



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 14th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. ter HORST (Venezuela)

later: Mr. RINGNALDA (Netherlands)

later: Mr. VERCELES (Philippines)

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

AGENDA ITEM 69: 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/36/141, 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, 573 and 590)

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1. Mr. ADOSSAMA (International Labour Organisation) said that the International Labour Conference, at its sixty-seventh session held at Geneva in June 1981, had adopted resolution (II) concerning the role of the ILO in the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, in which it had called upon member States, inter alia, to give special consideration to ILO conventions and recommendations related to key provisions of the new Strategy, especially those relating to social goals of development, income distribution and poverty, employment and vocational training; to ensure close co-ordination of their efforts when mobilizing new resources for development so as to make their technical co-operation and investment activities increasingly effective with a view to promoting balanced national growth, the development and use of natural resources and improvement of living and working conditions; to evaluate on a systematic basis and in close collaboration with employers' organizations the implementation of the ILO conventions concerning employment and the follow-up of the Declaration of Principles and Programme of Action adopted by the World Employment Conference with special reference to the basic needs approach; and to secure the active involvement of the different groups of society and especially employers' and workers' organizations in national measures and programmes for the implementation of the new Strategy, especially in implementing operational activities.

2. The Conference had urged the United Nations, its specialized agencies and other multilateral funding agencies to promote the application of ILO standards in their development assistance activities and had invited the Governing Body of the

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(Mr. Adossama, ILO)

International Labour Office to take all appropriate steps to involve the ILO to the fullest extent possible in the implementation of the new International Development Strategy and, to that end, to instruct the Director-General, inter alia to encourage and assist member States in their efforts to ratify and apply ILO conventions and to implement relevant recommendations to the fullest extent possible, in particular the ILO standards related to key provisions of the new Strategy; to continue to give high priority to the ILO's activities for the defence of human and trade union rights and the rights of employers' organizations; to intensify the ILO's efforts for the achievement of the objectives formulated by the World Employment Conference which constitute major elements in the framework of the goals and objectives of the new Strategy; to continue to ensure maximum attention and resources for the promotion of rural development policies aiming at improving the lot of the rural poor by giving them access to land, employment, training and basic services, and by raising their productivity so as to enable them to earn higher incomes while enhancing their contribution to national development; to place particular emphasis in that connexion on the further strengthening of programmes for the organization, training and education of rural workers; to further promote equality of opportunities and conditions of women so as to enable them to contribute fully to and benefit from the national development process; to achieve a reinforcement of the operational activities of the ILO for improving working conditions and environment within the framework of the International Programme for the Improvement of Working Conditions and Environment (PIACT); to stimulate the efforts undertaken within the framework of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination and particularly its subsidiary bodies concerned with questions involving operational activities, with a view to reinforcing co-operation between institutions of the United Nations family so that they might support each other in the implementation of the Strategy and especially its social aims, and to inform the Governing Body of the steps taken to that end; to examine the extent to which the notion of technical co-operation among developing countries could be reinforced in the operational activities of the ILO, and to study methods and means of encouraging that co-operation, including the use of the Turin Centre and the regional and interregional institutions and projects for employment, labour administration and advanced vocational training; to devote particular attention to improving the effectiveness of the operational activities of the ILO, among other things by decentralizing the technical co-operation backstopping services, co-ordinating procedures, and rationalizing information and evaluation procedures while seeking the collaboration of other organizations of the United Nations system; and to ensure that the ILO would assume its full role in the envisaged procedures for review and appraisal of the implementation of the new Strategy.

3. With regard to industrialization, the Conference had also adopted, at its sixty-seventh session, resolution (I) on the training and retraining of managers in both private and public undertakings as well as the encouragement of the spirit of entrepreneurship especially in developing countries. In that resolution the Conference had invited the Governing Body of the International Labour Office to urge Governments of member States to encourage the provision of training in management techniques for managers and entrepreneurs; to give special consideration and attention to the problems which managers of small- and medium-sized enterprises might have in obtaining access to further training, particularly in developing countries; to encourage inclusion of labour questions in such training, in

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particular labour relations, collective bargaining, positive relations with free, independent and autonomous trade unions, and to ensure that the training of managers was established as an integral part of a coherent national training policy with a view to promoting equal opportunities for all without discrimination in the field of training.

4. Mr. LIPATOV (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republics) said that he agreed with the statement, in section I of the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the organization, that "the past year has brought new crises and few encouragements" (A/36/1). The crisis in the capitalist-economy countries had been confirmed and the enormous military expenditures had led to higher inflation and unemployment which had become a chronic phenomenon in those countries. At a time when mankind required vast sums in order to combat hunger and illiteracy, some NATO countries had adopted decisions designed to increase their military expenditures. In order to tackle economic problems, however, there had to be peace and détente. In that connexion, at the twenty-sixth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union the programme of peace for the 1980s had been formulated, incorporating a series of measures for eliminating the danger of war and creating conditions conducive to development in all sectors, including the economic sector.

5. Implementation of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States and the establishment of the new international economic order had been held up by the obstinacy of some Western countries which wished to maintain their privileged economic positions and were trying to use economic relations as a weapon of blackmail and discrimination. The Ukrainian SSR was prepared to support proposals aimed at protecting the developing countries against the interference of the imperialist countries and domination by monopolies.

6. Industrialization was very important in enabling developing countries to achieve economic independence. In that connexion he endorsed the activities of UNIDO during the past year and thought that it should aim at assisting the developing countries in effectively mobilizing internal resources so as to promote industrial development, establish independent economies on a modern basis and strengthen the public sector. His country was assisting the third world countries in training specialists and was organizing courses for that purpose.

7. His delegation commended the activities of the United Nations Environment Programme designed to implement the System-Wide Medium Term Environment Programme which was cogent evidence of its capacity to carry out its co-ordinating function with regard to the environment. So far as natural resources were concerned, it was necessary to formulate useful proposals for accelerating co-operation in the United Nations for the utilization of natural resources. Those resources should be examined in order to determine their possibilities and permit their rational utilization. The mineral and energy resources of the developing countries in particular were vital for their industrialization. Sovereignty over natural resources was a question linked to that of economic and social development and those resources should be State property. In that connexion, it was deplorable that Israel continued to exploit the resources of the occupied Arab territories and South Africa to exploit the natural resources of Namibia. His delegation proposed that, at the next session of the Committee on Natural Resources, the agenda should include an item on the inalienable sovereignty of States over their natural resources.

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8. Mr. MI Guojun (China) said that the profound and extensive nature of the economic problems currently plaguing the world required a global approach, failing which a lasting and reasonable solution could not be attained. His delegation still strongly supported global negotiations, which constituted a new and important phase in the transformation of international economic relations. Nevertheless, at a time when concerted action was desperately needed, some disturbing trends had emerged on the international economic scene. Not only had a major developed country delayed efforts to reform international economic relations, but the entire system of international co-operation for development faced unprecedented challenges. In his delegation's view, the criticism of the trends described in paragraph 5 of the Ministerial Declaration of the Group of 77 was perfectly well founded. It should be pointed out that those trends, if they continued, would be detrimental to efforts to improve and develop North-South relations and would endanger international economic and political stability.

9. The collapse of the old international economic order and the establishment of a new one were historically inevitable. Only through adaptation to historical trends and co-operation and dialogue between the developing and the developed countries in an effort to achieve a gradual and orderly reform of international economic relations could the mutual interest of States be satisfied.

10. Among the important meetings on the world economy which had taken place in the past year, stress should be put on the High-Level Conference on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries, held in Caracas, whose success, importance and long-term influence on the future of international economic co-operation should be commended. The Government of China was prepared to expand its co-operation with the Group of 77 in all possible areas. The United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, held in Nairobi, had not met the world's expectations but had had some satisfactory results. What remained was to make institutional and financial arrangements in order to implement the Programme of Action adopted at Nairobi. The United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Paris in September 1981, had taken some positive measures to alleviate the serious economic difficulties of the least developed countries. The results of that Conference should be supported and all countries and multilateral organizations should be urged to take action to make an appropriate contribution to the substantial new Programme of Action for the 1980s.

11. The forthcoming Cancún meeting came at an opportune moment. He hoped that it would again demonstrate that the international community supported economic co-operation within the United Nations and that it would give political impetus to the preparatory work on the global negotiations. As a participant in that meeting, China was prepared to contribute to its success.

12. When the International Development Strategy had been adopted, his delegation had pointed out that it constituted an important means of mobilizing world opinion in behalf of development and international co-operation. In the process of implementing the new Strategy special attention should be focused on its aim of promoting the restructuring of the international economic system on a just and equitable basis.

(Mr. Mi Guojun, China)

13. The problem of hunger and malnutrition had for long been becoming increasingly serious in most regions of the world, particularly in Africa. The food problem was therefore an urgent task that must be tackled without further delay, and his delegation held that the establishment of a food security network would contribute to its solution. In that connexion, the International Fund for Agriculture Development had played a positive role in the developing countries and he hoped that it would be replenished so that it could continue to fulfil its positive role.

14. As for the problem of how to increase energy production and conserve energy, the international community, particularly the developed countries in which energy consumption was high, must assist the energy-importing developing countries in the exploration and exploitation of energy sources.

15. As for the question of stabilizing export earnings from primary products, the situation had been further complicated by the adverse development of world-wide inflation, which had caused great losses to developing countries that depended mainly on the export of raw materials and primary products. In that connexion the Integrated Programme for Commodities had still not been implemented in its entirety and his delegation hoped those countries which still had not signed or ratified the Agreement on the Common Fund would do so as soon as possible. The pledges for the second window of the Common Fund and the negotiations on individual commodities should also be accelerated.

16. As for the protectionism which still prevailed in international trade, its worst feature was that some of the restrictive business practices applied by certain developed countries were directed basically against the goods exported by the developing countries, as in the case of the discriminatory restrictions on their textile goods. His delegation supported the preparation of a plan to eliminate those restrictive measures step by step as well as a programme of action to define the structural readjustment of certain product sectors.

17. The shortage of development resources in the developing countries had grown considerably more acute, especially because of the gradual reduction of official development assistance in terms of real value, the increasingly unreliable sources of funding for the various programmes and funds within the United Nations system, and the diminished support for global and regional multilateral financial institutions. That trend would have a detrimental effect on the objectives of the Third Development Decade and would affect the implementation of the economic plans of the developing countries.

18. His delegation held that the international community should also consider the possibility of adopting special measures to help solve the difficulties which faced some developing countries with serious balance-of-payment deficits, because to leave the solution of the problem entirely to the international financial market would merely aggravate the debt situation of the countries concerned and contribute to the instability of the financial market.

19. The two years which had elapsed since the convening of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development had been disappointing because the proposed target for establishing an Interim Fund had not been met. His

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(Mr. Mi Guojun, China)

delegation held that it must be met and that an agreement must be reached on a system of long-term financing to be implemented by 1982. Nor should there be any further delay in the establishment of the Code of Conduct for Transnational Corporations and the International Code of Conduct on the Transfer of Technology.

20. As for the environment, his delegation held that its protection must be concurrent with economic development and be based on it. All countries must take that into account in defining their own self-related development strategies. Nevertheless, the international community, especially the developed countries, should provide the financial and technical assistance required in order to solve global and regional environmental problems. To that end, his delegation supported the United Nations decision to convene a special meeting to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the Stockholm Conference. That would help further mobilize world public opinion and strengthen environmental protection efforts.

21. As for population growth, his delegation held that the natural growth of mankind had reached the stage at which it was necessary to try to regulate population growth by using different policies based on the existing conditions of various countries and regions and that a correct population policy should be part and parcel of the development strategy provided for in the International Development Strategy.

22. As for the role of women in development, it should be pointed out that women made up half of the world and constituted an enormous force. In all societies of the world, women should be made active participants in, and equal beneficiaries of, development activities. To that effect, the United Nations and the various intergovernmental agencies should take the initiative and include that item in considering their programmes of activities and should make sure that more women could participate in those activities.

23. Mr. SALLU (Sierra Leone) said that the conclusions of various studies, commission reports and individual opinions agreed that the future held little prospect for the poor, hungry, diseased and illiterate masses of the world unless all members of the international community made a determined effort to overcome the challenges and make the sacrifices that would be required to improve the situation. His country endorsed the appeal made by the Group of 77 for co-operative efforts and for establishment of the necessary links between the various problems of economic co-operation and development, because the complexity of current economic problems and the diversity of solutions required for them demanded such an approach. It was therefore opposed to any approach to development co-operation which sought to perceive the North-South dialogue only in terms of strategic East-West competition or in terms of inflexible bilateralism.

24. It should be recalled in that connexion that as early as 1979, in the Arusha Declaration, the Group of 77 had underlined the need for increased dialogue and economic and technical co-operation among the developing countries, an idea which had also been emphasized in the Caracas Programme of Action and the Lagos Plan of Action.

25. His delegation was firmly convinced that the solution of the problems of development was primarily the concern of the developing countries. Nevertheless,

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(Mr. Sallu, Sierra Leone)

given the socio-political and historical backgrounds of most developing countries, it was to be hoped that the advanced and rich nations, particularly those in the West, would not use that as a pretext for neglecting their own responsibilities in that area. In that connexion, he noted with expectation the willingness of the European Economic Community to provide assistance to the developing countries.

26. In the Caracas Programme of Action, the members of the Group of 77 had clearly identified their needs in such crucial areas as food and agriculture, development financing, industrialization, trade, technical co-operation and science and technology. He hoped that the ideas expressed in the Programme of Action would be fully endorsed by the international community.

27. With regard to food problems, no one could deny that the greater part of humanity was suffering from hunger, and that FAO, the World Food Council and the International Fund for Agricultural Development therefore deserved unqualified material and moral support. However, some nations in a position to help were haggling over percentages in contributions or over the growth of the budgets of those vital institutions. Those nations called for "prudence" or "realism" in the use of the very modest financial resources allotted to the relevant agencies, even though those very nations wasted most needed resources without hesitation on destructive weapons.

28. In that connexion it had been pointed out that not too much should be expected from the Cancún meeting, since it would not be a forum for official negotiations on any of the pressing problems. Notwithstanding that caution, he hoped that the Cancún meeting would give an added impetus to the launching of global negotiations that were so vital in the search for a better international understanding.

29. Mr. Ringnalda (Netherlands) took the Chair.

30. Mr. NHAT (Viet Nam) said that development and economic co-operation were organically linked with peace and security, since they created favourable conditions for the strengthening of détente and peaceful co-existence. On the other hand, development and economic co-operation were threatened by war, the policies of military adventurism and the activities of the imperialists aimed at creating tension, an atmosphere of cold war and an intensification of the arms race.

31. The developing countries, which were suffering from the aftermath of hundreds of years of colonialist exploitation, now had to carry the burden imposed by the economic crisis of the capitalist world. The key to a solution of the current economic situation of the developing countries, which was deteriorating daily, could be found in many documents and resolutions of the non-aligned movement as well as the Group of 77, such as the Ministerial Declaration of the Group of 77 dated 28 September 1981. Among the causes of the current situation were the policy of protectionism and the unprecedented increase in interest rates brought about by some developed capitalist countries, whereby the developing countries were suffering a serious decrease in export earnings, deficits in balance of payments and ever-increasing debt. On many occasions the imperialists had carried out a policy of economic aggression and had used their influence to turn the economic aid of international organizations into a political weapon.

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(Mr. Nhat, Viet Nam)

32. One year had elapsed since the adoption of the International Development Strategy and six years since the adoption of the Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order and the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, but nobody was optimistic about the implementation of the basic principles in those documents. The lack of progress in the establishment of the new international economic order had been clearly stated in the Ministerial Declaration of the Group of 77, in which all countries had been strongly urged to act according to the principles of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States. In that regard, his delegation fully supported the comprehensive, in-depth review of the implementation of that Charter, as provided for in General Assembly resolution 35/57.

33. For many developing countries, food problems were most urgent. Their experience had shown that it was necessary to carry out rural reforms, including land reform, increase the cultural level of the people so as to enable them to apply technology in agriculture, develop irrigation networks and solve the seed and fertilizer problem. In that regard it was very important to have the assistance of the international community, set-up a world food security network and increase food aid to food-deficit countries.

34. Turning to industrialization, he noted that the share of the developing countries in world industrial production in 1980 had been only 10.9 percent, far behind the 25-percent target set forth in the Lima Declaration and Plan of Action. The industry of the developing countries was not only backward, but was also controlled by transnational corporations, which were used by the monopolies as an instrument to carry out the policy of neo-colonialism, in which technical assistance was used in order to control the industry of aid recipients. The problem lay not only in industrial development per se, but also in the way to develop industry so as to build an independent economy. In that regard, he welcomed the fact that more than 100 countries had signed the new constitution of UNIDO. He hoped that the System of Consultations established in UNIDO would be strengthened and developed so that it became more effective and could make a substantial contribution to the industrialization of the developing countries.

35. Viet Nam, which could be regarded as one of the least developed countries on the basis of per capita income alone, thoroughly understood the predicament facing the least developed countries and warmly welcomed the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s adopted at the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, which should be implemented in accordance with the desire of those countries. It was also ready to develop its economic and technological relations with all countries with a view to strengthening friendship, development and international economic co-operation. Acting in that spirit, Viet Nam had established multilateral co-operation and mutual assistance with Laos and Kampuchea, and it had built up trade, economic, scientific and technological relations with many developing countries, including India and many African countries.

36. Mr. Verceles (Philippines) took the Chair.

37. Mr. ter HORST (Venezuela) expressed his delegation's condolences to the delegation of Egypt on the tragic death of President Anwar El Sadat. His delegation

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(Mr. ter Horst, Venezuela)

supported the statement made in the Committee by the Chairman of the Group of 77, which had clearly reflected the fears and hopes of Venezuela concerning the deterioration in international solidarity.

38. With regard to the report of the Governing Council of UNEP on its ninth session (A/36/25), his delegation wished to reiterate that the general aims of the medium-term environment programmes should be those adopted by the Governing Council, and that the strategy for implementing those programmes, especially in the case of programmes relating to tropical woodlands and forests and to the question of environment and development, should be formulated at the request of the Governments concerned and in close consultation with them.

39. With regard to science and technology, he regretted the slow rate of implementation of many of the agreements reached at the Vienna Conference, as well as the low level of contributions to the Interim Fund, which had not yet reached 20 percent of the agreed goal of \$250 million. He hoped that the valuable report submitted by the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development (A/36/37) would facilitate negotiations on the system of financing. With regard to questions that had remained unsolved at the Vienna Conference, negative attitude of several developed countries, which did not wish to reconsider them, was a matter of concern. The solution of those questions could not continue to be deferred indefinitely, and the Intergovernmental Committee, at its fourth session, devote sufficient time to their consideration.

40. It was also a matter of concern that, at the Nairobi Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, some developed countries, including both those with a market economy and those with a centrally planned economy, had adopted positions that amounted to a denial of the necessary material resources and an attempt to undermine the implementation of the results of that important Conference. It had already happened that conferences at which important results had been achieved in vital fields had been reduced to meaningless rhetorical exercises. His delegation hoped that the Nairobi Conference would not meet that fate and that the developed countries in question would be able to meet their obligations.

41. The attitude of the countries which were members of the Group of 77 had given a strong boost to economic co-operation. Thus, although they would continue to have recourse to United Nations assistance in economic co-operation among developing countries, agreement had been reached at the High-Level Conference on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries, held in Venezuela, to take greater advantage of the potential for economic complementarity and to make that co-operation an essential and genuine feature of the economic situation of the developing countries. That would assist in strengthening solidarity among those countries and would be a positive factor in North-South relations.

42. On the other hand, his delegation welcomed the adoption by the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Paris, of the Substantial New Programme of Action aimed at those countries, which included commitments under which the official development assistance they received would double by 1985.

43. With respect to the integration of women in development, it should be noted that, despite the arguments used against any such integration, women had as much

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(Mr. ter Horst, Venezuela)

right to remunerative employment as men, and their involvement in production did not necessarily imply neglect of the home.

44. In considering the more important events of the past year in the sphere of economic co-operation, thought should be given to the different possibilities open to the international community, since the current crisis demanded a change in the international economic order. Having, for 10 years, used all kinds of stratagems which had failed the developing countries were now being enjoined to place their trust in the magic of the market. Yet that magic did not work, as was evident from the workings of the international system of trade and payments established following the Second World War. Thus only the countries of Western Europe and Japan had been able to resist the spell of floating exchange rates, while the developing countries had seen increases in the cost of their imports from all the industrialized countries. The effect had been devastating, and only the massive indebtedness of developing countries had kept the economies of the industrialized countries alive.

45. His delegation trusted that history would not repeat itself and that problems would be approached objectively and in good faith. Consideration of the results of the international North-South conferences revealed that problems could only be solved by adopting a coherent, world-wide approach. That did not imply any attempt to oblige countries to subscribe to agreements which harmed their national interests, since the rule of consensus should always prevail. Insistence on a world-wide approach was based on the fact that there was no alternative.

46. Mr. FRESNO (Spain) said that the international outlook was not promising. Of particular concern was the delicate financial situation faced by non-oil-exporting developing countries as a result of the increasing cost of energy and the increase in the debt which they had assumed to balance their balance of payments.

47. The difficult world economic situation had led to restrictive, protectionist policies which might have negative effects on countries with weaker economies. It was therefore necessary to find world-wide solutions to attain a new, more just order reflecting greater international solidarity. For its part, Spain had undertaken to make a sustained effort so that the global negotiations and attempts to restructure the international economic order would be crowned with success.

48. With respect to energy, Spain supported the Nairobi Programme of Action. It should be recalled, however, that hydrocarbons could not be replaced in the short term and that the new technologies were still not commercially viable. Joint action and co-operation were necessary to promote research into various types of energy. Thus it was that, at the Nairobi Conference, Spain had placed its achievements in the field of energy, including its training and advisory services, at the disposal of all countries.

49. The world food situation continued to be precarious in many developing countries, especially in the least developed countries. It was essential to seek and adopt appropriate measures to achieve food security and the total elimination of hunger. For that it was necessary to reduce the barriers which hampered the trade, especially in agricultural products, of the developing countries. For its part, Spain had undertaken to co-operate by providing experts for the preparation

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(Mr. Fresno, Spain)

of the food strategy of the least developed countries. Furthermore, it was a signatory to the Food Aid Convention, under which it had provided 20,000 tons of cereals in 1980 and a similar amount in 1981. Moreover Spain intended, before the end of the year, to provide an additional 10,000 tons for the least developed countries.

50. With respect to the integration of women in development, Spain supported efforts to that end, as well as those aimed at broadening implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, to which it was a signatory.

51. With respect to the question of the environment, Spain supported United Nations efforts to mitigate the environmental problems of the developing countries, as well as UNEP's efforts to draft a world soils policy and to formulate guidelines on erosion and degradation and its attempts to combat desertification. Spain would also greatly welcome implementation of the Plan of Action for the Mediterranean adopted at the Barcelona Conference.

52. Mr. AL-SHAMMA (Iraq) said that in the current complex economic situation, international development and co-operation were urgently required for the well-being of all mankind. Development, which was vital for the developing countries, would also benefit the developed countries by promoting international economic relations that were equitable and stable. However, his delegation doubted the intentions of the capitalist countries in that regard, since they had adopted a highly negative attitude to the view that development was not merely an increase in economic indicators but rather a cultural transition and the formation of a new kind of person who could make use of science and its achievements. Those countries which usurped the wealth and resources of third world countries saw in progress a threat to their interests and monopolies and their chances of continuing to appropriate such wealth and resources.

53. The Zionist aggression against the Iraqi nuclear reactor was an example of an aggressive attitude towards third world countries. That act of aggression and the conniving silence of most Western countries was evidence of attempts to impede the progress of countries seeking development. His delegation had frequently stressed the peaceful nature of the nuclear reactor, which Iraq wished to use as part of the transfer of science and technology, which would in due course benefit the other countries of the third world. It should be asked what the consequences of that act were for international economic relations and the development of third world countries. The aggression of the Zionist entity, supported by the United States, had established a precedent which threatened economic progress and the transfer of technology throughout the world. It could well be that colonialist countries would act in a similar manner if they felt scientific and technical progress was threatening their monopolies and harming their interests.

54. It should also be asked what the use might be of tied development, restricted to an inferior technical level. Such development could only widen the gap between developing and developed countries and lead to greater exploitation of the weak by the strong. Development which did not make use of technology in its most advanced forms could only bring about structural crises in the balance of payments and increase the external debts of the developing countries.

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(Mr. Al-Shamma, Iraq)

55. The Zionist entity could not fear that Iraq might manufacture nuclear weapons since Iraq had placed its installations under international control. The attack had thus been aimed against a more important target than nuclear weapons, namely radical development based on technology. International relations and economic development had been threatened by the Zionist act. Negotiations on the transfer of technology were worthless when aggression was used once the objective was within sight. His delegation firmly opposed criminal acts aimed at preventing fulfilment of the international community's aim of providing a decent life for the disadvantaged two thirds of mankind and of achieving just economic relations. It also opposed those countries which encouraged such acts and remained indifferent to their economic effects on development. The aggression against the nuclear reactor would affect the future of international economic relations, and if nothing were done to counter its consequences it would have negative repercussions for all mankind.

56. Mr. SILWAL (Nepal) said it was disappointing that no progress had been made towards the goals and objectives of the International Development Strategy. Indeed, there was a growing gap between solemn commitments made and steps taken to fulfil them. The existence of economic interdependence had been recognized, but action had proved contrary to its spirit. Greater political will was needed to restructure international economic relations on a collective decision-making basis and the international community must accordingly strengthen the capacity of the United Nations to deal with crucial issues in international economic relations.

57. In the context of the world crisis, it was encouraging to note that steps were being taken to apply the Caracas Programme of Action adopted by the High Level Meeting on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries, which had demonstrated the will of the third world countries to increase co-operation among themselves and thus contribute to their economic development and emancipation. Nepal recognized the important role of economic co-operation among developing countries in the structuring of international economic relations, and hoped that all Member States would help to promote realization of the objectives agreed upon. It welcomed the positive outcome of the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, and trusted that once the Assembly had approved the report of the Conference all donor countries and international institutions would take steps to carry out the Substantial New Programme of Action effectively and speedily.

58. In the energy sphere, Nepal also welcomed the Nairobi Programme of Action as a first step towards the promotion and utilization of alternative energy sources and the transition to a more sustainable and diversified world energy balance. However, the practical implementation of the Programme depended, among other things, upon the support of Governments and of the United Nations system. At the same time, there were issues such as institutional mechanisms and measures for additional transfer of financial resources on which the developed countries needed to show willingness to come to an agreement in order to realize the objectives of the Programme. As for food problems, the uncertainty on the food front was a constant source of worry. An increasing number of countries, aware of the acuteness of the problem, had adopted policies designed to increase food production and to accelerate development. But without adequate international support, mainly in the form of transferred resources, such policies could not be carried out. Thus it was

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(Mr. Silwal, Nepal)

important that an informal agreement had been reached on replenishment of the resources of the International Fund for Agricultural Development for the period 1981-1983. Even so, multilateral agencies must ensure the continuing and adequate replenishment of such resources.

59. Food aid provided under the Food Aid Convention must be increased to a minimum level of 10 million tons, and although even that was not enough considering the increase in population since 1974 when the target level had been set. The International Emergency Food Reserve should be replenished to a level of 500,000 tons each year, and the pledging target of \$1 billion for the World Food Programme needed to be met. Efforts by FAO had yielded positive results, but its resources had to be expanded if it was to reach its operational targets.

60. Turning to the environment, he said that the International Development Strategy stipulated the need for an economic development process which was environmentally sustainable over the long run and protected the ecological balance. In Nepal the environmental problem had manifested itself in the form of a steady migration and settlement from the hills to the plains, resulting in intense population pressure on the limited amount of arable land. Nepal supported the programme of work on the interrelationships between resources, environment, people and development put forward by the Secretary-General (A/36/571) in pursuance of Economic and Social Council resolution 1981/51. As was recognized in Council resolution 1981/73, UNEP had an important role to play in the work programme. It was therefore fitting that the Governing Council of UNEP should hold a special session in 1982 to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment held in Stockholm, and it was appropriate for the results of the Stockholm Plan of Action to be evaluated at the session.

61. His delegation supported the holding of an international year of shelter for the homeless, as well as the activities of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) on infrastructure in such areas as water supply, sanitation, surface drainage and solid waste disposal in slums and squatter areas and rural settlements, and hoped that UNEP and the Centre would be given sufficient resources to carry out those activities.

62. In view of the important role that industrialization played in the socio-economic development of developing countries, his delegation hoped that UNIDO would make increased efforts in that direction, particularly in the context of the Substantial New Programme of Action adopted at the Conference on the Least Developed Countries.

63. Mr. KITIKITI (Zimbabwe) said that the tight monetary and fiscal policies applied by the developed countries had been very damaging to the developing countries, whose economic growth had been dampened by the declining demand for their exports of raw materials and other agricultural products, at a time when the pressures to provide employment, food and other goods were greatest and the higher interest payments had increased their debt-servicing burden. As a result their current account deficit had risen from \$38 billion in 1978 to \$82 billion in 1980, and was expected to reach \$102 billion in 1982. Also, the increase in commercial loans to developing countries had been accompanied by strict conditions, which

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(Mr. Kitikiti, Zimbabwe)

meant that only a few developing countries, chiefly in the western hemisphere, had had access to them. The oil-importing developing countries were most in need of capital, but their deficit was likely to exceed \$82 billion.

64. Although the developing countries had to raise their domestic savings ratio, the fact of the matter was that such savings could be transformed into hard currency only through international trade. But according to UNCTAD, there would be a decline in the volume of exports from developing countries in 1980-1981 because of the policies of developed countries of contracting international trade. The unfair economic situation facing the world was due to the application of the capitalist theory of comparative advantage, whereby the developing countries exported primary commodities and imported manufactured goods made from those commodities. As a result, the terms of trade had been declining at an unprecedented rate, falling by 3 per cent in 1978, 5 per cent in 1979, 7.5 per cent in 1980 and being expected to fall by 11 per cent in 1981.

65. The effects of those developments on Africa had been devastating; the continent contained most of the least developed countries, which had to spend 25 per cent of their earnings on hydrocarbon imports. UNCTAD itself had concluded that capital formation on the African continent was jeopardized by the high costs of fuels and food imports and of debt servicing, which together took most of their export earnings.

66. The policies of national self-interest pursued by the ~~developed~~ countries had proved ineffective. As the World Bank had indicated, ~~whereas the developed~~ countries could adjust their policies to the changing ~~structures~~ of the world economy, developing countries depended on the ~~growth~~ and openness of the industrialized country markets for their exports, and upon the aid and credit institutions of the industrial countries for their external finance needs.

67. It was a matter of great concern that the attitude of a single member of the Organization, the United States of America, had prevented the international community from making any progress in its will to solve the problem of the structural world economic crisis—a will in General Assembly resolutions 3201 (S-VI), 3202 (S-VI) and 3281 (XXIX). The situation had become unbearable, especially with the failure of the developed countries to reach the 0.7 per cent target for official development assistance and with the increasing deficits that obliged the developing countries to draw extensively on their reserves.

68. The solution to the global economic crisis did not lie either in protectionism or in any reduction of voluntary contributions, but in international economic co-operation. The developed countries would be guided not by their domestic policies but by policies which they had supported in the forums of the international economic co-operation system. It was to be hoped that the urgent need for a change in their policies would be impressed upon them at the Cancún meeting.

69. With regard to the food crisis in the world, and particularly in Africa, his delegation noted with great disappointment that the report of the Secretary-General (A/36/149) failed to address itself to General Assembly resolution A/35/69 relating to the situation of food and agriculture in Africa. While it was understandable

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(Mr. Kitikiti, Zimbabwe)

that the Secretariat should have experienced some difficulty in interpreting paragraph 10 of that resolution, there was no justification for its failure to comprehend paragraph 14. It was essential for a report to be submitted on the progress made so far and on the manner in which paragraphs 3, 6, 8, 9 and 13 of the resolution were being implemented in the United Nations system.

70. Despite the temporary relief afforded by the International Monetary Fund, the food situation in Africa was far from improving, and had even deteriorated as a result of natural and man-made disasters. It was reported by the FAO that 6.2 million tons of food were urgently required for the 26 most affected countries in Africa. The situation was the outcome of, *inter alia*, the failure of the international community to implement the FAO Five-Point Plan of Action on World Food Security, compounded by failure to reach either the minimum target of 10 million tons of grain per year established under the 1980 Food Aid Convention or the minimum target of 500,000 tons of grain to stock the International Emergency Food Reserve. It was sad to note the reluctance of some Member States to make multi-year pledges to the International Emergency Food Reserve and the lack of any legally enforceable international food security system, the establishment of which should be a basic priority. The solution lay in the speedy implementation of the section on food and agriculture of the Lagos Plan of Action. Moreover, internal restructuring would need to be supported by stabilized commodity prices and the removal of tariff and non-tariff barriers.

71. According to the Plan of Action adopted at Nairobi by the Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, implementation of the programme of action would require both public and private international financial resources. Moreover, the World Bank had found that the developing countries would need a minimum of \$54 billion to develop new sources of energy. It was unfortunate that the finding of the World Bank was not taken seriously, particularly by a delegation which had always considered the World Bank to be a credible institution. His delegation therefore strongly urged the creation of a World Bank energy affiliate without delay.

72. In the field of science and technology for development, General Assembly resolution 34/218 reflected an international consensus on the resources required by the developing countries. However, the minimum agreed target of \$250 million had not been met. In fact, only \$40 million, or 16 per cent of the minimum target, had been pledged for the period 1980-1981. Since resolution 34/218 largely concerned Africa, it was to be hoped that the needs of that continent would be given priority.

73. Efforts aimed at improving North-South co-operation were complemented by the Programme of Action adopted at Caracas by the High Level Meeting on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries. The obstacles put in the way of co-operation among developing countries should therefore be lifted, and the international community should co-operate with the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference in implementing the sectoral programmes by which the countries of the region would achieve economic liberation.

74. Mr. GRIGSBY (Liberia) extended the condolences of his delegation to the Egyptian delegation on the tragic death of President Anwar El Sadat. In the opinion of the Liberian delegation, the failures of the development strategies for the First and Second Development Decades could be attributed to incorrect development theories which, instead of yielding self-sustaining economic growth had encouraged, inter alia, migration from rural to urban areas, high unemployment and the growth of urban slums in the developing countries. The developing countries had therefore determined to participate actively in the formulation of the strategy for the Third Development Decade, as could be seen from the conclusions of the Monrovia Colloquium on the prospects of growth and development of the African continent up to the year 2000, organized under the joint auspices of the ECA and the OAU. The conclusions of that Colloquium and of the Rabat Conference of African Economic Ministers formed the basis for the Monrovia Strategy for the Economic Development of Africa and for the Lagos Plan of Action adopted in 1980, on which Africa's proposal for the Third International Development Strategy was founded. It was therefore alarming to note the stalemate reached in launching the global negotiations, the cutbacks announced in official development assistance, and the preference shown by some industrialized countries for bilateral rather than multilateral assistance.

75. Nevertheless, it was encouraging to note both the adoption of the Caracas Programme of Action and the positive results of the Paris Conference on the Least Developed Countries, whose Programme of Action should be supported by all members of the international community. The essentials needed to achieve the new international economic order now seemed to be within reach. Participants in the meeting at Cancún should thus bear in mind that only a global and integrated approach to the current world economic problems would contribute to a restructuring of international economic relations on the basis of agreed solutions that would be lasting and equitable.

76. With regard to food problems, the delegation of Liberia considered that the report of the Secretary-General (A/36/149) had taken full account of the Lagos Plan of Action and trusted that it would be treated with the urgency it deserved. In that connexion, it should be noted that governmental agencies in Liberia had launched a campaign to achieve self-sufficiency in the production of rice which was a staple food.

77. Liberia was convinced that the great problems confronting the international economy and the increasingly interdependent nature of the international system required a consensus on solutions for the benefit of all, and a reversal of any trend towards converting the United Nations either into an adjunct to the weaponry of the powerful or into a propaganda forum for the weak.

78. Mr. HILLEL (Israel), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that his delegation rejected the unfounded allegations of the representative of Iraq, and his attempt to exploit false problems for political purposes. Iraq, which had invaded Iran, had applied a policy of genocide against its Kurdish minority and flouting both international law and the United Nations Charter, had not only refused to recognize the independence of Israel but had not even signed an armistice agreement ending the 1948 war. Israel therefore considered itself fully and legally entitled, in exercise of its right of self-defence, to put an end to the nuclear danger by which it was threatened.

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79. Mr. AL-SHAMMA (Iraq) said that his delegation rejected outright the allegations made by the representative of the Zionist entity. The aggression by the Zionist entity was obviously intended to launch a cultural war against Iraq, for which purpose it had joined forces with the enemies of Iraq and proclaimed its alliance with Iran. The Zionist aggression had been directed at the very foundations of the economic development of Iraq; hence the need to take it into account in considering matters of development and international economic co-operation.

The meeting rose at 6.20 p.m.