



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 33rd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. VERCELES (Philippines)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.25 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 70: OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT (A/36/3/Add.12 (Part II) and Add.29, A/36/101 and Corr.1 and Add.1, A/36/478; E/1981/48, E/1981/61)

1. Mr. DADZIE (Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation) said that Second Committee's annual debate on the subject of operational activities for development had left no doubt as to the importance the Committee attached to the direct support provided by the United Nations system to the economic and social programmes of developing countries. The first annual report submitted in response to paragraphs 17 and 18 of General Assembly resolution 35/81 (A/36/478) addressed two principal themes: the adequacy of resource flows for the operational activities of the United Nations system, and the need for continued improvement in the efficiency and effectiveness of those activities.
2. The past few years had witnessed a decline in the level of concessional resources in real terms available for the operational activities of the United Nations system. Judging from the results of the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities, as well as estimates of contributions based on past experience and current information, it appeared probable that resources for operational activities for development in 1982 would fall short of the desirable funding levels established by the General Assembly. That situation was compounded by uncertainty over future resource prospects, by delays in payment and by regular budgetary stringencies. Unless the deterioration was arrested and reversed, activities would have to be reduced, forward commitments would have to be cut back and the present framework of multilateral co-operation for development would be at risk. The Administrative Committee on Co-ordination had recently pointed out that a reduction in resources in support of development activities could only be detrimental to developed as well as developing countries. In that context, ACC had stressed that failure by Governments to resolve the contradiction between professed aspirations and willingness to support them materially would cast doubts on the validity of the United Nations system in the economic sphere.
3. There was a greater awareness than before of the significance of non-captial sources of economic growth such as human resource development and the effective use of productive resources which were the raison d'etre of the operational activities of the United Nations system. Multilateral aid through the United Nations system had the special advantage of responding solely to the plans and priorities of the recipient countries. The operational activities of the system constituted a unique international partnership freely entered into by all members of the international community which

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benefited developing countries by drawing upon expertise and knowledge the world over.

4. In addition, those activities were carried out without prejudice to private investment; but private investment could not replace the official development assistance that underpinned the system's operational activities. Indeed, technical co-operation from the multilateral agencies enhanced the capacity of countries to provide direct support for investment activities and to absorb investment. It also met critical needs that would otherwise be neglected for want of resources and technical know-how and supported development activities in areas offering little material attraction to private capital.

5. In his earlier statement to the Committee, he had spoken of the dangers inherent in the present uncertain situation for development unless corrective measures were taken. One such measure might involve bridging the wide and persistent gap between the needs of developing countries and the resources being made available to meet them if the operational activities of the United Nations system were to make the due contribution to the accelerated development of developing countries.

6. In an elaboration of the statistical information that the Assembly had requested in its resolution 35/81, the annual report contained data on the extent to which targets for the mobilization of resources had been attained and on the magnitude of resource requirements for operational activities for the first half of the 1980s. Two separate but related issues called for attention. The first concerned the need for an absolute increase in real terms of resources made available to the organizations of the United Nations system for their operational activities for development. The second had to do with the debilitating impact of uncertainty and unpredictability in the present framework for the mobilization of resources for those activities.

7. Although the General Assembly, in defining the over-all objectives for the restructuring of the operational activities of the United Nations system, had given pride of place to the need for a real increase in the flow of resources for such activities on a predictable, continuous and assured basis, contributions over the last few years had fallen disappointingly short of the targets established by intergovernmental bodies. Prospects for significantly increased multilateral flows of long-term public funds on concessional terms were uncertain, in spite of the successful efforts of some developed countries to maintain their high ODA/GNP ratios and the intention expressed by others to attain the internationally agreed target of 0.7 per cent within the next few years. Even the modest ODA projections of the World Bank based upon more or less unchanged DAC ODA/GNP ratios

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fell considerably short of the targets set in the new International Development Strategy. The more recent agreements on funding levels in respect of the first replenishment of IFAD, the sixth replenishment of IDA, the 1983-1984 biennium for WFP and the medium-term income projections for UNICEF did not affect that over-all conclusion, which, furthermore, stood in stark contrast to the prospect that the aggregate current account deficit of the non-oil-exporting developing countries would reach a level of some \$100 billion in 1981. The annual report also showed that the size of contributions did not always reflect the capacity of countries to pay, and there was considerable scope for improvement in the performance of a number of countries. The required resources were insignificant in relation to the enormous and growing expenditure on armaments; the annual resource requirements of the operational activities of the system at current levels could be met by only a fractional reduction in world-wide expenditures on armaments.

8. No less important than the adequacy of resources in real terms was the need to place the development co-operation organizations of the system on a more stable financial basis. It was regrettable that the fundamental problem of reconciling short-term uncertainties in the present system of raising annual contributions on a voluntary basis with long-term commitments to finance development projects appeared no nearer solution. The problem had been with the United Nations for some time, but it had become increasingly serious owing in part to delays in payments but also to the non-fulfilment of pledges and the impact of unfavourable exchange rate movements. The time had therefore come for the General Assembly to seriously consider how to give new impetus to the mobilization of resources for the operational activities of the United Nations system on an increasingly predictable, continuous and assured basis. In that context, the Assembly might wish to follow up the invitation addressed to the various governing bodies of the system in its resolution 35/81.

9. With regard to the second theme addressed by the report, it seemed to him that the difficulties of the present situation and the need for a substantial increase in resource transfers should spur rather than inhibit the search for improvements in the planning, management and implementation of operational activities so as to increase their efficiency and effectiveness and ensure a better return on the resources devoted to them. Governments had rightly insisted on continuing efforts to reduce waste and inefficiency, and the prospect of a decline in programme resources provided a useful opportunity to intensify efforts to improve efficiency and effectiveness. However, the reduction of administrative and other support costs, desirable as it was, should not be regarded as the sole component of efficiency, much less effectiveness. If the long-term trend of programme

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Activities was downward, then there was no alternative but to cut down administrative and support costs; but if it remained the intention of the international community that the long-term trend of operational activities should be upward in real terms, then great caution must be exercised about dismantling services and getting rid of expertise that might well be needed again in the future.

10. In considering issues of efficiency at the level of the General Assembly, full account must also be taken of the decentralized nature of the United Nations system. Progress could only result from a process in which the Assembly, in exercise of its powers under the Charter, established over-all strategies, policies and priorities on issues of system-wide concern, and decision-making powers, the necessary action on matters within their respective purviews. With a view to assisting the Committee in that regard, the report which was to be submitted on the subject at the thirty-seventh session could try, firstly, to identify those policy issues which had system-wide dimensions and in regard to which measures taken or envisaged needed to be brought into proper relationship with one another; and, secondly, to elaborate common approaches for the system to those issues.

11. He recalled that the pattern of reporting established by the Assembly in its resolution 35/81 called for a triennial report on policy issues beginning in 1983 and an annual report containing statistical information. The statistical information in the present report encompassed all funding channels for operational activities of the United Nations system for development; it was the first time that such information covering all organizations in the system engaged in operational activities had been collected and published in one place, the comments of delegations on its usefulness and presentation would be most welcome.

12. Lastly, with respect to the new arrangements for co-ordination of operational activities at the country level through resident co-ordinators acting for the United Nations system as a whole pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 32/197 and 34/123, he said that to date, resident co-ordinators had been designated by the Secretary General in 86 countries; in accordance with paragraph 6 of resolution 34/123, they had been requested to consult with appropriate government authorities on behalf of the Secretary-General on how they might best be enabled to exercise their responsibilities. The outcome of those consultations would be brought to the attention of ACC in the context of the review it intended to

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carry out of the arrangements for the functioning of resident co-ordinators, and the General Assembly would be kept informed of developments.

13. Mr. MORSE (Administrator, United Nations Development Programme) said that the United Nations development system viewed with deep concern the declining levels of concessional resources available for multilateral operational activities. The contradiction between repeatedly professed aspirations by the international community and the failure to support them materially was indeed a spectre haunting the record of progress already computed by the multilateral programmes of the United Nations system. The wholly inadequate and discouraging results of the recent Pledging Conference boded ill for every country, rich or poor. As he had told the Conference, he doubted whether that dismal trend truly reflected the will of Governments vis-a-vis an institution - UNDP - which he thought had proven its effectiveness.

14. In his previous statement to the Committee, he had stressed the complementarity, coherence and efficiency gained through the administration of various special funds and activities by the UNDP. One of the most unique and valuable programmes entrusted to UNDP's administration since its inception was the United Nations Volunteers programme. The United Nations development system had succeeded beyond doubt in instituting, under the aegis of UNDP, a pragmatic and inspiring concept of volunteerism. The Volunteers programme mobilized talent and skills on a global, universal basis in response to concrete development needs as determined by the developing countries themselves. The programme was cost-effective in providing relevant operational expertise of a level and type needed in many development projects, while simultaneously enabling countries to maximize and achieve greater value for their scarce technical co-operation resources.

15. With reference to General Assembly resolution 34/107, he said that the new target level of 1,000 volunteers in the field by 1983 had been attained two years ahead of schedule. There were volunteers working in some 90 developing countries; 58 percent of those recruited in 1980 had been from developing countries, while 21 industrialized countries had also provided volunteers to the programme. Currently, three out of four volunteers in service were nationals of developing countries; that was a concrete manifestation of TCDC in action. Efforts were continuing to further diversify the geographic base for recruitment, including an increase in the number of volunteers from industrialized countries.

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(Mr. Morse, Administrator, United Nations
Development Programme)

16. Despite the remarkable success it had achieved so far, the programme was plagued by a diminishing level of resources made available to the Special Voluntary Fund. The primary purpose of the Fund was to meet the external costs of United Nations volunteers from developing countries; those costs were currently estimated at some \$5,000 for each two-year assignment. The dramatic increase in the recruitment of volunteers from developing countries had put the Fund under severe financial strain. Although recipients of assistance under the programme had agreed to shoulder all in-country costs for UNV assignments as a charge against their respective IPFs, in conformity with the decision adopted by the UNDP Governing Council in June 1977, the situation of the Special Voluntary Fund was now precarious and was bound to have extremely negative effects on UNV programming unless additional resources were forthcoming. The meagre resource situation of the Special Voluntary Fund was due to the fact that the aggregate level of contributions to the Fund had remained well below initial expectations. Total contributions were not expected to exceed \$1.2 million for 1981, and in the absence of long-term commitments by donors it was estimated that for the coming years they would average no more than \$1 million a year. Unless additional resources were made available for financing the external costs of volunteers from developing countries, the programme could not even be maintained at its present level, much less expanded in response to the increasing number of requests from developing countries. He hoped that the Committee would recommend measures to ensure availability of additional resources and reiterate its call to Governments to increase their contributions, or join in contributing, to the Special Voluntary Fund. The Fund was also the main source of financing for UNV activities in support of domestic development services and youth programmes undertaken pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 31/131 and 31/166. During the past year, the programme's activities in those two areas had continued to expand.

17. On the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the programme, a number of commemorative activities had been undertaken in order to make the UNV concept and programme better known and more widely appreciated. He was strongly convinced that the programme stood as a valuable and effective component of the United Nations technical co-operation system; if it received the support that it so justly merited and so urgently needed, it could be expected to continue its unique and vital contribution to the development co-operation process.

18. The United Nations Capital Development Fund also made a unique contribution to the development effort. It operated first and foremost for the benefit of least developed countries and had been singled out by the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries as an appropriate channel of much-needed assistance to those countries.

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(Mr. Morse, Administrator, United Nations
Development Programme)

At the recent Pledging Conference, 30 Governments had announced voluntary contributions to the Fund totalling approximately \$23.5 million, and it was hoped that that figure would increase substantially as other donors came forward. The question of the administrative expenses of the Fund, thus far borne as part of UNDP administrative budget, had twice been postponed and was now before the General Assembly for decision. He urged the Committee to give favourable consideration to the Economic and Social Council's recommendation in the matter.

19. The United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration had reached an important level of operational activities. In the past year, more Revolving Fund projects had become field operations than in all previous years combined. In accordance with the Fund's mandate, there was a broad geographical distribution of activities in Africa, Asia, Latin America and among the Arab States, with almost one half of the Fund's current resources concentrated in least developed countries. The interest of potential recipient countries was no longer in question, and a project pipeline now existed to assure a viable programme level over the coming years. However, the Fund's resources were grossly insufficient to assure continued development. The Fund would require sustained financial contributions in future years in order to fulfill its objective, particularly in the light of the emphasis given to its role by the recent Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy. At the recent Pledging Conference, four Governments, all developing countries, had pledged a total of \$18,000 for the Fund's operations in 1982, a sum which would not even cover a fraction of its administrative costs.

20. A comprehensive review of the Fund had been carried out by a group of government experts in 1981 and the UNDP Governing Council and the Economic and Social Council, taking note of their report, had adopted resolutions concerning its functions, institutional arrangements and repayment system. Those resolutions would consolidate the progress already achieved by the Fund, enhance its attractiveness to recipient countries even further and strengthen co-operation and co-ordination within the United Nations system. He urged the Committee to act favourably on those resolutions, which would direct the Fund's future course, provided always that resources to sustain its vital work were forthcoming.

21. At the Pledging Conference, the Special Fund for Land-locked Developing Countries had received pledges totalling only \$69,000 from 14 Governments, almost all representing developing countries.

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(Mr. Morse, Administrator, United Nations
Development Programme)

The General Assembly itself, in its resolution 35/82, had appealed to all Member States, in particular developed countries, to contribute generously to the fund. The initial results of the Pledging Conference in no way conformed to that appeal. The special needs of the land-locked countries, most of which were in the least developed category, were fully evident, and the purpose of the Fund in meeting those needs was sound. Eleven land-locked developing countries had put forward a draft resolution (A/C2/36/1.24) urging intensified efforts to raise the net flow of resources to those countries to help meet their special problems. The Fund was already virtually fully committed in terms of the meager resources available to it. Nothing could impair international confidence and trust more than the creation of expectations in an area of critical need, followed by indifference or neglect in providing the wherewithal to translate those expectations into reality. In the case of the Special Fund for Land-locked Developing Countries, the international community has a profound responsibility to correct the situation.

22. At its last session the UNDP Governing Council had recommended, in its decision 81/37, that in-depth reports on the activities of funds and programmes under UNDP jurisdiction should be considered only every two years, except in cases where resolutions of the General Assembly called for annual review. That decision had been endorsed by the Economic and Social Council, and he commended it to the Committee as a means of easing its own considerable workload.

23. Mr. AYADI (Tunisia) said that his country, which participated widely in the operational activities of the United Nations system, was grateful to the various international institutions, and duly appreciated the contribution of the United Nations family to its own development programme. His delegation was very much in favour of strengthening those activities, which played a vital part in promoting the economic and social development of the developing countries.

24. UNDP was the main instrument for multilateral technical co-operation, not only because of the amount of resources available to it but also because of its co-ordinating function. As the central body for financing technical co-operation activities, UNDP could make a valuable contribution to the achievement of the goals of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade. Its assistance to the developing countries could be crucial in fields such as food production, energy resources, exploration and technical co-operation among developing countries.

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(Mr. Ayadi Tunisia)

25. His delegation commended the efforts that had been made to improve the functional co-ordination of technical co-operation, strengthen investment follow-up activities, expand the area of technical co-operation and enable the developing countries to participate in setting the priorities for intercountry programmes. Experience showed that technical co-operation was still an important factor in promoting self-reliance among developing countries, enabling them to make the best use of their own resources and production capacities.

26. Close attention must be paid to the emerging prospects for the coming decade, particularly the structural changes that would inevitably modify the world economy and the massive transfer of resources that would be necessary if entire nations were not to be relegated to the margin. His delegation was convinced that technical co-operation in the widest sense was absolutely essential for bringing about a new world economic framework, promoting the necessary structural changes for the establishment of a new international economic order and enabling the developing countries to attain national self-sufficiency and collective self-reliance, improve their administrative and financial capacities, build up their infrastructures and continue to make progress despite limited resources for development.

27. Technical co-operation alone could not ensure development, but it did facilitate tangible progress. By using technical co-operation and showing the necessary political will to bring about economic change, both domestically and internationally, it was possible to contribute effectively to the promotion of economic growth both within developing countries and among them. Technical co-operation could also contribute to development by ensuring rational utilization of certain factors of production, such as land, manpower and financial resources. It made it possible, for example, to increase productivity in the agricultural sector through soil improvement techniques and high-yield seeds, and in the industrial field through improved training and more advanced technologies, proper management methods, better quality control and greater technological know-how.

28. Such co-operation should be one aspect of international co-operation within the United Nations system. Tunisia firmly supported the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, the Arusha Programme for Collective Self-Reliance and Framework for Negotiations and the Caracas Plan of Action; the latter undoubtedly marked a very important step forward in the materialization of the spirit of co-operation and solidarity among developing countries.

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(Mr. Ayadi, Tunisia)

29. Among the questions raised in the report on operational activities for development (A/36/478), the problem of resources merited special and urgent attention in view of the inadequate results of the latest Pledging Conference. The ever-growing needs of the developing countries demanded an increase in real terms of resources for operational activities on a predictable, continuous and assured basis. Although in its resolution 32/114 the General Assembly had urged States to take measures to provide UNDP with the necessary resources to fulfil the aims, objectives, and programmes established in the second programming cycle, and especially to achieve and even to exceed the over-all annual growth rate of 14 percent for voluntary contributions, UNDP's resource still fell short of its needs. That goal of 14 percent increase in voluntary contributions had not been achieved was a matter of gravest concern. His delegation appealed to all States to increase their contributions and to give UNDP, which was their own creation, the resources it needed.

30. His delegation noted with satisfaction the continued increase in the rate of programme delivery and the measures taken by the Governing Council and the Administrator of UNDP to improve the quality and effectiveness of programme operations. In that connexion, the evaluation activities that constituted part of the system were more important than ever. Much progress has been made, but much remained to be done to ensure that new or improved internal monitoring systems were solidly established and used effectively for a careful evaluation of programme results. The evaluation of operational activities should be regarded as an integral part of measures to improve their effectiveness and quality in cost benefit terms. It should make it possible to determine their contribution to development and their impact on it, and should indicate how far execution has progressed bearing in mind the objectives and priorities of the recipient Governments.

31. With regard to the relationship between the new International Development Strategy and operational activities for development, the potential contribution of those activities to changes in patterns of production, consumption and world trade, and to the exercise by developing countries of effective control over their own resources should be examined. The role such activities could play in giving rational substance to those provisions of the Strategy that required concerted international action should also be determined. Efforts to overcome existing difficulties were the responsibility of both developed and developing countries. The developed countries must make a more substantial financial contribution and allow the developing countries to participate on a more equal footing in the decision-making process. The developing countries, for their part, must pay close attention to the need to increase their food production and to augment their institutional capacity to absorb and assimilate external aid.

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32. Mr. HASSAN (Pakistan) said that the introductory statements by the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, the Administrator of UNDP and the Executive Director for UNICEF and UNFPA, had provided a valuable information on the work of the bodies concerned during the past year, and also on the political issues that would have to be faced at the current session of the General Assembly.

33. At its thirty-fifth session, the General Assembly had adopted a far-reaching resolution calling for a comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development on the basis of a report to be prepared by the Director-General, containing comprehensive statistical information concerning all operational activities for development of the United Nations system and the progress made in improving management procedures, reducing administrative and other support costs and enhancing over-all efficiency in the execution of programmes and projects. Resolution 35/81 further expressed concern that financial contributions to those activities had not increased substantially, generally falling short of the targets set by the relevant intergovernmental bodies, and reiterated the need for a substantial and real increase in the flow of resources for operational activities on an increasingly predictable, continuous and assured bases.

34. The Director General had submitted a very valuable set of statistical data in his report (A/36/478) and had identified a number of emerging trends. The delegation of Pakistan commended the high quality of the work that had gone into that valuable instrument of analysis, and was sure that it would facilitate an informed and serious consideration in the Committee of the policy issues that had been identified.

35. With regard to the mobilization of resources, the report indicated that total contributions to the operational activities of the United Nations system, including all the funds and programmes of the United Nations and the operational activities of the specialized agencies and of IDA and IFAD, had risen from some \$4.6 billion in 1979 to \$51 billion in 1980, an increase of about 11 per cent. In constant terms, that increase represented near-stagnation. Contributions announced at the Pledging Conference for Development Activities had risen from \$1.1 billion in 1979, to \$1,192 billion in 1980, and increase of only 8 per cent in unspent terms. If the effects of inflation were taken into account, there had been decline in real terms, in sharp contradiction to the need for an increase in resources and contributions as called for in resolution 35/81.

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(Mr. Hassan, Pakistan)

36. Another important fact emerging from the data was that the major developed countries had fallen particularly behind in terms of the ratio of their contributions to GNP. A welcome development was that some of the capital-surplus oil exporting countries had emerged as major contributors to operational activities for development, Saudi Arabia now being the largest contributor in proportion to its GNP. It was also noteworthy that the low-income developing countries were making a relatively greater effort than middle income developing countries. Namely for illustrative purposes, he noted that the United States, with a per capital income 40 times that of Pakistan, had contributed a sum only three times as large, while Japan, with a per capita income 35 times that of Pakistan, had contributed only four times as much. Similar comparisons could be made for such developed countries as the Federal Republic of Germany and the United Kingdom. While not wishing to denigrate their performance, he drew attention to the striking effort made by Pakistan and other low-income countries and wondered what it was that hindered the wealthiest countries from fulfilling their obligations while the poorest were coming forward.

37. The report gave information on the specific targets set by UNDP, UNICEF, the Interim Fund for Science and Technology for Development, the Industrial Development Fund and the World Food Programme. In the last two years, all except UNICEF had fallen short. For example, UNDP had assumed a 14 per cent annual growth in voluntary contributions but actual performance had been only 11.5 per cent. In the past year, contributions to that important instrument of development had actually declined by 7 per cent, a situation that must not be allowed to persist. At its recent special session, the UNICEF Executive Board had decided to scale down the Fund's future programmes on the basis of the "worst case" forecast. That implied a reduction in UNICEF assistance in the years ahead, despite the fact that needs were growing rapidly. UNFPA had also been obliged to adopt a lower base, which implied a major reduction in work on which many developing countries depended for the formulation and implementation of their national population programmes.

38. The situation with regard to the Interim Fund for Science and Technology was even more bleak. Only one sixth of its target of \$250 million had been achieved; yet the Interim Fund was already operational and a number of projects were being executed while others had been requested. Unless contributions increased very substantially, the Fund would be unable to meet the demand. Prospects for an effective long-term system of financing seemed non-existent and thus the center-piece of the Vienna Programme of Action had been lost, because of the lack of determination on the part of Governments to fulfil their obligations. The level of resources of the Industrial Development Fund was also unsatisfactory; only a fraction of its \$50 million annual target had been received in 1979 and 1980. The target of the World Food Programme, \$950 million, had not been achieved; Only \$800 million had been received by the end of 1980, although there had been heavy new demands

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(Mr. Hassan, Pakistan)

on its resources because of emergency situations in Asia and Africa, so that an increased proportion of WFP resources had to be diverted to emergency needs at the cost of the development orientation of the Programme. His delegation hoped that there would be an urgent response, and that the Programme's target of \$1 billion for biennium 1981-1982 and \$1.2 billion for 1982-1984 would be met.

39. The figures he had quoted indicated that the situation was not simply unsatisfactory but had acquired crisis proportions. It had been fully documented both in the report of the Director-General (A/36/478) and in the statements made to the Committee by the heads of the various programmes. Those unfulfilled targets inevitably meant the curtailment of programmes, and an erosion of support would have serious consequences for the developing countries. The negative trend must be reversed, and a steady increase in contributions should be a policy objective for all Governments. He suggested that a global resource target should be adopted for operational activities. It could be a percentage of GNP within the over-all ODA target of 0.7 per cent or a proportion of total ODA flows, or it could take some other form. Such a target would be an important bench-mark for Governments in determining their over-all contributions to operational activities and would provide a basis for monitoring trends and performance in relation to a country's capacity to contribute.

40. The report showed that little progress had been made towards a real increase in resources on a predictable, continuous and assured basis. Multiyear pledging, which was a key step for the attainment of that goal, had been adopted by very few countries. He urged all donors to consider the advantages of such an approach for both themselves and for the bodies engaged in operational activities. Other ways should also be explored of achieving greater predictability of resources. While preserving the voluntary nature of contributions, taking into account the need for equitable sharing of the burden. Clearly, the principal responsibility lay on the major developed countries which had fallen behind in relation to their capacity to contribute. He hoped that the invitation extended in General Assembly resolution 35/81, paragraph 7, to the relevant governing bodies to consider new and specific ways and means of mobilizing increased resources for operational activities for development on an increasingly predictable, continuous and assured basis would evoke innovative responses.

41. He emphasized the organic relationship between reduced administrative costs and increased efficiency, coherence of action and integration, on the one hand, and mobilization of resources on the other. The General Assembly itself had made it clear in resolution 32/197 and in resolution 35/81, paragraph 7, that the reduction of overhead costs and the enhancement of

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(Mr. Hassan, Pakistan)

over-all efficiency of programme execution were aimed at increasing the proportion of resources available to meet the assistance requirements of developing countries. While progress towards these goals was desirable, it was essential not to ignore the constraints on the various programmes and funds. It was hard to say how efficiency could be enhanced when the level of resources was not predictable. Furthermore, the need to preserve a certain basic infrastructure of policy formulation, administrative capacity and field organization - in time of resource constraints - necessarily limited the ability to reduce overhead costs beyond a reasonable level.

42. At the same time, attainment of those objectives was often hindered by decisions of the intergovernmental bodies themselves. In that connexion, he cited the reluctance shown by the Governing Council of UNDP at its recent session to accept increased financing of government execution by UNDP through support costs, despite the clear directive in paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 35/81 and despite the Administrators estimate that that would result in savings to the Programme. He hoped that government execution would remain the operational goal of UNDP and that every step would be taken to ensure realization for it was only by executing projects themselves that developing countries could increase their management capacities and self-reliance.

43. His delegation fully agreed with the statement in paragraph 63 of the Director General's report (A/36/478) that the pursuit of economy in administrative costs was not the sole component of efficiency and that due regard should be given to the objective of improving quality and responsiveness in the execution of operational activities. The sole criterion of efficiency should be the impact of developmental activities, primarily in relation to cost. The international community had an obligation to enhance the instruments of multilateral development co-operation within the United Nations system. That could only be achieved only if Member States renewed their commitment to support those programmes with tangible resources. He appealed to all countries, particularly those with the greatest capacity to help in that common endeavour.

44. Mr. BLAIN (Gambia) said that, regrettably, the level of assistance in terms of concessional resources channeled through the United Nations development system had not been particularly encouraging. If the system was to respond as effectively as it should to the growing needs of recipient countries, the international donor community must substantially increase its contributions, and necessary measures would also have to be taken to ensure a more predictable and continuous financing of operational activities for development, especially in relation to established targets. It was equally important that operational activities should fit in with the national objectives and development priorities and that Governments of recipient countries should assume responsibility for executing projects.

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(Mr. Blain, Gambia)

45. He commended the Administrator of UNDP for his tireless efforts in mobilizing resources and expressed appreciation for the services provided by UNDP in the Gambia. He reaffirmed his Government's continued support for UNDP efforts to promote economic growth in the developing countries through self-reliance.

46. Since the proposed allocation of resources for the third cycle had been predicated on the assumption of a minimum average annual growth of 14 per cent in voluntary contributions, his delegation was deeply disturbed by the outcome of the consultations undertaken by the Administrator, which had revealed a very sharp drop in the volume of resources anticipated for the third cycle, with an increase in voluntary contributions of only 8 per cent. The situation was even more alarming when one considered that the bleak prospects concerning resource availability were bound to have severe effects on the operational activities of the entire United Nations development system. The devastating effects on the developing countries could hardly be over-emphasized, and his delegation again urged the international donor community to make concerted efforts to attain the target of a 14 per cent increase in voluntary contributions. It was also essential that the huge accumulation of non-convertible currencies in UNDP should be replaced by convertible currencies and that the future voluntary contributions of the countries concerned should be made in readily convertible currencies.

47. His delegation believed in the formidable potential of TCDC for promoting regional co-operation among developing countries at a level that would strengthen their capacity for individual and collective self-reliance. The interrelated aspects of TCDC and ECDC had been emphasized in both the Lagos Plan of Action and the Caracas Programme of Action. Much remained to be done to expand and diversify TCDC activities. UNDP had to a large extent been constrained in its efforts by the inadequate level of resources for TCDC projects. Although TCDC was the primary responsibility of the developing countries, the increasing interdependence between developed and developing countries imposed on the industrialized countries an equal responsibility to provide the volume of resources and the technology required for the execution of TCDC projects. As had been emphasized by the United States at the second session of the High Level Committee on the Review of Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, for UNDP to effectively perform its catalytic and supportive role, the activities of the TCDC Unit in UNDP would need to be reoriented towards promoting and accelerating the formulation and execution of TCDC projects in the field. His delegation had joined in the consensus on decision 81/32, whereby the governing Council of UNDP had allocated \$1 million from the Programme Reserve for the promotion of TCDC during the period 1982-1983. While the amount was inadequate in relation to the scope of the activities, it was none the less a step in the right direction.

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(Mr. Blain, Gambia)

48. His delegation had been disappointed at the inability of the High-level Committee to adequately consider the constructive measures contained in the documents submitted to it relating to the role and potential of TCDC in promoting agricultural production, rural development, desertification control and the exchange of skills among developing countries. The Committee should accord due consideration to those issues at its third session. His delegation would also like to see a discernible TCDC component in the operational activities of other organizations of the United Nations development system.

49. The United Nations Capital Development Fund had a vital role to play in the implementation of Substantial New Programme of Action adopted at the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries. UNCDF had established itself as a viable entity through which concessional resources for self-help projects could be channelled. In view of the inherent structural weaknesses of the least developed countries, it was particularly reassuring that the main thrust of the Fund's activities was geared to the strengthening of sectoral infrastructures in those countries.

50. By and large, the activities of UNCDF dovetailed with the national objectives and development priorities of the developing countries, including the rapid assumption by Governments of project execution. His delegation was equally impressed with the Fund's efforts to generate alternative sources of finance, including the mobilization of additional resources to enhance the Fund's administrative capacity for programme delivery. Now that the Fund was firmly established, its administrative and programme support costs should be met from its general resources. His delegation looked forward to seeing that proposal endorsed at the current session. As the Fund's mandate limited it to providing capital financing - which meant that it could not finance technical assistance even when such assistance was a prerequisite for capital financing - and taking into consideration the flexible terms of reference of the Special Measures Fund for Least Developed Countries, he urged the Governing Council of UNDP to take steps at its next session to ensure complementarity between UNCDF and the Special Measures Fund.

51. While expressing his Government's deep appreciation for the voluntary contributions to the Fund, he urged developed countries and all countries in a position to do so to contribute generously to the general resources of the Fund. He also worked to reaffirm his Government's confidence in the Fund's new leadership.

52. With regard to the current programme of activities of UNFPA and the proposed role of the Fund in the 1980s, he commended the Executive Director for his dynamic leadership and the Fund for its continued efforts to mobilize resources for priority projects. However, it was disappointing that the strong moral support for UNFPA activities had yet to be matched by the level of voluntary contributions.

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(Mr. Blain, Gambia)

53. His delegation attached paramount importance to UNFPA's activities in maternal and child health care and looked forward to the successful execution in the Gambia of the Comprehensive Population Programme, which had a MCH component.

54. In addition to the important areas of infant mortality and family planning, the Fund might wish to seriously consider devoting more attention, during the rest of the decade, to promoting the full participation of women in all aspects of development, to population distribution and migration in relation to rural development, to population policy formulation and basic data collection and to mass education and human rights. Since rural migration and population redistribution were basically demographic problems, they constituted an area in which UNFPA could contribute significantly to promoting technical co-operation among developing countries.

55. His Government was deeply appreciative of the prompt emergency assistance provided by FAO, WHO, UNICEF, UNDRO and the international donor community following the indiscriminate destruction perpetrated by the rebels in the abortive rebellion of 30 July 1981. The report of the interagency mission to Banjul to consult with the Government and determine the volume of assistance that would be required for the reconstruction efforts had now been released, and his delegation hoped that the required level of financial and technical support for the early implementation of the rehabilitation and reconstruction programmes would be forthcoming.

56. He fully supported the views expressed by the representative of Kenya at the 30th meeting concerning the continued existence of UNDRO as a separate entity for disaster relief assistance, and he urged the international community to be generous in contributing to the trust fund. He hoped that as from the 1982-1983 biennium, the core recurrent programme expenses of UNDRO would be transferred to the regular budget of the United Nations so that the trust fund's resources could be used exclusively for the relief efforts.

AGENDA ITEM 72: SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE (continued)
(A/36/73 and Add.1, 259, 271 and Corr.1; A/C.2/36/L.33/Rev.1)

57. Mrs. SHALABY (Egypt), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.33/Rev.1 concerning assistance for the reconstruction, rehabilitation and development of Equatorial Guinea, said that Cape Verde, Chad, Djibouti, Guinea, India, Kenya, the United States and Zimbabwe should be added to the list of sponsors. The draft resolution had been submitted mainly because of the critical social and economic situation confronting Equatorial Guinea and the lack of official national income statistics. Her delegation hoped that it would be adopted by consensus.

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58. Mr. KITIKITI (Zimbabwe), referring to the Secretary-General's report on assistance to Zimbabwe (A/36/271 and Corr.1) said that under the country's revolutionary leadership, Zimbabwe's performance had been spectacular. In 1980, the economy had achieved record growth of 10 per cent in real terms. That growth rate found expression in the delivery of social goods and services to the rural masses and was a quantitative measure of the success of the Government's extensive rehabilitation, reconstruction and resettlement programmes.

59. At the time of independence, Zimbabwe had had to cope with a refugee problem involving 1.4 million people. The Government had attacked that problem and the land question simultaneously through its resettlement policy, which was aimed at increasing the amount of land available to the rural populace and providing infrastructural support, including essential agricultural inputs, to the new areas and other rural areas. The effect of that policy, combined with good rains, had been an increase in labour productivity and real income. While under the colonial Government annual income in the rural sector had been estimated at \$Zim 70, in the new resettlement areas the potential net income was \$Zim 400. The Government had a marketable maize surplus crop of 1.2 million tons, and it was grateful to the European Economic Community, the World Food Programme and USAID, which were procuring maize for their aid programmes from Zimbabwe. The price undercutting tactics of South Africa, designed to achieve criminal political objectives, should be ignored by the international community and its procuring agencies, which would surely find nothing attractive in the low price of maize produced by slave labour.

60. The reconstruction and rural development programme was an on-going exercise and continued to be a top priority for public sector investments. A strengthening of demand from the rural sector, matched by high productivity and assisted by the lifting of sanctions and imports of essential inputs, had accounted for a mini-boom in the manufacturing sector, which contributed 25 per cent of the GDP. Zimbabwe was thus one of the most highly diversified and structurally solid economies in Africa north of the Limpopo.

61. At independence, Zimbabwe had been faced with difficult and complex issues of political and military conciliation, socio-economic rehabilitation, post-war reconstruction and land resettlement. In February 1981, the Government had announced its policy of "growth with equity", which laid a foundation for a revolutionary society based on firm socialist, democratic and egalitarian principles. The Government was determined to put an end to imperialist exploitation and foreign domination of the key sectors of the economy.

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(Mr. Kitikiti, Zimbabwe)

62. Growth and equity were usually competitive objectives, but the increased attention given to the rural sector, the expansion of educational facilities and of skilled manpower training programmes, the integration of women and youth in development, progressive technological and fiscal policies and the policy of diversifying energy sources would not only redress the inefficient utilization of Zimbabwe's resources but would stimulate an accelerated long-term growth pattern under conditions of equity and increased economic welfare, thus making growth and equity complementary. His Government was especially committed to the speedy completion of the programme of resettlement and rehabilitation of combatants and the provision of a sound infrastructure in rural areas.

63. Development required the support of social institutions to allow trading opportunities to be exploited. Accordingly, State trading organizations were being established to conduct trade with the socialist countries. The Government had also created a State holding company which would operate in all sectors of the economy on its own initiative or in collaboration with domestic private or foreign public and private investors. The country was richly endowed with minerals, and the Government intended to participate in mining on a joint venture basis. With those objectives in mind, it had produced a three-year plan with a heavy bias towards social infrastructure development, especially emphasizing the resettlement programme and rural reconstruction.

64. The Zimbabwe Conference on Reconstruction and Development (ZIMCORD) had been organized to mobilize resources for the implementation of the Government's "growth with equity" policy. The response by donors had been encouraging and had demonstrated the international community's economic and political support for Zimbabwe.

65. One of the problems the country faced was that delivery of infra-structural development programmes in rural areas had not kept pace with increased productivity, and bottle-necks were being created in the transport and maize storage facilities. Zimbabwe's economy was linked to that of South Africa by transport and communications, trade and the supply of low-cost labour. The country was land-locked and depended on South Africa and Mozambique for its access to the sea. At independence, the Government had proposed reconciliation with those who had perpetrated barbaric terrorist acts on the Zimbabwean people. To its dismay, South Africa had chosen a line of conflict and war through its policy of destabilizing the entire southern African region and its concerted strategy to sabotage the Zimbabwean economy. As a result of those criminal acts, exports and imports were not moving efficiently, causing a severe strain on Zimbabwe's foreign exchange situation. In order for the Government's economic programmes to be sustained, ZIMCORD

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(Mr. Kitikiti, Zimbabwe)

donors were urged by the Secretary General to disburse their commitments as soon as possible. His Government also strongly urged donor countries which had not yet done so to consider financing local costs of the programmes they had pledged to support.

66. As a member of the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference (SADCC), Zimbabwe had been entrusted with the responsibility of providing a food security system for the region. A project on the study of the methodology for an early warning system for crop failures was being carried out through a grant from the United States.

67. His Government was committed to regional co-operation and the strengthening of economies in the region. At the national level, its conduct was inspired by the philosophy of self-reliance, which must, however, be pursued in the context of the interdependence of nations. That interdependence carried with it new imperatives which could only be realized within the framework of a new international economic order based on sovereignty over national resources, reallocation of resources to achieve more equitable development, distributive justice and effective participation by all countries, particularly developing countries, in world production and marketing arrangements and in the decision-making process.

68. Mr. NTAMBI (Uganda) said that during the 1970s a series of ill-advised economic measures adopted by a military administration had instigated a process of economic and social decline unprecedented in Uganda's history. Negligible investment, if any, had been made in the economic, infrastructural or social sectors of the economy, and existing facilities had been left to deteriorate. The war of 1979 had inflicted serious additional damage on the economy and the country's infrastructure. In addition, Uganda had been severely affected by a prolonged drought which had occasioned heavy loss of human and animal life.

69. The Government was sparing no efforts in its drive to restore Uganda to normality. Its development programme for the 1980s encompassed the following targets: making all regions self-sufficient in food, where possible with a surplus for export; achieving an average GNP growth rate of 6.4 per cent; raising life expectancy from 53 to 55 years; doubling the percentage of the population with access to potable water; increasing primary education enrollment to 85 per cent; raising the literacy rate to 75 per cent; and linking at least 60 per cent of the district headquarters with hard-surface roads.

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(Mr. Ntambi, Uganda)

70. A number of steps had already been taken in pursuit of those objectives, including consultations with the United Nations system, a decision to increase substantially the prices of the main agricultural export products in an effort to stimulate greater production, and allowing the national currency to float in order to establish a more realistic rate of foreign exchange and thus eliminate excessive black market practices.

71. General Assembly resolution 35/103, which had called, inter alia, for a mission to Uganda, had not been implemented, and the same had been true of a similar resolution adopted at the thirty-fourth session. His delegation was disappointed but trusted that the United Nations system and the international community would be able to respond more positively to a resolution along those lines which it hoped would be adopted at the current session. It was pleased that the mission undertaken in compliance with resolution 35/90 had been able to make concrete proposals for medium-term and long-term measures to mitigate the effects of drought in the areas of planning, food, agriculture, livestock, water, transport, meteorology, environment, health and intergovernmental co-operation. The mission's report would undoubtedly allow the Committee to take concrete decisions that would enable the drought-stricken countries to overcome their problems.

72. Referring to General Assembly resolution 35/107, paragraph 3, on the review of the mandate of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, he said that his delegation had serious difficulties with the recommendations made by the Joint Inspection Unit in its report (A/36/73). The report concentrated on how bad things had been, but should have presented a more balanced view of the work of the office and distinguished clearly between UNDRO as an organization and the people who worked for it. That approach would have facilitated the task of deciding whether UNDRO's mandate was commensurate with the resources available to it. His delegation believed that a central co-ordinating organization in the area of disaster relief was useful. Such a strong focus facilitated the accumulation of information and resources as well as their efficient utilization. His delegation hoped that UNDRO would be enabled to respond easily and efficiently to disaster situations, which meant that it should not be hampered by lack of resources, contrary to JIU's recommendations 1 and 2, or bureaucratic procedures, contrary to recommendations 4 and 5.

73. Mr. SOBHAN, (Bangladesh) said that his delegation attached great importance to the special economic assistance programmes for various countries. The adoption of special measures by donor countries and agencies could greatly ameliorate the desperate economic plight of disaster afflicted countries. He agreed with the Co-ordinator that special economic and disaster relief assistance had a direct and immediate relationship to individuals and was fundamentally important for the economic and social development of

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(Mr. Sobhan, Bangladesh)

stricken countries. Bangladesh had always supported the activities of UNDRO as the focal point of the United Nations for the mobilization, direction and co-ordination of relief activities.

74. Among UNDRO's achievements, his delegation noted its role in providing advice on pre-disaster planning, promoting the study of natural disasters and disseminating information on disaster relief. There was a need for a central co-ordinating institution to monitor developments during emergencies and promote the best use of assistance provided by the international community, and that function was well performed by UNDRO. As the Secretary-General emphasized in his report (A/36/259), a focal point was essential for the full use of the potential of the United Nations system. In his delegation's view, the mandate of UNDRO must be reaffirmed.

75. His delegation had been pleased to note that, in the space of one year, UNDRO had co-ordinated relief in 192 disaster situations. Its activities had included the collection and dissemination of information on damage assessments, relief requirements and contributions, which attested to its role as a world-wide co-ordinating agency.

76. No new machinery was needed at the global level, but for the activities of UNDRO must be supported and the co-ordination of disaster relief activities at the country level must be improved. The United Nations agencies should work together under the resident co-ordinator in each country. His delegation appealed for voluntary contributions to support UNDRO's activities and hoped that it would continue its efforts to develop an international convention disaster relief.

77. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had concluded its substantive debate on item 72.

The meeting rose at 6.05 p.m.