



SECOND COMMITTEE  
37th meeting  
held on  
Thursday, 12 November 1981  
at 10.30 a.m.  
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 37th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. VERCELES (Philippines)

later: Mr. RINGNALDA (Netherlands)

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

AGENDA ITEM 72: SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE (continued)

(b) SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAMMES: REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL  
(A/C.2/36/L.47 and L.48)

1. Mr. DJABOUTOUBOUTOU (Benin), introducing the draft resolution on assistance to Sao Tome and Principe (A/C.2/36/L.47), said that the sponsors wished to remind the Committee that the economic situation in Sao Tome and Principe had been a matter of constant concern to the international community ever since that country had acceded to independence. At the last four sessions, the General Assembly had reiterated its appeal to the international community to provide continuing support to the Government of Sao Tome and Principe in its efforts to develop the country. However, in spite of all the efforts made, the economic situation in Sao Tome and Principe still gave rise to concern; and in 1980 the Secretary-General had sent a review mission to the country to consult the Government on the economic situation there and on the measures that needed to be taken. The draft resolution which the Committee now had before it took into account the report of the Secretary-General on the subject and reiterated the appeal to the international community to provide Sao Tome and Principe with emergency assistance of various kinds to help it solve its problems.

2. With regard to the draft resolution on assistance to Chad (A/C.2/36/L.48), he observed that Chad was among the least developed countries and was at present in an extremely difficult situation, largely because it was located in the Sahel region and was suffering from the adverse effects of the national and international economic situations which were threatening its economy. For some years the political situation in Chad had been complicated by internal conflicts which had dangerously aggravated the unfavourable economic conditions in the country. The situation was described in the report submitted by the Secretary-General (A/36/261), which stressed the need for immediate and massive assistance from the international community. The sponsors of both draft resolutions hoped that the Committee would take a favourable view of them, so that they could be adopted unanimously.

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

3. Mr. ZWAYNE (Syrian Arab Republic) said that the need for co-operation between developed and developing countries in overcoming the financial and technical obstacles which the latter were encountering was becoming more and more urgent; and it was essential for States to combine their efforts and mobilize the political will for the attainment of that objective. Syria had increased its contribution to operational activities for development by 13 per cent, and expected to increase it still further.

4. Since its establishment ten years previously, the United Nations Volunteers Programme had undertaken some constructive activities in Syria, by providing technicians from various countries. The volunteers had worked very efficiently in

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(Mr. Zwayne, Syrian Arab Republic)

the context of development programmes relating to the construction of highways, engineering, livestock farming and dairy production, health care and agriculture, and had integrated themselves completely into day-to-day activities. The work they had done had encouraged the Syrian authorities to associate the Volunteers Programme with the activities envisaged under the country's development plan. Volunteers would be used for training local supervisory staff.

5. His delegation was convinced that developed countries had a duty to strengthen the Programme; and it appealed to all States to provide financial assistance for the Programme so that it could widen the scope of its activities, which were of great value for developing countries.

6. Mr. SORZANO (United States of America) said that an analysis of the comprehensive statistical report presented by the Director-General for Development and International Co-operation on the work of the entire United Nations development system yielded a number of important conclusions. First, the organizations, agencies and programmes of the United Nations system accounted for well over half of all official resource transfers to developing countries from multilateral sources. According to the report, the expenditure figures for the United Nations development system had amounted to \$4 billion in 1979 and \$4.6 billion in 1980; however, expenditures on a gross rather than a net basis had actually amounted to as much as \$8.3 billion in 1980.

7. Secondly, the United Nations system incorporated an impressive range of instruments for meeting the varied assistance requirements of developing countries. Those instruments ranged from the United Nations Development Programme to IBRD, and included large capital assistance agencies such as the International Development Association. One relatively new member of the system, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), was now making its mark at the implementational level with commitments of nearly \$900 million, and its expenditure levels should therefore begin to increase substantially.

8. Thirdly, although the system was universal in its reach, with 160 recipients, its grant-funded and concessional resource flows were impressively focused on the lower-income countries. For example, approximately half of those flows were to countries with a per capita GNP of less than \$250.

9. The United States was, of course, pleased to have played a leading role in the creation of the United Nations development system and in the provision of support for its programmes. The United States contribution to the system in 1979 and 1980 had not only been the largest from all donors, but had in fact been nearly double the amount provided by the second largest contributor. However, generation of new income for those purposes was still a matter of prime concern; and his delegation believed that the most significant untapped source of additional revenue was to be found among the capital-surplus developing countries and the industrialized socialist States. The Director-General's report documented the fact that there had been essentially no increase in the level of voluntary contributions from those two sources. None of the centrally-planned economy countries contributed to IFAD or the World Bank group, or indeed to many of the other United Nations programmes; and, even in the few programmes to which they did contribute, their funds were provided mostly in non-convertible currency, whose usefulness was severely limited.

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(Mr. Sorzano, United States)

10. He had noted from the report that the external payments deficit of the oil-importing developing countries had climbed from an annual average of \$9-12 billion in the early 1970s to about \$100 billion in 1981. Even on the most optimistic assumptions about future aid levels, deficits of that magnitude could not possibly be compensated for by official resource transfers. Those problems must be tackled on a broader economic front, both through improved domestic policies in the developing countries themselves, and through the kinds of efforts to stimulate trade and development that had been discussed at the recent Cancún Summit.

11. The United Nations programmes of particular relevance were those within the scope of the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities: those programmes' expenditures in 1980 had totalled about \$1.2 billion. The co-ordination centre for the system was UNDP, which accounted for about 60 per cent of annual grant expenditures. It was gratifying to note that in recent years UNDP had maintained, and even increased, its share in the United Nations development system. The result of the special session of the UNICEF Executive Board, at which constructive, though difficult, decisions on budgetary problems had been adopted, was also gratifying. His delegation was confident that those and other adjustments would allow UNICEF and the other United Nations programmes to continue to enhance the ability of all countries to achieve self-sustaining growth.

12. One of his delegation's concerns was the effective integration of women into the development process. It had been pleased to note UNIDO's efforts to recruit more women at the professional and technical levels, and hoped that the developing countries would make greater use of UNIDO's offer to design projects that more effectively integrated women into the industrialization process. It also commended UNICEF for its focus on women as mothers, housewives, family providers, citizens and leaders at all levels. Reference should also be made to UNDP's involvement in projects designed to promote increased participation by women in technical co-operation activities. His delegation recognized that it was sometimes difficult to include women fully in development planning, because many of their activities were in the non-monetary sector of the economy and difficult to quantify. No nation could afford to make less than full use of the output of half its population or to deny them full participation in society.

13. His delegation had noted the statement of Viet Nam, in which that country was portrayed as the innocent victim of an international plot. It should be pointed out that it was Viet Nam itself that had attacked and was currently occupying a smaller neighbouring country and that Viet Nam's economic problems would be fewer if it were not keeping 200,000 occupation troops in a neighbouring country, in violation of the Charter of the United Nations and of three United Nations resolutions.

14. Mr. GORITZA (Romania) said that the need to strengthen multilateral development assistance had been made more acute by the current world economic situation, in which the efforts of the developing countries were being thwarted by the adverse effects of the energy, economic and monetary crises and the perpetuation of a system of unjust economic relations, which increased the existing disparities between developing and developed countries.

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(Mr. Goritza, Romania)

15. UNDP should be doing more and more to help in overcoming that state of affairs. His delegation was gratified by the consensus reached at the twenty-seventh session of the UNDP Governing Council and given expression in decision 80/30, which established criteria for the granting of UNDP assistance during the third programming cycle. It also welcomed the Governing Council's confirmation of the volume of technical assistance funds for country and regional programmes. It was clear that those funds, totalling \$6.7 billion for the five-year cycle, represented the minimum required for the implementation of the programmes and that failure to secure that minimum funding would again lead to stagnation in the Programme.

16. While it had increased in 1981, the participation of developing countries in the execution of technical assistance programmes was still small, and below their real potential. In order to increase their participation substantially, it was essential to recruit an increasing number of experts from developing countries. Such experts would help to enhance the effectiveness of projects, since their experience had been gained in similar development conditions. Greatly increased purchases of equipment produced by the developing countries and the award to those countries of more subcontracts would likewise enable UNDP to promote technical co-operation among the developing countries more effectively.

17. His country attached great importance to co-operation with UNDP and was gratified at the good results obtained in the implementation of its country programme of technical assistance, which included projects that had made an effective contribution to the development of important sectors of the Romanian economy. In view of the vast scope and complexity of the objectives which his country planned to achieve during the five-year period 1981-1985, the Romanian authorities hoped that their excellent co-operation with UNDP would be strengthened and become even more fruitful.

18. Mr. LIPTAU (Federal Republic of Germany) said that the excellent report of the Director-General (A/36/478) rightly concentrated on comprehensive statistical information concerning all operational activities for development of the United Nations system and did not deal with other matters. Referring to the question of reducing administrative costs, he said that the fact that certain resources were predictable did not mean that they were always a reliable factor, as the pattern of the exchange rates of convertible currencies had shown. The meaning of the expression "Growth of resources in real terms", as far as administrative costs were concerned, was likewise problematical. The General Assembly should deal with that and similar issues when it considered the specific recommendations solicited in paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 35/81. Nevertheless, there could be no doubt that the extent to which Governments were prepared to promote the operational activities for development of the United Nations system by means of voluntary contributions would largely depend on keeping the administrative expenditures of multilateral institutions and programmes within reasonable limits.

19. With respect to the content of the report, it was difficult to say, as matters stood, whether it had been right to include, for the first time, data on organizations that had not been covered in the past, such as IFAD, the data for which, like those for the World Bank and IDA, also referred to concessional loans. Only a

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(Mr. Liptau, Federal Republic of Germany)

small part of IFAD disbursements were on a grant basis, and there was so far no agreement among Member States on a definition for the extent of operational activities. His delegation maintained the view it had expressed on that point at the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly.

20. Although it had been one of the leading contributors in 1979 and 1980, the Federal Republic of Germany shared the concern about the insufficiency of contributions for operational activities. That was all the more reason to ask why other sources, such as the oil-exporting countries with surplus capital and the industrialized socialist countries, had not so far been called upon to the full extent. In the case of the industrialized countries with centrally-planned economies, the figures clearly indicated that their contributions, taken together, were barely more than that of a single developing country such as India. Moreover, over 73 per cent of their contributions had been returned to them in the form of "operational activities", which meant that the Eastern-bloc donor countries had benefited considerably from those contributions, even if no account was taken of the question of the flow of convertible currencies, to which, unfortunately, the report made no reference. With regard to the major oil-exporting countries, he welcomed the establishment of the Gulf Arab Fund for United Nations Activities for Development, which had given great impetus to UNICEF. His delegation hoped that other United Nations organizations would also benefit.

21. He noted with satisfaction that UNDP's share in the system's technical co-operation activities had increased by 2 per cent from 1978 to 1980. On the other hand, the situation with regard to contributions was still disturbing. In that connexion, he was in a position to state that his country's voluntary contributions to UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF would be maintained at least at the previous year's level.

22. In conclusion, he thought that the understanding of international relations in paragraph 32 of the report was too one-sided. It was for the partners in the international co-operation process to decide freely whether their assistance should be multilateral or bilateral. It should be remembered that in 1980 the share of the Federal Republic of Germany in multilateral official development assistance had amounted to 35 per cent, an increase over previous years.

23. Mr. KOLEV (Bulgaria) said that operational activities for development, in which UNDP held a central place, constituted one of the main approaches in the over-all process of restructuring international economic relations on a democratic and equitable basis. During the period under consideration, there had been positive results and significant improvement in the methodology of planning and forms of operational activity.

24. His Government fully supported the assistance rendered by UNDP to the national liberation movements and the Palestinian people. It also welcomed the progress achieved in the utilization of the resources for technical assistance, including the voluntary contributions in non-convertible currencies and the personal contribution of the Administrator. The results obtained so far, while still far from satisfactory, nevertheless indicated that, provided there was goodwill on the part of the administration, no obstacles could stand in the way of utilizing all

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(Mr. Kolev, Bulgaria)

available currencies. In that connexion the activity of the UNDP Office in Geneva in finding new methods of using the contributions of Bulgaria effectively was praiseworthy. The difficulty had been intentionally magnified in an effort to prove that non-convertible currencies could not be appropriated. That was illustrated by the fact that Bulgaria, for example, maintained active economic relations with 65 developing countries including the carrying out of building projects amounting to more than \$100 million annually in those countries. In the engineering sector alone, its contracts with developing countries for terms of three to four years amounted to the equivalent of about \$2,000 million. In addition, nearly 6,000 Bulgarian specialists were working under bilateral agreements in the developing countries.

25. At a time when UNDP was on the threshold of its third programming cycle, it was particularly important to strengthen and enhance the effectiveness of its work, especially as technical co-operation was vital in the implementation of the international development strategy. The fundamental principle of UNDP was the universality of international co-operation. It was therefore unfortunate that, in the implementation of its projects, UNDP continued to rely on a limited number of free-market countries while the share of the socialist countries was far from adequate. The developing countries were thereby deprived of the wide experience of the socialist countries and of the developing countries in extending technical assistance. The Programme should have a wider representation of all countries in the field of technical co-operation.

26. With regard to the preparation of the third programming cycle, the question of determining criteria for the distribution of UNDP resources had been solved at the twenty-seventh session of the Governing Council, special attention had been devoted to the needs of the least developed countries and 80 per cent of all quotas had been earmarked for countries with national per capita incomes of less than \$500.

27. His delegation fully shared the concern of the Administrator at the shortage of resources and the resulting negative impact on the activities of UNDP. So far as the proposed alternatives were concerned, it supported the proposal to assign 80 per cent of the quotas for the first year of the third cycle, as indicated in decision 80/30, with the corrections deemed necessary to be introduced at a later stage. That would ensure the start of the country programmes, the implementation of which usually slowed down during the first year of the five-year period. His delegation was in favour of the modifications in procedure and programming proposed by the Administrator for simplifying and facilitating the programming process. It was convinced, however, that the process should be, as much as possible, in accord with the needs of individual countries, that the provisions of the 1970 consensus and the 1975 guidelines on new dimensions should be implemented, that the Governments of individual countries should have the final say in determining priorities in the use of UNDP resources, and that the administration and execution of the programmes should be carried out on the basis of close co-operation among Governments, the UNDP and executing agencies. In that connexion he recalled that, at the twenty-seventh and twenty-eighth sessions of the Governing Board, Bulgaria had emphasized the need for an equitable approach in determining the IPF of the different countries.

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28. Mr. KITTIKHOUN (Lao People's Democratic Republic) said that, as a result of the serious world economic situation, many countries were trying to save themselves from ultimate catastrophe by resorting to the operational activities of the United Nations system as the mainstay of international economic co-operation. The serious financing problem affecting those activities was reflected in the report of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation (A/36/478) and the note of the Administrator of UNDP (DP/517). Unfortunately no serious effort had been made to implement resolution 32/197 which called for a substantial increase in the resources for financing operational activities to enable the development co-operation bodies of the United Nations to carry out their task. In spite of the importance which the international community attached to those activities and owing to the meagre financial support of the principal donor countries, the available resources were therefore very limited and the prospects were gloomy and uncertain.

29. The developed market-economy countries were trying to blame those difficulties on the current world economic crisis and even asserting that they had already contributed too much, without taking into account the profits reaped through transnational corporations from the economic exploitation of the developing countries. Those were, moreover, the countries which controlled the world economy and could end the crisis; some of them had even admitted that massive support for the developing countries would also benefit the others, which was clear proof of a lack of real political will.

30. The problems of the operational activities system were not attributable only to the shortage of resources but also to greater or lesser effectiveness in the execution of projects. Account should be taken of the realities in each developing country, especially in the least developed of them, and of their low absorption capacity. Great flexibility should be shown and an excessively uniform and standardized criterion should not be adopted in the execution of projects, given the characteristics of each country. The confidence of the developing countries in the various programmes and funds of the United Nations system would thereby be enhanced in the future.

31. In spite of the difficulties described, operational activities continued to form an important part of international economic co-operation and of the establishment of a new international economic order, a concept which was perfectly in line with the principles of the Charter. It was therefore regrettable that certain circles concerned with multilateral economic co-operation had used their influence to exert political pressure on certain developing countries. An example of such pressure had occurred at the controversial twenty-eighth session of the Governing Council of UNDP, held at headquarters in June 1981, when attempts had been made to avoid approving development programmes for the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam. The same process had been observed during the World Food Conference held recently in Rome.

32. Similarly, Laos, a country classified among the least developed, land-locked and in serious economic difficulties, had just been unjustifiably denied by an international financing institution resources for a development project of great importance. It must be pointed out that, if such a tactic was repeated, the cause of development and international co-operation would be seriously undermined.



(Mr. Kittikhoun, Lao People's  
Democratic Republic)

33. Never had operational activities, the symbol of multilateral economic co-operation, found themselves in such a serious position. On the one hand, the resources were inadequate; on the other, the activities of the reactionary imperialist circles were to be condemned. That practice must cease in order that the aspirations of the peoples seeking free development should triumph and the international community must redouble its efforts in defence of the principle of non-discrimination, which had always prevailed in the economic organizations of the United Nations system.

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

35. Mr. OKWARO (Kenya) expressed his delegation's appreciation for the work carried out in Kenya by UNDP, particularly under the guidance of the late Mr. Robert Kitchen. At its twenty-eighth session the Governing Council of UNDP had approved Kenya's country programme for the third programming cycle. That programme was designed to increase Kenya's production capacity in food and agriculture, forestry and fisheries.

36. His delegation, like others, was gravely concerned at the over-all declining level of contributions to UNDP. There was a danger that, if multilateral assistance were cut off, many developing countries would be compelled to face a perpetual series of economic problems. Most developing countries had shown their willingness to make contributions towards projects in their own countries. A number of them had made very high contributions when expressed as a percentage of their gross national product. His delegation felt that contributions made for operational activities had a multiplier effect which in the long run might lead to self-reliance and put an end to the need for the annual pledging conferences. It therefore urged the countries which had the capacity to contribute much higher amounts to reflect further on the question.

37. Kenya was deeply interested in the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources which had made a valuable contribution to the development of the developing countries. It hoped that at its twenty-ninth session the Governing Council of UNDP would consider the expansion of the Fund to include the financing of geothermal energy and that in doing so it would bear in mind any recommendations that the Intergovernmental Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy might make.

38. The work of UNICEF, which had made significant contributions to certain self-help activities in Kenya, was commendable. His delegation hoped that in future UNICEF would be able to increase its assistance to Kenya to cover several other programmes which had been initiated to benefit children. The activities of UNFPA in Kenya had also been greatly appreciated and Kenya hoped that they would be expanded.

39. At a time when the food situation in many African countries was deteriorating, it was essential to call for increased contributions to the World Food Programme and to the International Fund for Agricultural Development so that the desired targets could be met.

(Mr. Okwaro, Kenya)

40. His delegation would like to concur with most of the conclusions made by the Joint Inspection Unit and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) in their reports on assistance by the United Nations system to regional technical institutes (A/36/101 and Add.1). However, his delegation did not quite agree with the conclusion made in paragraph 251 of document A/36/101 that regional and interregional technical institutions, whatever their size or type, should be legally constituted before they received United Nations assistance. A flexible policy should be followed in that respect, taking into account intergovernmental relations in each region or subregion. The stress should rather be placed on services rendered by the institution concerned, which might even be national in origin but able to assist several other countries without having a legal agreement.

41. It was important to cut down unnecessary bureaucracy and thereby release funds for actual projects. The goal of operational activities should continue to be the increased delivery of technical assistance financed, where appropriate, through the regular budget of the United Nations. The principle of voluntary contributions would always imply increased contributions and not any reduction or abandonment of projects. Any reduction in contributions by the major donors would jeopardize the prestige of the United Nations and might even imply that the new States which had just joined the United Nations would be cut off from receiving assistance for operational activities.

42. His delegation wished to thank all those Governments which had contributed generously in the past and continued to increase their contributions. It hoped that other Governments would follow their example.

43. Mr. BALASUBRAMANIAM (Sri Lanka) expressed his satisfaction with the content and scope of the report on operational activities (A/36/478) introduced by the Director-General for Development and International Co-operation. A recurring theme in the statements so far made during the present session was the inadequacy of the resources available to meet the cost of operational activities and the uncertainty and unpredictability in the mobilization of resources. All agreed that there should be an increase in the flow of resources on a predictable, continuous and assured basis. However, unless that aim was translated into practice, it would not be possible for the organizations to engage in realistic forward planning. The inadequacy of resources in real terms was further compounded by the time-lag between the pledges being made and the contributions being received. Fluctuating exchange rates and inflation had also aggravated the situation.

44. For all those reasons, there was an urgent need to take positive measures to ensure that the operational activities of the United Nations system would not suffer for want of adequate resources. As the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination had recently pointed out, a reduction in the resources in support of development activities would be detrimental both to the developed as well as the developing countries since interdependence was acknowledged as the key to world economic prosperity and development.

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(Mr. Balasubramaniam, Sri Lanka)

45. While welcoming the attempts by UNDP to improve government execution of projects, the appointment of UNDP resident representatives as resident co-ordinators as well as efforts to cut down administrative costs, his delegation did not feel that those measures should be taken at the expense of the efficiency of the field units.

46. With regard to UNFPA, his delegation hoped that, in the preparation of the report on the system of priority countries and the possibility of introducing additional criteria, special consideration would be given to countries' political commitments to the established population policies, their absorption capacity, their contribution to programmes and their investment in programmes which had markedly reduced fertility rates. That achievement should be given adequate recognition in the form of enhanced assistance.

47. His delegation welcomed the declaration adopted at the first Asian Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development held in Beijing in October, which had called for a review of existing targets in population and development programmes with a view to attaining the 1 per cent population growth target for the Asian region by the year 2000.

48. Sri Lanka was a participant in the United Nations Volunteers Programme, having received 109 volunteers and provided 17, and was pleased to note that the Programme had achieved its target, of 1,000 volunteers in the field, two years ahead of schedule and that the percentage of volunteers from developing countries was increasing. His delegation expressed its appreciation of the Programme and of the other organizations engaged in operational activities, particularly UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF. His delegation was confident that the international community would also demonstrate its appreciation by providing the necessary financial resources.

49. Mr. NANDOE (Surinam) said that the erosion of the multilateral co-operation system would certainly make the solution of the current global economic crisis more difficult. A lessening of international co-operation would inevitably lead to bilateralism and hence to alliances that might not be in the interests of harmonious relations and the relaxation of tensions.

50. Multilateral technical co-operation, which promoted improvements in the availability of human, material and financial resources, the dissemination of knowledge, the productive deployment of human resources and the application of science and technology, was not receiving the attention it merited. There was a widening gap between the needs of developing countries for technical co-operation and the attention and resources devoted to it; that was the reason for the importance of programming, in order to determine the economic and social needs and the priorities of the receiving countries in relation to their development plans. A trickle-down of economic growth was not enough to bring about the necessary structural transformations.

51. With respect to the activities of UNDP, he pointed out that, as a result of decision 80/30 of the Governing Council, providing for a shift of emphasis in favour of the least developed countries, many developing countries, including Surinam,

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(Mr. Nandoe, Surinam)

had seen their hopes of a nominal increase in their indicative planning figures for the third programming cycle diminish.

52. Voluntary contributions, which reflected the donor countries' interests and preferences, had been slowing down and declining in real terms. The results of the recent Pledging Conference were disappointing. Of the 30 countries which had pledged an increase of 14 per cent or more, 24 were developing countries. The industrialized countries, which accounted for 80 per cent of the world's gross national product, had been reluctant to make any substantial increase in their contributions. They were apparently trying to overcome their economic crisis by limiting their commitments to the developing countries, but it was questionable whether that was an acceptable approach.

53. The Brandt Report favoured a massive transfer of resources, on the lines of the Marshall Plan. It could be predicted from experience that a transfer of that kind would not only contribute to the progress of the developing countries but would also stimulate economic growth in the industrialized countries. The developing countries, for their part, would have to refrain from trying to repeat the experience of the Western capitalist countries, which could not be recreated, but should instead draw lessons from that experience, adopting what was positive and rejecting what was negative, and thereby achieve self-reliance and become a valid, and inevitable, partner in the dialogue with industrialized countries.

54. In that context, it was vital that the United Nations should provide the framework for restructuring international economic relations and launching the global negotiations on major economic issues without further delay.

55. Mr. SIOSTRONEK (Czechoslovakia) referred to the principle of universality and the goodwill which should govern operational activities for development. The United Nations was the instrument for economic co-operation between countries regardless of their social systems. However, lack of resources was giving rise to problems which had particularly detrimental effects on the developing countries. Moreover, the headlong arms race of the previous 12 years had world-wide repercussions on the economy, the supply of raw materials, finance and trade. As the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation had said, it should be borne in mind that the largest potential source of finance for operational activities was funds released by the reduction of military budgets.

56. All resources must be used effectively for development purposes, including contributions in national currencies. His delegation wished to reiterate that his Government had adopted measures in 1978 as a result of which services provided for UNDP by Czechoslovak economic, scientific and technical organizations could be financed entirely from Czechoslovakia's voluntary contributions, regardless of the fact that those organizations used non-convertible currencies. Czechoslovakia could increase its voluntary contributions to UNDP if full use were made of them. An example of Czechoslovakia's co-operation with UNDP was the Research Centre at Bratislava.

57. Since Czechoslovakia had no serious population problems — indeed, it could serve as an example to many countries in that field — its co-operation with UNFPA

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(Mr. Siostronek, Czechoslovakia)

was mainly in the form of passing on experience. In May 1981 an international seminar on basic medical services for children had been held in Czechoslovakia, with participants from developing countries in Africa and Latin America. Preparations were in progress for a seminar on the use of demographic microfiches, to be held in 1983.

58. Czechoslovakia attached great importance to world co-operation on health, education and social welfare for children. It supported multilateral co-operation through UNICEF, in particular the UNICEF programmes for establishing basic social, health and education services. His delegation noted with satisfaction the valuable help given through UNICEF to newly independent countries. The Czechoslovak Committee for Co-operation with UNICEF comprised all state organizations and bodies concerned with children and young people and interested in promoting close co-operation in achieving UNICEF's noble aims.

59. Mr. CHEKAY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation assessed the value of operational activities for development by whether they met the real needs of the developing countries, whether they helped to solve the major problems of social and economic development, and whether they were consistent with the provisions of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States and the Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order.

60. In 1980 the activities of UNDP had shown some progress. The UNDP administration had taken measures, with some success, to improve the planning and execution of operational activities. His delegation was gratified by that progress, although there were still short-comings in the implementation of country and regional programmes; there were cases of inadequate and unequal use of resources, the programming of operational activities sometimes disregarded real funding prospects, and administrative costs were still high. The situation was largely due to the fact that certain countries tried to ignore the basic principles of universality and voluntary participation embodied in the 1970 Consensus and subsequently endorsed by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. That was the purpose of the campaign that certain Western countries were waging in UNDP to disparage the USSR and other States, in defiance of the financial rules of UNDP, which recognized the sovereign right of States Members and the United Nations to determine themselves the amount, nature and periodicity of their contributions.

61. The proposals made by certain countries regarding a "more equitable" distribution of the costs of United Nations activities on the basis of the "equal responsibility" of all States for the economic difficulties of the developing countries were equally objectionable. Was it right to speak of the equal responsibility of the socialist countries, on the one hand, whose economy was based exclusively on the work of its own people and the development of its own resources, and of the imperialist countries, on the other, which had been plundering the resources of their colonies for centuries and were still exploiting them in various ways? The USSR was strongly against fixing any specific amount for the contributions to UNDP and against countries having to reimburse in full the funds they received through UNDP. The proposed changes in the current arrangements for pledging of contributions undermined the principle of universality and voluntary contributions to the Programme.

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(Mr. Chekay, USSR)

62. In addition, the attempts of certain Western countries to control UNDP's activities through the international financing agencies were disturbing. The USSR was absolutely opposed to the control of UNDP's operational activities by the World Bank and similar institutions on the excuse of broadening co-operation between UNDP and the Bank, as was provided specifically in decision 81/22 of the Governing Council. His delegation was of the view that the UNDP Governing Council should keep a strict eye on all the resources used to broaden UNDP's financial base, so as to prevent transnational corporations and other capitalist monopolies from using UNDP for the economic penetration of the developing countries.

63. The USSR delegation noted the positive results achieved by the regular programme of technical assistance, although it wished to point out that the programme was not yet utilizing all its resources. On several occasions, the USSR had expressed its willingness to broaden its participation in the regular programme and in UNDP by contributing services and supplies and training personnel from the developing countries. The USSR's experience in that field was a well-known fact but, unfortunately, many of its proposals ran into difficulties. In that connexion, his delegation wished to draw attention to the ineffectiveness of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development and UNDP in arranging for the training of personnel from developing countries in the USSR and other socialist countries.

64. There were other serious defects in the United Nations technical assistance activities, such as, for instance, the scant attention paid to the needs of the developing countries in connexion with the establishment of national industries, on the one hand, or, on the other, to the experience of other countries, particularly the socialist countries, in the struggle against economic backwardness and the promotion of socio-economic change in the developing countries. In that connexion, he expressed concern at the practice of entrusting technical assistance projects to a particular group of Western countries and at the violations of the principle of equitable geographical distribution in the recruitment of technical assistance experts by United Nations bodies. One way of remedying that situation was for the Governments of the developing countries to take over responsibility for the execution of projects sponsored by the United Nations. The Soviet Union, for its part, was willing to carry out specific projects to be charged against its contribution to the technical assistance programmes and the rouble reserve held by UNDP and the United Nations regular programme of technical assistance. In addition, steps should be taken to reduce the administrative expenses of the organizations of the United Nations system that were the executing agencies for technical assistance projects, to establish priorities for the utilization of the budget of the regular programme and to ensure effective control of expenditures. For those reasons, his delegation was of the view that it would be premature to consider any possible increase in the budget for technical assistance activities.

65. As to the operations of other funds and programmes, the USSR had been co-operating with UNFPA on population questions for a number of years. In that connexion, he expressed the hope that the Secretariats of the United Nations and of UNDP would bear in mind the interest felt by the developing countries in the courses on population given at Moscow University. At the Pledging Conference held on 3 and 4 November 1981, the delegation of the Soviet Union had announced that part of the USSR contributions would be used to finance the various United Nations

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programmes that were being carried out in the Soviet Union for the training of personnel from developing countries, including the courses at Moscow University that were jointly financed with UNFPA.

66. The USSR delegation noted with satisfaction the operations carried out in 1980 by UNICEF, particularly its assistance to Democratic Kampuchea. UNICEF should continue its valuable work, with special attention to assisting children in the countries that were struggling against colonialism. However, he expressed concern at the fact that UNICEF was using its scanty funds to carry out very costly projects. The criteria for the preparation of programmes and the distribution of funds by UNICEF must be reviewed; those criteria should include among others, infant mortality, medical care, social services and education. The financial resources must be used in a rational and uniform manner, while at the same time, there should be a balanced approach to co-operation with other international and national organizations concerned with international development.

67. As to the Secretary-General's activities in the sphere of technical co-operation, his delegation believed that the regular programme of technical assistance should be transferred from the United Nations budget to that of UNDP and that it should be voluntarily funded. The USSR wished to reaffirm its intention of continuing to broaden and strengthen its co-operation, particularly in the area of the training of personnel from developing countries. At the same time, the USSR was ready to participate more actively in the secretariat of UNDP and the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, as well as in administrative activities in the field. However, Soviet experts were meeting with some resistance from the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, as was clear from the fact that there were no Soviet nationals in the higher posts of the Department and no Soviet experts in the field, which was due to an obvious preference for personnel from a small group of capitalist countries.

68. It would be impossible to carry out the important tasks in the field of international economic relations and economic development in Africa, Asia and Latin America unless decisive steps were taken to ensure political and military détente and to safeguard international peace and security. For that reason, on the proposal of the USSR, an item on the conclusion of a treaty on the prohibition of the stationing of weapons of any kind in outer space had been included in the agenda of the current session of the General Assembly. Action on that and other USSR proposals would help to solve many of the economic problems facing the international community.

69. Mr. ZUNG (Viet Nam), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that in his statement, the United States representative had used the so-called Vietnamese invasion and occupation of Kampuchea and its supposed violation of the Charter of the United Nations as a pretext for its policy of exerting military and economic pressure on Viet Nam. The Vietnamese delegation firmly rejected the slanderous statement of the United States, which was carrying out a policy that was directed, politically and economically, against the progressive developing countries. In that connexion, he drew attention to the statement made by the Secretary of State of the United States at the *International Conference on Kampuchea* held on 13 July. In the view of the Vietnamese delegation, the policy of the United States Government was a serious

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violation of the United Nations Charter and of the principles and purposes of international agencies and organizations. That policy was applied, not only against Viet Nam, but also against many other developing countries.

70. Miss KAMAL (Secretary of the Committee) announced that several countries had joined the sponsors of the following draft resolutions that the Committee would be considering: draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.33/Rev.1, Madagascar and Thailand; draft resolution L.37 and L.38, Thailand; draft resolution L.39, Thailand and United Republic of Cameroon; draft resolution L.47, Botswana; draft resolution L.48, Botswana, Congo, Madagascar, Thailand and United Republic of Cameroon.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.