful sign because it testified to the goodwill of the developed countries. Although, in relation to the needs of the least developed countries, the Substantial New Programme of Action was modest, the efforts, made at the Conference, were commendable if looked at from the viewpoint of the future objective. In any case, his delegation welcomed the commitment undertaken by the developed countries and international organizations at the Paris Conference. His delegation remained convinced that a global approach had to be adopted in order to solve the economic problems of the least developed countries. The follow-up arrangements envisaged by the Conference led his delegation to hope that the promises made would be kept.

49. Mrs. MARTINEZ (Mexico) said that world trade no longer served as the promoter of development. Nevertheless, UNCTAD's work had enabled limited progress to be made towards instituting the new international economic order. With respect to the Integrated Programme for Commodities, she said that both producers and consumers, especially those that were most influential in world commodity trade, should participate in the multilateral agreements resulting from the programme in order to give them validity and wider application. The agreement establishing the Common Fund should be ratified as early as possible; Mexico had already taken the necessary steps.

50. Trade should be viewed as a decisive factor in the level and direction of development of developing countries; indiscriminate liberalization was neither conceivable nor acceptable because it undoubtedly favoured the most powerful. Other matters on which the Trade and Development Board should concentrate in the period preceding the sixth session of UNCTAD were adequate preparation of substantive items and the rationalization of UNCTAD's permanent machinery.

51. A new approach which provided for the democratization of world economic forums, including the Economic and Social Council, was required in the process of restructuring the economic and social sectors of the United Nations. Structural problems demanded substantive solutions and, given the low level of income of so many countries, long-term approaches were required to solve the pressing economic problems. The United Nations had to be strengthened if it was to be able to tackle the fundamental issues associated with the establishment of the new international economic order.

52. In the International Development Strategy, the international community had recognized that access to and mastery of science and technology were indispensable for the economic and social progress of developing countries. Since the Vienna Conference in 1979, efforts had been made to establish a financing system which would make the Vienna Programme of Action operational. Recently, a group of countries, headed by Tunisia, had been trying to attain that objective through a series of goodwill missions and consultations with both developing and developed countries. The result of the first phase of that process was the Caracas Declaration of October 1981 in which 20 developing countries had reaffirmed their commitment to establishing a United Nations financing system with initial funding of \$1 billion within the coming three to five years. That system would require considerable resources and a small, flexible and efficient administrative unit

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(Mrs. Martinez, Mexico)

staffed by reference to equitable geographical distribution and with provision for the active participation of the contributing countries. The form that the financial system would take was to be finalized during the current session; duplication would be avoided and advantage would be taken of existing resources of machinery.

53. Economic and technical co-operation among developing countries should be seen as complementing, not replacing, international co-operation. At Caracas, the Group of 77 had identified a specific programme which updated the results of the Mexico Conference; a series of specific actions had been identified and were being implemented. In the same spirit, Mexico had initiated its participation in the Caribbean Development Fund and, with Venezuela, had established a programme of energy co-operation for Central America and the Caribbean which had just been extended for another year. Her delegation urged other members of the international community and the agencies of the United Nations system to continue supporting the developing countries' efforts to strengthen their collective self-reliance.

54. At the Paris Conference a Substantial New Programme of Action had been adopted which provided for an increase in assistance to the least developed countries. Although the Programme was constructive in intent, it was an inadequate response to the critical needs of the least developed countries, which called for a net transfer of enough resources to enable them to institute the structural changes required to overcome under-development and dependency. While a target for official development assistance had been agreed upon, efforts should be made to exceed it, especially by those developed countries with large surplus resources. Mexico, for its part, would continue to co-operate with the least developed countries within the framework of economic co-operation among developing countries.

55. The Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy had achieved a measure of success in that it had established certain parameters which constituted a conceptual framework for further work on the subject. Mexico had taken an active part in the regional preparations for the Conference. It was gratified by the Nairobi Programme of Action, which recognized the challenge posed to the international community by the energy transition and affirmed that the transition should be orderly, comprehensive and just, since it affected the interests of all mankind. The Programme also reaffirmed the principle of full and permanent sovereignty over natural resources.

56. Despite the spirit of compromise and co-operation which had prevailed at Nairobi, it had not been possible to solve all the problems; questions such as institutional arrangements and quantitative targets had had to be deferred. The need for machinery to follow up and co-ordinate the implementation of the Programme of Action had been recognized. As far as financing was concerned, while no targets or figures had been laid down, it had been agreed that the implementation of the Programme would require the mobilization of additional and adequate resources. It had also been accepted that resources were required from developed countries as well as financial institutions and other international organizations; in that connexion, financial institutions had been urged to consider specific action such as the establishment of an energy affiliate of the World Bank. The final decision on institutional arrangements was to be made at the thirty-eighth session of the General Assembly.

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(Mrs. Martinez, Mexico)

57. The task of the Committee at the current session was to contribute to facilitating the implementation of the Programme of Action by deciding to convene the interim intergovernmental committee. It would also have to take action on the Secretary-General's proposal for the establishment of a specific secretarial support unit for new and renewable sources of energy and reiterate the request made to the World Bank and UNDP to make a study on the financial requirements of the developing countries with respect to new and renewable sources of energy for the 1980s in accordance with the Programme of Action.

58. Mr. BRILLIANTES (Philippines) said that it would be a long time before it could be determined whether the Cancùn meeting of Heads of State and Government from the North and the South had been a meaningful step forward in international economic co-operation. The Cancùn Summit had, however, evoked a new atmosphere of constructive dialogue.

59. He commended the Administrator of the Interim Fund for Science and Technology for Development and his staff on the innovative measures they had taken; his delegation had been impressed with the utilization of national expertise and the implementation of approved projects by the national Governments themselves. The role of science and technology in the process of economic growth was beyond doubt but it was a complex one; factors such as absorptive capacity conditioned the development and application of technology. At the current session, a decision would have to be taken on the long-term financing arrangements for science and technology for development. Because of uncertainties, severe budgetary cutbacks and difficulties in identifying sources of financing and means of raising the funds, it might be necessary to give the Committee more time to adopt practical and realistic targets, and the interim arrangement might have to be continued for some time.

60. The report of the High-Level Committee on the Review of TCDC had reaffirmed the key principle that TCDC had to be initiated, organized and directed primarily by the developing countries themselves. His delegation welcomed the decision of the UNDP Governing Council to set aside and use \$1 million for the biennium 1982-1983 for promotional activities for TCDC. His Government hoped to participate actively in the first orientation seminar on TCDC early in 1982 in the Asian and Pacific region. He pointed out that the Philippines itself had a programme of technical assistance for least developed countries.

61. The Secretary-General's report on disarmament and development (A/36/356) had brought out such facts as that some \$US 26 billion were spent annually in the international traffic in arms, that around 500,000 scientists and engineers were engaged in military research and development, and that some \$500 billion were spent annually to increase the effectiveness of weapons of death and destruction. In contrast, during 1979, the Year of the Child, 17 million had died of hunger alone. If a mere 5 per cent of the financial resources devoted to the arms race were rechannelled to fight hunger and disease, the world would be a much better place. It was in the minds of the world leaders and military men that the seeds of aggression and destruction were sown. He therefore looked forward to the results of the forthcoming special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament.

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(Mr. Brilliantes, Philippines)

62. His delegation welcomed the adoption of the Nairobi Programme of Action and hoped that it would fit into the framework of a world energy plan in order to secure an orderly transition from the era of hydrocarbons to that of diversified energy sources. The strengthening of mechanisms and institutional arrangements envisaged in the Programme would undoubtedly require substantial resources, both public and private, as well as consultations between donor/investor and recipient countries. His Government would be interested in participating in such consultations.

63. His delegation supported the proposal to establish an energy affiliate within the World Bank and other measures to increase its resources and those of the regional banks for purposes of energy development, and it looked forward to the joint study of the World Bank and UNDP on supporting actions and pre-investment requirements for new and renewable sources of energy. The Programme of Action also encouraged regional co-operation, and the Committee would be interested to learn that Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand had entered into an agreement to share oil supplies during shortages and to co-operate with one another in energy technology including new and renewable sources of energy.

64. Turning to the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, he said that the rich North would do well to bear in mind the words of the President of France, who had stated that development solidarity with the third world was both the key to the common future of mankind and a necessity. The Conference had been both a manifestation of the political will of all members of UNCTAD to wage a common fight against poverty and a demonstration of solidarity by all members of the Group of 77. The General Assembly should, at the very least, adopt a procedural resolution expressing appreciation to France, taking note of the report of the Conference, appealing to all parties concerned to take the necessary measures for the speedy implementation of the decisions of the Conference, especially the Substantial New Programme of Action, and urging UNCTAD to continue its role in the implementation of the programme for the least developed countries.

65. Although the importance of structural adjustments for the containment of protectionism had been reaffirmed at the fifth session of UNCTAD and although the Trade and Development Board had been entrusted at that time with the task of reviewing annually the patterns of production and trade in the world economy, it had not been until the twenty-second session of the Board that agreement had been reached on the matter. In future, a sessional committee would conduct a comprehensive review of the question annually. He hoped that the report to be prepared by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD would include a quantification of the adverse effects of protectionism on the economies of the developing countries.

66. Turning to the Multifibre Arrangement, he said that it was intended, among other things, to ensure orderly and equitable trade in textiles and clothing—which was a dynamic element in the development efforts of developing countries—and to further the development of developing countries and secure substantial increases in their export earnings. However, trade in that sector continued to be dominated by the developed countries. In 1979 textile imports by developed countries from other developed countries had represented 54 per cent of total world imports (compared with 60 per cent in 1973), as against 24 per cent from developing countries

(Mr. Brilliantes, Philippines)

(compared with 20 per cent in 1973). The Multifibre Arrangement was, of course, within the competence of the Contracting Parties to GATT and, although discussion by the Committee of the many complex issues involved in changing or extending the Arrangement would serve no purpose, given the close working relationship between GATT and the United Nations system, particularly UNCTAD, it might be useful for the Committee to consider adopting a brief, largely procedural resolution. In the resolution, the General Assembly might take note of the importance of the textile and clothing trade for the developing countries, endorse the principal aim of the Multifibre Arrangement—namely, furtherance of the development of the developing countries and securing substantial increases in their export earnings—and urge that an agreement should be concluded and take effect on the expiry of the existing Arrangement. The Secretary-General of UNCTAD might also be requested to continue assisting the developing countries participating in the negotiations, in pursuance of decision 229 (XXII) of the Trade and Development Board.

67. It was regrettable that as yet only 71 of the required 90 States had signed the Agreement establishing the Common Fund for Commodities and only 13 had ratified it, although less than five months remained before the 31 March 1982 deadline for ratification. Thus, unless countries made a concerted effort to sign and ratify the Agreement, States might have to accept the fact that the Agreement might not enter into force. The Committee should therefore urge member States to sign and ratify the Agreement before 31 March 1982 and to expedite the conclusion of individual commodity agreements for association with the Common Fund and should appeal for intensification of work in UNCTAD on the developmental aspects of the Integrated Programme for Commodities. His delegation looked forward to the forthcoming UNCTAD study on compensatory financing to supplement the existing facility in the International Monetary Fund.

68. It had been decided that the Trade and Development Board should meet at ministerial level between conferences. Since the sixth session of UNCTAD was scheduled for 1983, he suggested that it might be opportune for the Board to meet at the ministerial level early in 1982. The role of UNCTAD as a result of the launching of the global negotiations could be among the items discussed at such a meeting. There were plans for a GATT ministerial meeting in late 1982. Pressing issues such as the question of safeguards, conciliation procedures and settlement of disputes should be on the agenda together with an assessment of the Tokyo Round, which had concluded in 1979. While GATT ministerial meetings were usually held in Geneva, it might be useful to organize the proposed 1982 meeting in a developing country.

69. Finally, he wondered what the Committee intended to do concerning the world food situation, which was a most important item for the global negotiations. It was not enough for the General Assembly to endorse the plan of FAO. One possible approach might be the adoption of a global strategy on food security to be achieved, say, by the year 2000.

70. Mr. FALKNER (United States of America) said that his Government remained fully committed to helping developing countries to overcome obstacles to growth. Its position on international co-operation for development took into account the United States' own ability to help, the assistance offered by others and the dedication

(Mr. Falkner, United States)

to appropriate domestic policies of the developing countries. The last factor was of primary importance for while external assistance and the experience gained by others could have a bearing on development, it was only part of the development equation. His delegation would like to see more attention devoted in United Nations reports and resolutions to the domestic development environment itself.

71. His delegation was pleased that the resolutions adopted by the Trade and Development Board at its twenty-second session had all been consensus resolutions. However, it had been dismayed to see that, at the twenty-third session, a majority of countries had decided to force through resolutions, by vote, over the opposition of a minority, a development that could only damage the credibility of the measures concerned and of the Board itself. His delegation took note of the new UNCTAD report "Trade and Development Report, 1981". While such an annual report could be useful, his delegation hoped that the quality of the analysis would be improved in the next report.

72. Although the last few years had sometimes been discouraging as far as international economic co-operation was concerned, there had been a few bright spots—one of them being the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy. The United States had been pleased to join in the consensus achieved at that Conference and it would support selected elements of the Nairobi Programme of Action, including intensified energy training programmes for technicians from developing countries and efforts to help developing countries to assess and more efficiently utilize their resources. While the explanations and reservations his delegation had voiced at the Conference still applied, it continued to view the Conference as a success and looked forward to studying the report and recommendations of the Secretary-General.

73. Recognizing the special problems faced by the least developed countries, his Government had significantly increased its assistance to such countries in recent years and had taken action to increase its ability to respond to their specific problems. His country's generalized schedule of preferences had been amended to improve developing-country export prospects. His Government supported the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s adopted at the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and considered that it represented a reasonable balance between the primary responsibility of the least developed countries for their development and the responsibility of the international community to aid that process. It had particularly welcomed the recognition, in that Programme, of the important role of agriculture, population, and energy policy, and it looked forward to a continuing dialogue, especially in those critical areas. Its interpretative statement on the Substantial New Programme of Action should not be seen as a sign of indifference to the least developed countries but as a statement on those specific aspects of the international support measures section on which his delegation had felt it important to make its position clear.

74. His Government had long recognized that improvement of endogenous science and technology capacities could lead to faster development. United States bilateral assistance programmes provided very significant resources for programmes in those areas. That emphasis would be continued and an effort was being made to find ways of co-ordinating those efforts with multilateral programmes.

(Mr. Falkner, United States)

75. His delegation had followed carefully the progress of the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development and had watched with interest the efforts of the Centre for Science and Technology for Development and of the Interim Fund. The Intergovernmental Committee and the Centre were still young bodies and could reasonably be expected to improve with time. However, much work remained to be done to translate the recommendations of the Vienna Conference into practical policies and programmes. Accordingly, his delegation felt that they should not be burdened with additional functions. That was one reason why it would prefer to see unresolved issues left over from the Vienna Conference discussed in other forums. His delegation had been impressed with the efficient operations of the Interim Fund in the previous 18 months and with the worth-while projects which had been approved. Continuation of the Interim Fund mechanism into 1982 would be the best choice for the time being, because further careful thought and preparation by all was still required concerning the long-term arrangements of the financing system. The report of the intergovernmental group of experts on the subject (A/CN.11/21) had dealt at considerable length with one approach: other approaches were possible and perhaps a consensus could be found. However, that would require further consultations among Governments; such consultations should take place in 1982.

76. The CHAIRMAN announced that Angola, Cuba, Nicaragua and Qatar had become sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.12, that The Netherlands and Sweden had become sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.22, that the United Republic of Cameroon had added its name to the list of sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.23, that Bhutan had become a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.24 and that India had joined the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.25.

AGENDA ITEM 72: SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE (continued)
(A/36/3/Add.28, Add.31 and Add.32 (Part I and Corr.1-2 and Part II), A/36/38, 73 and Add.1, 183, 208 and Add.1, 259, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268 and Corr.1, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273 and Corr.1, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 281, 282, 599 and 636; E/1981/16 and Corr.1, 37 and Corr.1 and 86; A/C.2/36/L.4)

77. Mr. MASSAN (Niger) said that his delegation had taken note with keen interest of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the medium-term and long-term recovery and rehabilitation programme in the Sudano-Sahelian region (A/36/208 and Add.1). It had noted with satisfaction the seriousness with which the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO) had approached its task and the scope of its activities and it warmly appreciated the efforts made by UNSO to alleviate the impact of any future drought on the Sudano-Sahelian region and to help the region to achieve food self-sufficiency. It also welcomed the continuing co-operation between the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel and UNSO.

78. UNSO's operations were very extensive and varied, which meant that it needed large financial resources in the form of voluntary contributions. He thanked all the countries which were contributing to UNSO's work directly and indirectly; it was encouraging that a number of countries had announced contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for Sudano-Sahelian Activities at the recent Pledging Conference. He appealed to the international community, donor countries and aid organizations to provide UNSO with the financial resources essential for its battle

(Mr. Massan, Niger)

against desertification and wished to state how much his Government appreciated its work in his country. In 1981 UNSO had contributed over \$4 million out of the total cost of \$6,279,000 of a feeder road construction and maintenance programme. In 1979 a project for the local manufacture of tools and agricultural equipment had been financed by UNSO to the sum of \$1,090,000.

79. In his country's battle against desertification, 1980 had seen intense planning and programming activities in which the Government had reviewed several projects for the Bosso and Maouri Dallols aimed at exploiting a local tree, the Gao, in soil rehabilitation and conservation work. Field missions had been appointed to examine ways of mobilizing existing resources to create green belts around the main urban centres and to carry out anti-erosion work in the Maggia valley. Finally, UNSO had contributed \$42,000 to the project for a green belt around Niamey. The Office had amply proved its effectiveness.

80. Mr. GIBSON (New Zealand) said that the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (UNDRO) had played an important part in mobilizing and co-ordinating international assistance to meet the increasing number of disasters seen in recent years. The time had come to examine whether the United Nations system was handling disaster situations as effectively as it should. That did not imply any criticism but simply that any organization should keep its functions under review to ensure it was making the best possible use of resources. During the year the Joint Inspection Unit report on UNDRO, the Davidson report and the ACC's conclusions had provided a solid basis for a review. Their common thread was the need for co-ordination to ensure that waste was avoided and that the various agencies acted in harmony with each other and with the needs and wishes of the countries affected.

81. The draft resolution on the subject referred by the Economic and Social Council to the General Assembly contained a number of sound and constructive elements. It made clear UNDRO's role as the focal point for disaster relief, and its provisions for establishing clearly designated co-ordinating mechanisms both in the field and in Geneva made good sense. A strengthening of the United Nations capacity to respond effectively and efficiently to disasters was in everybody's interest and he hoped that the Committee would be able to build on the work already done by the Council.

82. Mr. NANJIRA (Kenya) said that, given the breadth, complexity and urgency of disaster relief assistance, he wondered why the Secretary-General should introduce such stringent budget proposals in 1981. He realized that the issues he was raising would be the subject of serious discussions in the Fifth Committee, but they were so relevant to agenda item 72 that their serious implications for the nations of the Third World could not be ignored.

83. The many documents before the Committee reflected the problem of strengthening the capacity of the United Nations system to respond to disasters. Co-ordination was crucial if the key requirements of efficiency and speed were to be attained. But the Secretary-General's report in document A/C.5/35/40, with its emphasis on the unpalatable proposal for zero and near zero growth in the United Nations system

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(Mr. Nanjira, Kenya)

deserved closer examination. Likewise, in trying to identify obsolete, marginal and wasteful activities, the whole spectrum, and not just economic and social matters, should be examined. Moreover, there was a need for the Secretary-General to consult the developing countries before a report was submitted to the General Assembly for adoption, since there might otherwise be very serious difficulties in securing acceptance of his report. What was good for the South might be classified as obsolete simply as an excuse for promoting and permanently institutionalizing the unpalatable zero-growth concept of the North. No system could be made more effective if denied access to adequate and additional resources and if those with the best capacity to make resources available were preparing to cut United Nations programmes.

84. There was no growth in real terms in the Secretary-General's budget proposals for 1982-1983. His delegation could only appeal for the increased resources needed to enable the United Nations to fulfil its functions since, without them, the International Development Strategy for the 1980s, the Declaration and Programme of Action for the New International Economic Order, and many other decisions and recommendations made by important conferences on international development issues would not be implemented.

85. The Report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (A/36/38) advanced the same unacceptable concept of zero or near-zero growth. United Nations activities could not be axed on such unwise recommendations on the pretext of financial and other constraints. The United Nations organizations concerned should instead be requested to perform their functions on the basis of clearly identified priorities in their respective spheres of competence, and a mechanism of limited membership should be established under the chairmanship of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation. His delegation stressed the need for full consultations with Member States before any final decisions were advanced in "study" reports.

86. International co-operation in solving economic, social, cultural and humanitarian problems was not based on charity, and a country's concerns should not be ignored just because it was on the receiving side and poor. His country was as interested as any other in strengthening the United Nations system's capacity to deal with disasters and appreciated the assistance it had received from individual countries and from the United Nations. The Economic and Social Council had recognized the need for a review of the Organization's emergency operations and had asked the Secretary-General to prepare a summary report covering the previous decade as soon as possible. His delegation wished to reiterate that it was totally opposed to any move either to dismantle UNDR0 or to replace it. It whole-heartedly supported all recommendations for strengthening and improving UNDR0 but could not agree to its replacement by any institutionalized, bureaucratic committee system, at either the national or the international level.

87. The implied call for the creation of a standing committee in Geneva was a very dangerous one. Political considerations must not be allowed to invade an area of life and death for the victims of disasters, the effects of which were felt most seriously in developing countries. His delegation agreed with the idea of ad hoc consultations between the Secretary-General and the heads of United Nations

(Mr. Nanjira, Kenya)

organizations concerned with disaster relief questions, but they should not be subject to bureaucratic procedures which would impede a prompt response to disaster situations, and it was unacceptable that UNDRO should be reduced to a small unit with a very limited mandate, as the JIU report recommended.

88. UNDRO should be maintained and strengthened as an organization whose scope covered all types of disasters. The purpose of co-ordination arrangements at country level should be to provide assistance to Governments, with Resident Representatives continuing to play a role but without interfering in national affairs, as some had been known to do. A facility was necessary for co-ordinating the activities of voluntary agencies and organizations in disaster relief areas but it should assist the Secretary-General in his work and not endeavour to co-ordinate those activities itself in an imperial way. UNDRO's activities should be separate from and additional to those suggested by the JIU report, and the organization should be strengthened, with more experts and with greater financial resources allocated in the programme budget on an assured basis. His delegation did not support the creation of a new body, as urged by some major donor countries. It could not accept any supra-national arrangement for imposing decisions on Governments in emergency situations or any proposals to create permanent bodies at the international level in Geneva.

89. He wished to reiterate his country's call for prompt and full implementation of existing resolutions and for the adoption of a new resolution at the current session of the General Assembly on special economic, humanitarian and disaster relief assistance. His country's President had expressed grave concern at the recent meeting of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity about the growing problem of refugees in Africa, whose numbers were estimated at 7 million. More than half of their food aid requirements for 1980-1981 had still not been met and, according to FAO, the food and agricultural situation in Africa was exceptionally grave. In fact, 26 sub-Saharan countries with a total population of 150 million faced abnormal food shortages, his own country being one of those most seriously affected. His Government had imported large quantities of food-stuffs to help drought-stricken areas and had adopted food production policies whose implementation would require massive domestic and external resources. He had been instructed to request the world community to include his country in the list of those covered by General Assembly resolutions concerning assistance to drought-stricken areas of Africa. His Government believed that neighbouring countries could join in co-operative efforts in that very critical field, which his delegation would be happy to discuss with their representatives.

90. Mr. ADUGNA (Ethiopia) said that the Secretary-General's report had clearly demonstrated the effectiveness of the United Nations system in co-ordinating disaster relief operations. Despite its limited financial and material resources, UNDRO had increasingly rendered very satisfactory services to the international community and, in particular, to the disaster-prone developing countries.

91. His delegation was disappointed at the criticism of UNDRO contained in the JIU report, which had raised doubts about the impartiality of the report itself. His delegation rejected the recommendation of JIU to limit UNDRO's activities to natural disasters alone and the JIU proposal for the establishment of a central body to

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(Mr. Adugna, Ethiopia)

co-ordinate relief efforts in emergency situations. The proper course of action was to strengthen organizations such as UNDR0. The International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, recognizing the detrimental effects of disasters on the development of developing countries, had envisaged action by the international community to improve and strengthen arrangements to provide developing countries with adequate and timely assistance in matters of disaster relief, prevention and preparedness.

92. Of the 800 million human beings who were living in absolute poverty in the world, more than half a billion were suffering from chronic hunger and malnutrition. Africa remained the least developed part of the developing world, with 21 of the least developed countries out of a world-wide total of 31. Similarly, out of some 30 countries recognized as food-deficient by FAO and the World Food Council, more than three fourths were in Africa.

93. In Ethiopia, the effects of the prolonged drought and other natural calamities had left the country with a critical food problem which, if it was not resolved quickly, would lead to a situation similar to that which had occurred in the early 1970s and had claimed the lives of more than 200,000 people. There were already some 3.9 million people in Ethiopia who were seriously affected by both man-made and natural disasters; of those, 1.5 million had been identified as the most needy group, and immediate assistance comprising \$217 million and 244,000 tons of food over a period of two and a half years was necessary to meet the short-term relief and rehabilitation requirements of that group of the population.

94. Rapid desertification in vast areas of Africa had affected the efforts to meet the continent's food requirements. That situation had prompted his delegation to lend strong support to the recommendation of the General Assembly contained in its resolution 35/90 which, inter alia, had recommended that Governments of the drought-stricken countries of the East African region should consider the establishment of an intergovernmental body with the responsibility for co-ordinating and supporting the countries' efforts to combat the effects of drought and to deal with the problem of medium and long-term recovery. Ethiopia was ready to join such an intergovernmental body and appealed to all members to co-operate with a view to its early establishment, as envisaged in the resolution.

95. The reports of the two missions which had visited Ethiopia in 1980 had been endorsed by the Economic and Social Council and by the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session. The response of the international community to the Secretary-General's appeal to provide generous assistance to displaced persons had so far been inadequate, and such a poor response had caused his delegation deep disappointment.

96. Displaced persons were equally vulnerable to the kind of deprivation facing refugees and stood equally in need. Refugees, however, seemed to be better off as a result of the increased attention and growing assistance they were receiving. There were no mechanisms in the United Nations system to handle the problem of displaced persons except when responsibilities were assigned on an ad hoc basis to particular agencies. It was the hope of his delegation that the resolutions adopted by the Economic and Social Council and by the General Assembly on that subject would bring about action to end the untold sufferings of displaced persons and the drought-stricken in his country.

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97. Mr. RAMOS (Cape Verde) said that the Sahelian countries, including Cape Verde, had been obliged to make relatively large investments in their struggle against drought and desertification. Their experience was therefore unlike that of the industrialized and other countries which had been able to launch their economic development without regard to environmental problems. Those large-scale investments had been necessary in the Sahel in order to redress the situation caused by the negligence of the former colonial Powers which had allowed the desert to invade and erode what had once been fertile land. The efforts of the Sahelian countries would have been in vain without the assistance provided by the international community, through bilateral and multilateral channels. In that connexion, his delegation stressed the role of the Club of Friends of the Sahel, the constant support of the United Nations system including, in particular, UNDP, and the effective contribution of the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the Nordic countries.

98. He also wished to draw particular attention to the comments of the Administrator of UNDP regarding the need for the United Nations Sudaño-Sahelian Office (UNSO) to adopt a more systematic approach to the problems of drought and desertification instead of relying on individual projects. His delegation welcomed the inclusion of UNSO in the annual Pledging Conference for Development Activities and appealed to members to increase their contributions so that the Office could respond promptly and effectively to the request of the member Governments of the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control.

99. Cape Verde had suffered from severe endemic drought for 13 years but had been recognized as a Sahelian country only in 1975. Its economy was fragile, characterized by a lack of infrastructure, scarce natural resources, an irregular land surface, a small internal market and an inept inter-island transport and communication system. More than 40 per cent of the population lived below the poverty line; the illiteracy rate was still 50 per cent and, although there had been a decline in infant mortality, the current rate of 100 per thousand was unacceptable.

100. Cape Verde was striving to establish a sound technical and material foundation for its society, to foster social and cultural progress and to institute laws which would eliminate inequities and the exploitation of man by man. The strategy to achieve those goals had been laid down in the five-year plan as well as in the long-term objectives for the year 2000. Special emphasis was to be laid on agriculture through the exploration of underground water resources which could lead to the development of 10,000 hectares of irrigated soil, thus permitting an increase in fruit, vegetable and livestock production. The strategy also envisaged an increase in export-oriented industrial activity and in shipping, civil aviation, tourism, the construction industry and communications. In order to attain the proposed objectives, Cape Verde had to resort to the international community for assistance. The financing of the five-year plan would require \$253 million (at 1980 prices), an amount which was expected to come from the international community, mainly in the form of grants and concessional loans.

101. The joint mission of donor countries and representatives of FAO to Cape Verde had concluded that the problem of meeting the basic food needs of the population would remain acute in the short- and medium-term. The harvest for the previous three years had been lost because of lack of seasonal rain. The food deficit for 1981 would amount to 60,900 tons of grain, of which approximately 30,000 tons had

(Mr. Ramos, Cape Verde)

been promised by a number of donor countries. He thanked all those members of the international community which had contributed to the implementation of the programme of assistance but was nevertheless constrained to draw attention to table 10 of the Annex to the report of the Secretary-General, which listed a number of important infrastructural projects which had not yet been funded.

102. Miss NICHOLSON (Canada) said it was clear from the documents before the Committee that there had been a noticeable improvement at the national, agency and interagency level in pre-disaster planning and in the delivery of disaster relief. The number and severity of emergencies had, however, increased steadily over the years and had brought increased strain on many parts of the United Nations system. The definition and formulation of an improved system of relief co-ordination had therefore become urgent. Her delegation had been encouraged by the broad agreement expressed in the Economic and Social Council on the principles and key elements which should be incorporated into an improved system. It attached particular importance to improving the capacity of the United Nations to handle emergencies in a co-ordinated fashion; such an approach was particularly relevant to complex situations, such as Kampuchea or Uganda, which required special attention and action by United Nations bodies, interested non-governmental organizations and Governments.

103. The discussions in the Economic and Social Council had indicated that there was a broad similarity of views on a number of matters. The system must be speedy, effective and flexible in responding to emergencies; that objective could not be achieved by establishing complex new machinery or cumbersome bureaucratic procedures; UNDR0 must be at the heart of a well co-ordinated relief system because its work, particularly the collection and dissemination of information to Governments, United Nations agencies and voluntary agencies, was absolutely vital to a successful operation. Closer co-operation and improvements by Governments in their reporting to UNDR0 was also vital.

104. There was also a need for better co-ordination of relief activities at the field level with the full knowledge, co-operation and guidance of the host Government. Such co-ordination would be enhanced by the establishment, where appropriate, of a relief co-ordinating unit under the direction of the United Nations Resident Co-ordinator, comprising major interested agencies and voluntary organizations. The unit's function would be to maintain close contact with the host Government, which inevitably carried the main responsibility in a disaster situation; in the event of a disaster, the unit would be responsible for assessing, recommending and co-ordinating the United Nations assistance to be supplied. It would also assist the host country with pre-disaster planning and would co-ordinate the early warning systems of the United Nations. For complex or large-scale emergencies, there was a need for improved co-ordination at the Headquarters level which would parallel co-ordination at the field level. Her delegation favoured the use of a flexible mechanism, such as an ad hoc committee, which would be called into operation by the Secretary-General or his representative when a complex situation arose.

105. The last element required in an improved system of relief co-ordination turned on the human factor, which manifested itself in the interplay of personalities, the ability to work as members of a team, a clear definition of roles, consistency in

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(Miss Nicholson, Canada)

adhering to those roles and the flexibility to make adjustments; those were all crucial factors in making a system work. Her delegation was prepared to work closely with others in devising solutions that would help to speed up relief delivery through improved co-ordination within the United Nations system.

106. Mr. St. AIMEE (Saint Lucia) said that his delegation had just received document A/36/273 entitled "Assistance to Saint Lucia" and felt obliged to express its disappointment not only at the delay in submitting the report but with some of its contents as well.

107. Hurricane "Allen" had struck his country in August 1980 but it was not until September 1981 that a mission had been sent to Saint Lucia to assess its short- and long-term needs. Needless to say, the mission personnel did not see the grave state of affairs that had existed just after the hurricane. There were some ambiguities in the report. For example, although paragraph 13 of the report stated that, in the previous two years, the growth of real GDP had not kept up with the rate of population growth and per capita incomes had been falling, the estimated figure of \$884 for per capita GDP for 1981 represented an increase over the per capita (GDP) for 1979 listed in United Nations statistics for 1980 and the World Bank Economic Memorandum 1980 on St. Lucia. His Government, in any event, had consistently opposed excessive emphasis on per capita GDP as a measure of the economic standard of developing countries, and the problems associated with that indicator were compounded when it was over-estimated, putting the country into a category to which it did not belong and tending to distort its true recovery capacity in terms of the resources available within the State.

108. The true magnitude of the problem facing Saint Lucia could be seen from the fact that bananas and coconuts were the country's principal crops—agriculture being the major foreign exchange earner—and the time-span between rehabilitation and production for bananas was nine months and for coconuts three to five years. Peak production, however, was not reached for at least two years for bananas and seven to ten years for coconuts. That kind of information had been omitted from the report.

109. He disliked the prolonged emphasis in the report on the situation that had existed before the hurricane, combined with the cursory treatment of its economic effects. A number of the projects reported on had already been in operation before the hurricane, and there was no clear-cut reporting on immediate needs following the disaster. That was a major short-coming inasmuch as it gave the impression that Saint Lucia's problems could wait. He recognized that there was a general economic slump in the world and that, with Saint Lucia's economy so tightly bound up with that of the traditional metropolitan country and so dependent on foreign investment, it was bound to feel the effects of the recession. He had hoped, however, that the devastation of the State by the hurricane would have presented a very different proposition to the analysts; he had not expected so much attention to be given to pre-hurricane projects and had thought the report would report the conditions prevailing as a result of the hurricane. He regretted the way in which the report treated assistance for sectoral redevelopment of infrastructure, called for in resolution 35/101, which meant not just a continuation of projects but the re-establishment of lost infrastructure and the economic base. He added that his delegation would express its comments on the work of UNDRO at the appropriate time.

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(Mr. St. Aimée, Saint Lucia)

110. His delegation thanked all the agencies of the United Nations, especially UNDP, UNFPA, FAO, UNICEF and UNDRO, for the assistance they had provided to Saint Lucia. He also thanked the Member States which had responded so promptly to the appeals for help. His delegation would not submit a resolution on assistance at the current session but would prefer to monitor some of the plans outlined in the report with a view to reporting to the Committee at the thirty-seventh session on the state of affairs.

The meeting rose at 7.50 p.m.