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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 26th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. BELL (Canada)

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The meeting was called to order at 11.20 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 84: INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR: PARTICIPATION, DEVELOPMENT, PEACE:
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AGENDA ITEM 85: WORLD SOCIAL SITUATION:

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AGENDA ITEM 90: WORLD PROGRAMME OF ACTION CONCERNING DISABLED PERSONS: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/38/506; A/C.3/38/L.18)

1. Mr. CHANVITAN (Thailand), speaking on agenda item 84, said that young people in Thailand had, over the past decades, played an important role in the decision-making process and in the political, economic and cultural development of the country. Recognizing their wish to participate in the development process, the Thai Government encouraged them to help improve the quality of life among the rural population. At the same time, in 1978 the Government had promulgated the National Youth Promotion Act establishing the National Youth Promotion and Co-ordination Committee to supervise and co-ordinate youth programmes undertaken by public and private agencies. The Government had also adopted a long-term plan for youth, which was being implemented under the fifth national economic and social development plan for the period 1982-1986.

2. At the international level, Thailand had supported the proclamation of the International Youth Year. It had prepared a national plan of action for the Year and had entrusted the National Committee with the administration, implementation and co-ordination of all programmes and activities relating to the International Year. At the regional level, Thailand had taken part in the Regional Meeting on International Youth Year for Asia and the Pacific held at Bangkok in July 1983 and attended by representatives and experts from 26 States members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), and by observers from United Nations offices and specialized agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental bodies. Among the issues considered at the meeting were unemployment among young people, the disintegration of traditional cultural values relating to the family,

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(Mr. Chanvitan, Thailand)

religion and the community, and the harmful effects of to narrow a concept of national development. The participants had adopted the Regional Plan of Action, which the Advisory Committee for the International Youth Year would consider in 1984. The International Year would provide an opportunity to demonstrate the confidence placed in young people as well as concern about their problems. It was therefore encouraging to note that the preparations were going well, and he hoped that the third session of the Advisory Committee would help make the Year a success. In that connection, further efforts and resources should be devoted to public relations activities.

3. Turning to item 89, he said that his delegation welcomed the measures taken to implement the Vienna Plan of Action. The Thai Government, which had supported the adoption of that Plan, had established a national co-ordinating committee under the Ministry of the Interior and had designated 13 April as the National Day for Aging; various activities had been organized on that date to generate awareness of the important role played by the elderly in the family and in national development. It should not be forgotten that, in the final analysis, the success of the World Assembly on Aging depended on the measures to be taken at the national, regional and international levels pursuant to the Plan of Action.

4. Mr. KHMEL (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said, with reference to item 85, that the Ukrainian SSR shared the concerns expressed about the seriousness of the world social situation by the Under-Secretary-General for International Economic and Social Affairs, the Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs and many speakers. It was, however, important to beware of excessive generalizations. Moreover, it was not enough to acknowledge social problems, it was essential to discover the causes.

5. The assessment of the world social situation in document E/CN.5/1983/3 was inapplicable to the socialist countries. While the report did make some correct observations about those countries, it must be said that the authors had shown a definite bias. According to the report, "in industrial socialist countries, the long period of rapid post-war economic expansion has been interrupted" and, that had allegedly "put pressure on funds set aside for a variety of social purposes" (p. 5). Elsewhere, the report stated that in the socialist countries, "there are signs that housing production may taper off in the 1980s and that, in the future, residents will have to allocate a larger share of their income to rental payments" (p. 146).

6. The delegation of the Ukrainian SSR considered those statements and propositions to be unfounded and tendentious. How, indeed, could one speak of an interruption of economic growth in the socialist countries, when the gross social product of the Ukrainian SSR was increasing year by year and, in 1982, was 165 per cent higher than what it had been in 1970? National income had increased 57 per cent in the same period. The subsidies received by the population through social consumption funds had increased 1.9 times in absolute terms since 1970, which represented a per capita increase of 1.8. How could anyone speak of an increase in rental payments, when, in percentage terms, rents were at the same

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(Mr. Khmel, Ukrainian SSR)

level as they had been in 1928, amounting on average to 3 per cent of family earnings? Similarly, the data on wages did not go beyond 1970. From 1970 to 1982, the average wage of manual and non-manual workers had increased by 40 per cent in the Ukraine, while that of collective farm workers had risen by about 70 per cent. Real per capita income had risen by 50 per cent in the same period.

7. What was true for the Ukraine also applied to all the other Soviet Republics and to the other socialist countries. It was clear, therefore, that the economic and social development of those countries did not follow the same disturbing pattern as that of many other countries of the world, a fact that unfortunately was not duly reflected in United Nations documents. The Ukrainian delegation reiterated its desire that such reports and studies should be based on information received from Governments and that they should deal separately with the economic and social development of socialist countries. Furthermore, since the form of ownership of the means of production was the factor which distinguished countries with different social systems, the socialist countries should not be referred to as "centrally planned economies" but as countries whose economy was based on the collective ownership of the means of production, "publicly-owned economies". By the same token, it would be more accurate to call the "market economy countries" privately-owned economies or capitalist countries.

8. Turning to documents A/38/338 and A/38/338/Add.1, he said that popular participation was one of the main features of socialist society. State agencies were the executors of the will of the masses and were composed of the representatives of the masses. Decision-making on all aspects of social life and the implementation of those decisions was a process in which the broadest sectors of the population participated.

9. As far as the questions of aging and disabled persons were concerned, the Ukrainian SSR had no problems because of the steady growth of social consumption funds, and the deep humanism and moral health which characterized Ukrainian society.

10. Imperialism was the underlying cause of the economic and social difficulties in the world and bore the primary responsibility for the economic stagnation and social problems which marked the situation both in the developing countries and the imperialist States. The debt of the developing countries currently amounted to some \$600 billion. Western monopolies extorted profits from those countries amounting to one fifth of their net domestic income. Outflows of capital from African, Asian and Latin American countries amounted to \$150 billion per annum, which was far more than the inflows. It was therefore hardly surprising that, in those countries, the growth of production was slowing down, per capita income was declining considerably, foreign currency reserves were being exhausted and, as a result, social problems were being exacerbated.

11. The other causes of world economic and social development problems, causes which, moreover, were a product of imperialism, were colonialism, neo-colonialism, racism (particularly in the form of apartheid and zionism), the arms race, the threat and use of force, and acts of open aggression and occupation.

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(Mr. Khmel, Ukrainian SSR)

12. His delegation noted with satisfaction that a chapter entitled "Disarmament and development" had been included in the report on the world social situation. That chapter did, however, give rise to very serious reservations, since it suggested that the arms race was caused not only by the States members of NATO, but also by the States members of the Warsaw Treaty Organization. In fact, it was imperialism, represented by the NATO countries with the United States at the head, which was chiefly responsible for the arms race. The United States had recently attacked the people of Grenada, who had decided to live in their own way and to start moving towards far-reaching social and economic changes. The Ukrainian SSR condemned that act of aggression and demanded the immediate withdrawal of American forces from Grenada. That act was only the latest of a number of acts of aggression planned and executed by imperialism, more specifically by American imperialism, against the freedom, independence and progress of peoples.

13. Mrs. ZACHAROPOULOS (Greece) said, with reference to agenda items 84 and 88, that activities for young people should be carried out primarily at the national level while international activities should only serve to supplement them. That approach was in line with the conclusions of the European Regional Meeting on International Youth Year. With that in mind, the Greek Government had established a Ministry for Youth and Sports in 1982 to identify and seek solutions to the problems of young people. That Ministry, which was very active, had carried out a programme in co-operation with the Organization of Manpower for the creation of 20,000 jobs for young people who were out of work. It had also prepared two programmes, one aimed at physically handicapped young people and the other to provide training for young people without specialized skills.

14. With respect to the social welfare of young people, the Ministry had embarked on a thorough study of the spread of drugs in the country. It was also engaged in a special programme entitled "Youth and Health" aimed at examining the main factors affecting the health of young people with a view to launching a campaign to protect and improve their health. It had also undertaken a physical education programme for young prisoners who were drug addicts. In addition, it took part in inter-ministerial commissions for the review of the legislation on juvenile delinquency and drugs and was working on a large-scale programme for the reform of education in establishments for young offenders.

15. Finally, with regard to recreational activities, the Ministry of Youth had started a programme of free tourism for 20,000 young workers in 14 regions of the country and had set up a campsite which was run by young people who were unemployed in co-operation with the Confederation of Workers.

16. It should also be noted that the Greek Government had established a national co-ordinating committee to prepare for the International Youth Year. In that context, a cultural exhibition had been organized in Arcadia, in southern Greece, in August 1983. Under the auspices of UNESCO, the Ministry for Youth had founded an international centre for friendship and co-operation among young people at Chalki, in the Aegean Sea, and an international youth forum on peace had recently been held there. She added that her country had contributed to the United Nations Trust Fund for the International Youth Year.

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(Mrs. Zacharopoulos, Greece)

17. Turning to item 89, she said that, in line with the awareness generated by the World Assembly on Aging and the Plan of Action which had stated that only measures taken at the national level could ensure its success, the Greek Government had launched medical, social and welfare programmes for the elderly. It had, inter alia, established centres for preventive health care, physical and occupational therapy and participation in social life. It had improved existing homes for the aged and opened new ones. Research was being carried out on the question of the aging of the population in Greece, which was due partly to a low birth rate and partly to emigration among young people. In addition, the Greek Government had recently introduced a pension scheme covering all elderly persons who were not insured. Finally, the National Committee was continuing to look for new ways to meet the specific needs of the elderly.

18. At the international level, Greece considered that the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women would help consolidate the results of the Vienna Plan of Action with respect to the situation and needs of older women. It was also important that the Advisory Committee for the International Youth Year should plan joint activities, particularly when they related to intergenerational problems.

19. Mr. AL-HADDAWI (Iraq), speaking on agenda items 84 and 88, said that Iraq, aware of the central role of youth in the building of society, had set up a Youth Ministry which was responsible for educating young people in socialist thought based on the role and unity of Arab countries and on Islamic civilization, while at the same time adapted to the modern world. The Ministry was also responsible for giving youth a chance, in the spirit of the United Nations Charter, to make contact with other groups from Arab and friendly countries by participating in cultural, political, social and sports activities. The Government was establishing scientific, ideological and humanitarian educational programmes for youth which would enable them to become aware of their Arab identity and their future responsibilities to the country. Young people participated, for example, in civil defence, farm labour and road building. Since the Iranian aggression, many young Iraqis had become volunteers and were giving proof of their discipline and their respect for the laws and leaders of Iraq, which was a sign of the total success of the Iraqi educational system.

20. Iraq was making preparations for the International Youth Year; nationally, it had entrusted the organization of those preparations to the Youth Ministry and various youth organizations, bearing in mind the studies conducted in connection with the seminar held under the auspices of the Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA), and internationally it was co-operating in the preparations for the Year with other Arab countries.

21. Referring to agenda item 85, he said that economic and social changes required collective international action and the application of all the United Nations decisions and programmes of action relating to economic and technical co-operation and to the peaceful settlements of disputes. Disarmament and the reduction of international tensions constituted a necessary condition for economic and social

(Mr. Al-Haddawi, Iraq)

development. The billions of dollars spent on weapons could be used for better ends with the co-operation of the super-Powers. Although Iraq's hopes for development had been temporarily set back by the war waged against it for the past three years by Iran, it wanted to ensure the well-being and progress of its people and had made profound economic and social changes over the past 15 years. Following the social philosophy expressed in the Constitution, which stressed the need to establish a humanistic socialism, the State offered free education and medical care to all citizens and was carrying on a literacy campaign. It felt that the resources devoted to the social sector were a productive investment and that the balance between the economic, social and cultural realms was ensured by the participation of the whole population. In Iraq, the State played a directive role in development and could thus take advantage of all the resources available, both nationally and internationally. The implementation of economic and social programmes, facilitated by the fact that Iraq was rich enough to do without foreign loans, had resulted in the total elimination of unemployment; in fact, there was even a shortage of labour.

22. With regard to agenda item 90, he stated that the Iraqi State was trying to give disabled persons an opportunity to live with dignity and to make the best use of their talents, so that they would not feel totally dependent. Article 7 of the decree on social security stipulated that the State was responsible for disabled persons and had the task of providing them with vocational training and integrating them into the society. Thus, in two years, 23,000 disabled persons had been able to find work. However, their number had increased considerably during the past three years because of the war, and the State was seeking to integrate them as far as possible, following the experience of other countries if necessary.

23. On agenda item 89, he said that the State, in accordance with the policy of the Baath Party, had adopted very progressive laws concerning social security and retirement which took into account all the difficulties connected with aging and guaranteed a regular income and various services to aging persons.

24. Mr. DORJI (Bhutan), speaking on items 86 and 88, said that youth constituted a very crucial and potent force in socio-economic development and in the promotion of peace, justice and freedom for all.

25. His delegation was encouraged by the progress made at the national, regional and international levels in the observance of the International Youth Year, and it noted with interest the actions proposed in the concluding part of the Secretary-General's report (A/38/460). It further welcomed the recommendations contained in document A/38/339, particularly those with regard to the need for a qualitative strengthening of the existing channels of communication between the United Nations and youth and youth organizations and for the expansion of current activities.

26. ESCAP had recently made a number of recommendations concerning youth activities and had adopted a regional plan of action for the International Youth Year and beyond. Among other things, it had called for the active involvement of

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(Mr. Dorji, Bhutan)

youth in carrying out programmes to help eradicate problems of rural and urban poverty, and it sought to promote their participation in formulating policies and implementing programmes best suited to the countries of Asia and the Pacific. The plan represented an important element in the preparations for the International Youth Year in the region.

27. Ever since Bhutan had started a process of planned socio-economic development in 1961, Butanese youth had been playing a leading role in various sectors of development activities. The Government was trying to create in young people a sense of responsibility with regard to the social and cultural values of Bhutanese society. Young people played an important role in raising the standard of living in the rural areas, where over 90 per cent of the population lived. Young graduates were required to devote six months of national service to social-service activities in rural areas.

28. The Government had placed the highest priority on the development and improvement of educational infrastructure in order to promote literacy among the young people of the country and enable them to acquire needed skills.

29. In the current difficult period of heightening tensions and instability in international relations, it was more urgent than ever before to promote among youth all over the world the true values of peace, freedom, equality and justice in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

30. Mr. FELDMAN (United States of America), speaking on agenda item 85, said that his delegation welcomed the conclusions of the Commission on Social Development concerning the Report on the World Social Situation, 1982, particularly paragraphs 5, 8 and 9 of its draft resolution I (E/1983/14). On the other hand, it felt that the report on national experiences in achieving far-reaching social and economic changes for the purpose of social progress (A/38/64 and Add.1) was of little use; similarly, co-operative movements (A/38/63) had already been exhaustively studied by the United Nations. Those projects should therefore be discontinued.

31. Referring, more particularly, to agenda item 85 (c), he said that popular participation was not, properly speaking, a human right like those embodied in various international instruments but was an important factor in the achievement of all human rights without exception, and therefore of development and peace. Recent history showed that the denial or massive violation of human rights prevented any real or sustained economic development and that a Government which unscrupulously violated the rights of its own people did not hesitate to violate those of others. However, although it was right, when studying the world social situation, to emphasize the exercise of social, economic and cultural rights, it must not be forgotten that popular participation was an essential component of political rights - for example, the right of everyone to take part in the government of his country (article 21 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights).

(Mr. Feldman, United States)

32. Turning to the question of the International Youth Year (agenda item 84), he said that in his delegation's view, draft resolution A/C.3/38/L.12 properly emphasized the importance of national and local policies and programmes in accordance with each country's experience, conditions and priorities. The draft resolution also emphasized the need for the active and direct participation of youth in activities for the preparation and observance of the International Youth Year. In order to secure the real participation of young people, however, it was not enough to invite them to attend world conferences or sign petitions - they must be involved in the study of the root causes of the societal problems such as military conflicts and in the search for methods of dealing with them. That required a free flow of information and a free discussion of ideas. In that connection, he drew attention to the programme of activities adopted by consensus at the September 1983 European regional meeting for the preparation of the International Youth Year and quoted paragraph 41 (a) and (h), which emphasized the need to inform young people about the final documents adopted by the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe at Helsinki and Madrid and to enable the public to obtain sufficient and accurate information on the military strength of States and the impact of the arms race on economic and social development.

33. He said that the International Youth Year Commission, a subsidiary body of the United States Youth Council had been designated as the co-ordinating committee of national non-governmental organizations for preparation of the Year.

34. Turning to item 89, he observed with satisfaction that a number of projects financed by the Trust Fund for Aging were under way. Moreover, since the aging accounted for a growing portion of the world population, the United States believed that the question of aging should be included in the agenda of the International Conference on Population to be held in 1984.

35. With respect to measures taken by his Government to implement the International Plan of Action adopted by the World Assembly on Aging, he said that the United States Congress was examining a joint draft resolution which would invite all Governmental agencies to participate in implementing the recommendations of the World Assembly, invite the private sector to participate in solving the problem of the aging, encourage the exchange of information and research on the question of aging in the United States and elsewhere in the world, and draw the attention of the developing countries to the importance which his Government attached to the question of aging. With respect to measures taken by the private sector, he said that a voluntary non-governmental organization, the American Association for International Aging, had been created to propose new solutions to problems confronting older people in the developing world and enable them to contribute to and benefit from the developmental process.

36. Turning to item 90, he said that his Government fully recognized the importance of full participation by the disabled in society. It had noted that the United Nations Trust Fund for the International Year of Disabled Persons was an excellent vehicle for the financing of technical assistance and felt that it should be maintained. For that reason, the United States would make a contribution of \$103,000 to that Fund.

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(Mr. Feldman, United States)

37. At the national level, the United States Congress had approved the objectives of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons, and in April 1983 President Reagan had set up a working group on the handicapped which was responsible for encouraging families and communities to take action themselves for the care of the handicapped, to promote the integration of the handicapped into society, workplaces and schools and to help them lead a life of independence and dignity.

38. Many United States citizens were members of the National Organization on Disability, an organization comprising local committees of disabled and non-disabled volunteers in more than 1,000 of the country's communities, which aimed at promoting a better understanding of the situation of disabled people, giving them increased opportunities in education, housing, employment, transportation and recreation and eliminating the causes of disablement.

39. The key role played in the United States by volunteer and non-governmental organizations in the implementation of United Nations programmes and plans of action on youth, the disabled and the aging could not be overemphasized. That was a form of popular participation which no country should ignore.

40. In reply to an accusation levelled during the meeting by the representative of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic against the United States and its military activities in Grenada, he cited a statement made on 26 October by Mr. Charles Fleming, Councillor of Saint Lucia to the Organization of American States, to the effect that in entering Grenada by armed force the United States had merely responded to an official request for assistance from certain Eastern Caribbean States which wished only to maintain their security and protect their peoples from the totalitarian forces which sought to place a stranglehold on the Caribbean.

41. Mr. ZAKI (Egypt), speaking on agenda items 89 and 90, said that he had studied very carefully the Secretary-General's report on the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons (A/38/506). In that connection, he recalled that his Government had always recommended that the United Nations Trust Fund for the International Year of Disabled Persons should continue its activities and that bigger contributions should be made to the Fund, so that it might continue providing the developing countries with the financial support they needed in order to achieve the objectives of the World Programme of Action and might, with the impetus it had gained, continue its efforts to solve the problems of disabled persons. His Government would support the activities which would take place throughout the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons. In their concern for the well-being of the disabled in Egypt, the Egyptian authorities had organized a national congress to discuss the problems confronting them and had established a national committee to draw up short-term and medium-term plans with a view to integrating the disabled into the life of society. Six factories for the manufacture of prostheses needed by the disabled and five physiotherapy centres had been established. The Fidelity and Hope Association, established in 1979, now offered the disabled a full range of cultural, sports and other activities.

42. The international community must focus its efforts on enabling the disabled, despite the difficulties which they would face throughout their lives, to live in

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(Mr. Zaki, Egypt)

dignity and independence like any other members of society. The responsibility for developing plans to achieve that noble goal and for implementing the plans fell on the entire international community.

43. Turning to item 89, he endorsed the ideas expressed by the Secretary-General in his report on the question of aging (A/38/470), and said that the subject should be included on the agenda of the 1984 International Conference on Population; that it should be an integral part of the activities planned for the International Youth Year in 1985; and that it should be the subject of multisectoral and multidisciplinary studies carried out by the United Nations system. He welcomed the extension of the mandate of the Trust Fund for the World Assembly on Aging and its conversion into the Trust Fund for Aging, and urged Member States to make larger contributions to the Fund so that it could assist developing countries, and particularly the least developed among them, as much as possible in solving the problems of the aging.

44. Mrs. ELMIGER (World Health Organization), referring to items 84 and 88, said that, within the framework of the International Youth Year, the World Health Organization (WHO) would focus its efforts on the health problems of young people and the factors contributing to those problems, the participation of young people and adolescents in their own health care and the contributions of adolescents and young people to primary health care. WHO was working closely with the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs in preparing for the Year.

45. WHO had decided to give priority to supporting programmes which focused on the needs of young people, promoting the collection and dissemination of information to facilitate the planning and implementation of health services for young people, encouraging the development in all regions and countries of projects actively involving young people in primary health care, and studying and evaluating the strategies and programmes which would be most beneficial to young people and most cost-effective.

46. To further those priorities, WHO had established within its Division of Family Health a centre responsible for preparing background material, setting up a study group on health for all by the year 2000 and on young people, encouraging regional meetings to develop country-level projects and programmes involving young people in primary health care and developing an information kit for the World Health Day in 1985 for both national and international non-governmental organizations.

47. Turning to item 89, she said that WHO paid particular attention to the question of aging as part of its Global Strategy for Health for All by the Year 2000. In conformity with the Vienna International Plan of Action on Aging and in co-operation with the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations, during its Seventh General Programme of Work for 1984-1989 WHO would implement programmes focused on information, health care and research. It would work to disseminate existing knowledge among the general public and to develop new technology.

(Mrs. Elmiger, WHO)

48. In co-operation with countries and as part of their overall development plans, WHO would attempt to formulate or revise, if necessary, policies and programmes for community-based health care for the aging. Activities would include the integration of health care for the aging in national primary health care systems, the enhancement of awareness of the specific needs of the aging, the encouragement of the family to care for the aging, the integration of the aging in the community, the promotion of self-care and self-reliance, the establishment of national multidisciplinary committees and the reorientation of research towards the social and psychosocial problems of the aging.

49. WHO would carry out studies on hospital care for the aging with a view to speeding up diagnosis, reducing the length of hospitalization and facilitating rehabilitation. It would also make special studies on services for the aging and the dissemination within the community of information on day centres and home care.

50. The programmes would aim at fostering national and international action so that by 1983, WHO would have advisory bodies able to identify the priority health problems of the aging and to promote policies and programmes to improve their health and social welfare; by 1987, the countries involved would have formulated such policies and programmes; and, between 1984 and 1989, technical guides on the aging and their problems would be produced in collaboration with the other programmes.

51. WHO would continue to collaborate with the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, on that question, with the International Labour Organisation on health, productivity and aging, with the Food and Agriculture Organization on nutrition, and with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on adult education.

52. With regard to item 90, she explained that the WHO rehabilitation programme stressed community participation and made use of existing local resources and infrastructure. It focused on the direct involvement of the family and the disabled and on the use of simple, low-cost technology.

53. The WHO manual on community training of the disabled had been tested extensively in the field and adapted locally to 10 developing countries. A revised version, the result of a programme of co-operation among various United Nations bodies within the framework of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons, would soon be published. A new initiative launched by WHO, the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Development Programme, and entitled IMPACT, stressed the prevention of disability at the planning stage of development programmes and in ongoing activities within countries.

54. Turning to item 85, she said that community involvement in the improvement of health was a key factor in the WHO Global Strategy, and that most WHO programmes and regional offices emphasized that factor. The goal was the mobilization of the entire community in assessing its own health needs, deciding on action to be taken, implementing the necessary primary health care activities and obtaining health benefits on an equitable basis.

(Mrs. Elmiger, WHO)

55. WHO collected and disseminated information on that subject and co-operated with Governments in the development of permanent community-managed institutions which, inter alia, provided services in rural and poor urban areas. It also sought, in co-operation with countries, to strengthen training institutions for community workers and village volunteers. It co-operated with other agencies in the promotion of activities supporting community involvement.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.