



SECOND COMMITTEE  
45th meeting  
held on  
Monday, 21 November 1983  
at 10.30 a.m.  
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 45th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. DIETZE (German Democratic Republic)

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- (a) OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

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The meeting was called to order at 11.40 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued)  
(A/C.2/38/L.22, L.27, L.29, L.31/Rev.1, L.43, L.44, L.45, and L.75)

Draft resolutions A/C.2/38/L.22 and L.43

1. The CHAIRMAN drew the attention of the Committee to draft resolution A/C.2/38/L.43 which had been submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/38/L.22. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt it.
2. Draft resolution A/C.2/38/L.43 was adopted.
3. Mr. MONSHEMVULA (Zaire) thanked the Committee for its unanimous adoption of the draft resolution and the countries which had sponsored it. It was to be hoped that, once the resolution had been adopted by the plenary Assembly, Zaire would be able to organize the round-table meeting called for in paragraph 5; in that connection, he also wished to thank the countries which had participated in the June 1983 round-table meeting on the financing of Zaire's transport projects.
4. The CHAIRMAN said that, in the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/38/L.43, he would take it that the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/38/L.22 wished to withdraw it.
5. It was so decided.

Draft resolutions A/C.2/38/L.27 and L.44

6. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to consider draft resolution A/C.2/38/L.44, which had been submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/38/L.27, which Jamaica had joined in sponsoring. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt it.
7. Draft resolution A/C.2/38/L.44 was adopted.
8. The CHAIRMAN said he would take it that the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/38/L.27 wished to withdraw it.
9. It was so decided.

Draft resolutions A/C.2/38/L.29 and L.75

10. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to consider draft resolution A/C.2/38/L.75, which had been submitted on the basis of informal consultation held on draft resolution A/C.2/38/L.29. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt it.
11. Draft resolution A/C.2/38/L.75 was adopted.

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12. The CHAIRMAN said that, in the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/38/L.75, he would take it that the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/38/L.29 wished to withdraw it.

13. It was so decided.

14. Mr. ASTAFIEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation had not objected to the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/38/L.75 by consensus and believed that further work should be done on consumer protection within the Economic and Social Council. However, he emphasized the clear understanding which had been reached between the sponsors of the draft resolution and other delegations with regard to paragraph 2, which referred to a sessional working group. His delegation was opposed to the establishment of any expert group or to the allocation of any additional resources for that purpose from the regular budget.

Draft resolutions A/C.2/38/L.31/Rev.1 and L.45

15. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to consider draft resolution A/C.2/38/L.45, which had been submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/38/L.31/Rev.1.

16. Mr. SEVAN (Secretary of the Committee) said that, following a discussion with the Vice-Chairmen, agreement had been reached to revise the text of draft resolution A/C.2/38/L.45. In view of the fact that the Economic and Social Council had already decided to convene the International Conference on Population, paragraph 3 should be combined with paragraph 1, which would then read: "Endorses the decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1983/6, including the convening of the International Conference on Population at Mexico City from 6 to 13 August 1984". In addition, since paragraph 8 referred to matters which fell within the purview of the Fifth Committee, which would be considering the Secretary-General's revised estimates arising from the decision of the Economic and Social Council at its first regular session of 1983, contained in document A/C.5/38/32/Add.1, the first half of that paragraph should be deleted. The paragraph would then read, "Calls upon the Secretary-General of the Conference to continue to make every effort to obtain extrabudgetary resources for the Conference". The operative paragraphs of the draft resolution should then be renumbered accordingly.

17. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt the draft resolution as orally revised.

18. Draft resolution A/C.2/38/L.45, as orally revised, was adopted.

19. Mr. ASTAFIEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that, while his delegation had not objected to the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/38/L.45, it maintained the position with regard to the International Conference on Population which it had stated during the second resumed session of the Economic and Social Council in 1982 and during the Council's first regular session of 1983 that the financing of the preparations and holding of the Conference should be sought from resources existing within the regular budget.

20. The CHAIRMAN said that, in the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/38/L.45, he would take it that the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/38/L.31/Rev.1 wished to withdraw it.

21. It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 78: DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION  
(continued)

(g) ENVIRONMENT (continued) (A/C.2/38/L.18 and L.71)

22. The CHAIRMAN drew the attention of the Committee to draft resolution A/C.2/38/L.71, which had been submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/38/L.18. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt it.

23. Draft resolution A/C.2/38/L.71 was adopted.

24. Mr. ASTAFIEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation had not objected to the adoption of the draft resolution without a vote. However, as had been made clear at the eleventh session of the UNEP Governing Council and at the second regular session of 1983 of the Economic and Social Council through the representative of the German Democratic Republic, speaking on behalf of the socialist States, his delegation objected to increasing allocations from the regular budget for UNEP activities, particularly the measures outlined in part B of decision 11/12 of the UNEP Governing Council regarding the redeployment of posts. The Soviet Union would oppose those measures when they were raised in the Fifth Committee.

25. Mr. EXARCHOS (Greece), speaking on behalf of the States members of the European Economic Community (EEC), said that his delegation had joined in the consensus on the substantive issues in draft resolution A/C.2/38/L.71 but wished to reiterate its concern at the growing tendency to introduce political elements into resolutions pertaining to the environment. He drew attention in that connection to General Assembly resolutions 35/8 and 36/7, on which the States members of EEC had abstained from voting. Questions relating to peace and security should be dealt with in the appropriate forums, and the Second Committee should limit itself to purely environmental issues when discussing the environment. If the fifth preambular paragraph of the draft resolution under consideration had been put to a vote, his delegation would have voted against it.

26. Mr. AKAO (Japan) said that his delegation had also joined in the consensus on the draft resolution, but, like the EEC States, regretted the inclusion of the fifth preambular paragraph, which dealt with weapons and the environment. While that issue was an important one, it was by nature an inappropriate subject for discussion in the Second Committee and diverted the Committee's attention from the technical work which was its responsibility.

27. Mr. MILLER (United States of America) said that draft resolution A/C.2/38/L.71 placed appropriate emphasis on issues of high priority. The United States wished that it could have joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, but the fifth preambular paragraph and paragraph 5 were of an essentially political nature inconsistent with the work of the Committee. Those paragraphs related to decisions 11/5 and 11/6 of the eleventh session of the UNEP Governing Council; his delegation had not wanted to block consensus on those decisions when they had been adopted, but had expressed its reservations at that time.

28. He agreed with the concept expressed in the fifth preambular paragraph and was dedicated to the process of verifying arms reduction. Furthermore, with regard to paragraph 5, his delegation considered apartheid and other forms of racial discrimination to be unacceptable and abhorrent. Nevertheless, it was firmly convinced that those matters should be discussed in contexts other than environmental co-operation.

29. Mr. BOYD (United Kingdom) associated himself with the statement made by the representative of Greece on behalf of the States members of EEC and drew attention to paragraph 5 of the draft resolution. The United Kingdom had expressed its reservations to decision 11/5 of the UNEP Governing Council during the eleventh session of the Council; that position was not affected by his delegation's participation in the consensus on the draft resolution.

30. The CHAIRMAN said he would take it that the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/38/L.18, to which Austria had requested to be added, wished to withdraw it.

31. It was so decided.

(h) HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (continued) (A/C.2/38/L.19 and L.72)

Draft resolutions A/C.2/38/L.19 and L.72

32. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to consider draft resolution A/C.2/38/L.72, which had been submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/38/L.19. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt it.

33. Draft resolution A/C.2/38/L.72 was adopted.

34. The CHAIRMAN said he would take it that the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/38/L.19 wished to withdraw it.

35. It was so decided.

(e) FOOD PROBLEMS (continued) (A/C.2/38/L.17 and L.73)

Draft resolutions A/C.2/38/L.17 and L.73

36. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to consider draft resolution A/C.2/38/L.73, which had been submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/38/L.17.

37. Mr. SEVAN (Secretary of the Committee) said that the word "inconclusive" in paragraph 12 of draft resolution A/C.2/38/L.73 should be amended to read "incomplete in certain respects".

38. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt the draft resolution as orally revised.

39. Draft resolution A/C.2/38/L.73, as orally revised, was adopted.

40. The CHAIRMAN announced that the Committee had concluded its consideration of agenda item 78 (e) and would resume its general discussion of sub-items (a), (b), (d), (f), (j), (k) and (m).

- (a) INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR THE THIRD UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT DECADE (continued)
- (b) TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT (continued) (A/38/15, vols. I and II, A/38/363, 487, 557 and 580, TD/325 and Add.1, A/C.2/38/L.2 and L.3)
- (d) SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT: REPORT OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT (continued) (A/38/37 (Part I and Corr.1 and Part II))
- (f) ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (continued) (A/38/39, A/38/493)
- (j) EFFECTIVE MOBILIZATION AND INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT (continued)
- (k) UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL FUND (continued)
- (m) IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SUBSTANTIAL NEW PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE 1980s FOR THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/38/471)

41. Mrs. MORENO (Mexico), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77, said that interdependence, particularly economic interdependence, was a salient feature of the times. The report of UNCTAD VI on the world economic situation pointed out that "Because of these realities of interdependence, no isolated solution in individual sectors or in one group of countries can be adequate or self-sustaining. The strategy for surmounting the crisis must fully recognize the new role of the developing countries as full partners in world development. ... The situation calls for a coherent set of international policies that address both short-term conjunctural problems and longer-term structural problems" (TD/325, Statement, para. 8). Even though that fact had been acknowledged and despite the spirit of dialogue and harmony which had marked the introduction of the Buenos Aires

(Mrs. Moreno, Mexico)

Platform by the Group of 77, UNCTAD had been unable to agree on measures that would help resolve the crisis. At the conclusion of UNCTAD VI, the Group had expressed its dissatisfaction with the limited results achieved but it believed that some small progress had been made in the difficult process of establishing a new international economic order, as the resolutions adopted on the major agenda item and with regard to specific areas of economic activity indicated. Still, such concerns as the stabilization of commodity prices, the elimination of protectionist measures, structural adjustments and monetary and financial questions would continue to be the focus of proposals until a satisfactory solution was found; the international community's determination to support the efforts of developing countries and find solutions would determine how long those questions remained on the agenda. UNCTAD must promote the development of developing countries in the manner described by the Secretary-General in his recent statement to the Committee.

42. The review and appraisal of the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade would involve much hard work in the days to come. The modest aims of the Strategy, however, had yet to be achieved, and the setbacks brought on by the world economic crisis made it all the more necessary to achieve them. The review and appraisal would involve the submission of a series of reports. She therefore urged that documentation should be submitted on time, since the preparation of the review exercise would determine its results.

43. Science and technology for development were a major concern of developing countries and the implementation of General Assembly resolution 37/244, which required the efforts of the entire international community, was indispensable. Greater efforts were also required from the international community for the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries, since those countries had been demonstrated by the economic crisis. Increased flows of official development assistance and other types of resource transfers were imperative. The Group of 77 had prepared a draft resolution detailing the way those measures should be implemented and it would ultimately be submitted to the Committee for consideration and adoption.

44. UNIDO must be strengthened so that it could effectively promote development of industrialization in the countries of the Group. The Group was convinced that the viability of UNIDO was dependent on the political will that would lead to the swift entry into force of its Constitution. The conversion of UNIDO into a specialized agency had long been sought by the Group of 77 and should enhance that organization's strength and flexibility. The Group's concerns with regard to industrial development had been identified in the relevant draft resolution before the Committee, which, she hoped, would be adopted by consensus.

45. Food and agriculture were central to the development of developing countries; the draft resolution on food problems which the Committee had adopted by consensus showed that progress was possible when political will existed.



(Mrs. Moreno, Mexico)

46. The development of new and renewable sources of energy was another important concern of the Group; developing countries were contributing significantly to the implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action. The intergovernmental Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy must identify means of mobilizing additional adequate resources to assist the developing countries in the use and development of new and renewable sources of energy, thus contributing to a more balanced use of all types of energy. The holding of consultative meetings to mobilize funds was one mechanism which that body had developed; the results of the first consultative meetings must be analysed at the Committee's second session and activities for the biennium planned.

47. The CHAIRMAN, summarizing the debate on the second cluster of sub-items under agenda item 78, said that the Committee had dealt with some of the most important and complex issues of international economic co-operation and had reviewed both the short-term and the long-term structural problems faced by the international community. The most crucial issue had been international trade and finance. Most delegations had stressed that the economic recovery in some developed countries was not enough to bring about a recovery of the world economy as a whole, particularly in the developing countries, and that additional measures were required, particularly in respect of trade and finance. It had been recognized that sustained economic recovery in the developing countries would be beneficial to their trading partners and to the world economy as a whole and that the countries concerned must abolish protectionism and eliminate trade barriers.

48. Most delegations considered that no decisive breakthrough had been made at UNCTAD VI but that agreements must be reached to solve the acute problems in international trade. Suggestions for reforming international monetary and financial relations had been broadly supported. Many delegations had expressed regret that it had not been possible to finalize an International Code of Conduct on the Transfer of Technology; provided that the political will existed, the Code could be finalized at a possible sixth session of the Conference on an International Code of Conduct on the Transfer of Technology. Delegations had again stressed the need for international political relations based on the principles of peaceful coexistence, disarmament measures and economic development, and had reiterated their willingness to work towards re-establishing confidence in international economic relations.

49. The forthcoming review and appraisal of the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade would be an important opportunity to assess the whole spectrum of international economic and development issues and reaffirm the resolve of the international community to promote further international economic co-operation in order to achieve economic growth, particularly in the developing countries. Many delegations had stressed the need for full preparations for the review, including appropriate documentation.

50. Delegations had referred to the economic co-operation among developing countries as a new dimension in international economic co-operation, but had agreed that it was not a substitute for global economic co-operation between developed and

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(The Chairman)

developing countries. It had been pointed out that international economic co-operation and South-South co-operation should be mutually reinforcing and complementary.

51. Delegations had referred to the need to accelerate the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development. The negotiations to establish the United Nations Financing System for Science and Technology for Development had reached a crucial stage. The need for renewed effort to implement the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries had also been mentioned by many delegations.

52. Delegations had highlighted the important role that women could play in development efforts and had stressed that further efforts should be made to enable women to participate fully in national economic activities.

53. Lastly, some delegations had commented on the procedural and organizational aspects of international negotiations in general and the work of the Committee in particular; it was important to consider those questions, since the existing schedule of meetings of the United Nations system placed a heavy burden on delegations, and also in view of the need to make the most effective use of existing forums in the light of budgetary constraints.

AGENDA ITEM 79: OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT (A/38/3 (part II), 106 and 494)

- (a) OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM: (A/38/258 and Add.1 and Corr.1, 276 and 333)
- (b) UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME: (E/1983/20; A/38/516)
- (c) UNITED NATIONS CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT FUND
- (d) UNITED NATIONS FUND FOR POPULATION ACTIVITIES: (A/38/410)
- (e) UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTEERS PROGRAMME
- (f) UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL FUND FOR LAND-LOCKED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES: (A/38/293)
- (g) UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND: (E/1983/21)
- (h) WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME: (A/C.2/38/L.7)
- (i) TECHNICAL CO-OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL: (A/38/172 and Add.1; DP/1983/18 and Add.1-2)

54. Mr. RIPERT (Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation) said that, in undertaking a comprehensive policy review of operational activities of the United Nations system, the Committee would have before it the report which he had submitted (A/38/258 and Add.1), and also a

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(Mr. Ripert)

statement which had been circulated (DPI/DES/NOTE/639). His main concern in preparing the report had been to see how the operational activities of the United Nations system were responding to the requirements of the development process in developing countries. Every year the General Assembly and the Committee considered policy measures and strategies aimed at accelerating the development process, particularly through international co-operation; it was essential that there should be a link between the Committee's broader concerns and operational activities.

55. It was important to bear in mind the central objective of development and international economic co-operation, as expressed in paragraph 8 of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, namely the promotion of human dignity. It was too easy to forget about the suffering of people in remote parts of the developing world and the difficulties faced by political leaders, entrepreneurs and social workers who were trying to bring about change. The desperate situation of many countries in Asia and Latin America, and particularly in a large part of Africa, was poorly reflected in the dry data of statistics. The United Nations, through its operational activities and efforts to strengthen international co-operation, was trying to help remedy that situation. Millions of children died in infancy or were debilitated by malnutrition; millions of adults were handicapped by disease and unhealthy environments. In that connection, it was necessary to determine how population policies could help men and women to make enlightened decisions about the composition of their families.

56. The technological revolution had had a varying impact on the production sectors of third-world countries; in too many developing countries structural weaknesses and low returns on investment were still adversely affecting agricultural and industrial output. It was necessary to assess what contribution the United Nations could make to the development of science and technology and the development of appropriate techniques to overcome environmental difficulties, promote the use of new and renewable sources of energy and ensure a safe drinking water supply.

57. Particular attention must be accorded to education and training, especially for young people. Education must be planned in such a way that young people could produce what society expected from them and make full use of their capacities; the United Nations must respond more fully to educational needs in all fields.

58. Technical co-operation for development was one of the most remarkable achievements of the United Nations system and was often underestimated by public opinion in the more advanced countries at a time when attention was concentrated on the increasing difficulties encountered by the United Nations in political and economic negotiations. That role of the United Nations was not unique, since much was being done by other sources of aid and other international organizations, but it had the unique characteristics of diversity, concern to help the poorest countries and the capacity to provide aid without conditions. It was widely believed that the United Nations was responding effectively to many economic and social needs of developing countries, although it could certainly do more were it not for the constraints of scarce resources.

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(Mr. Ripert)

59. He had placed considerable emphasis in his report on the mobilization of resources. At the 1983 United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities a number of countries had increased their contributions in local currencies; in the aggregate, however, when translated into dollar terms, voluntary contributions were at a standstill, and further efforts must be made to mobilize resources.

60. It was particularly important to preserve the central funding and co-ordinating role of UNDP. While the support provided by the international community to UNICEF, WHO and UNFPA was to be welcomed, efforts must be made to provide sufficient resources to UNDP. He strongly supported the Governing Council's recommendation that, as a minimum objective, Governments should maintain the real value of their annual contributions to UNDP.

61. Much attention was paid to the quality and cost-effectiveness of operational activities. There appeared to be widespread agreement about the quality of the programmes as a whole despite some weaknesses and on the need to adapt to changing circumstances. It was gratifying that many developing countries in difficult economic circumstances were contributing to United Nations programmes by increasing their contributions or through cost sharing. At the same time, there was a clear need to produce sufficient evidence of the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of operational activities and to improve the relationship between programme delivery and administrative costs. Operational activities would be strengthened by greater inter-agency co-operation at both the headquarters and field levels.

62. Co-ordination at the country level should not be viewed in terms of procedure and formal administrative machinery, although some progress could be made in that respect, but should be sought in specific activities and programmes, while fully respecting the mandates of the different organizations. Greater delegation of authority to the field level would provide more flexibility and freedom of action in the light of local circumstances; resident co-ordinators could assist the Governments of recipient countries in their own co-ordination efforts. Co-ordination should also be improved between the United Nations and different sources of bilateral aid and other international organizations.

63. It was important to stress the complementarity between the General Assembly's responsibility to make a global review of operational activities and the need for the governing bodies of specialized agencies and programmes to fulfil their own sectoral responsibilities. It was essential for the States members of those bodies to be aware of the need for that complementarity.

64. Mr. SALAS (Executive Director, United Nations Fund for Population Activities) drew attention to the text of his statement which had been circulated to members of the Committee and observed that the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) continued to be the largest multilateral source of resources for population activities. Its success had resulted primarily from an increased understanding on

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(Mr. Salas)

the part of the developing countries themselves of the relationship between population and development, from greater individual understanding of population issues, from the larger amount of resources contributed by the countries concerned and from the increase in UNFPA assistance. That combination of efforts had resulted in a decline of population growth rate, a trend which was expected to continue until the year 2000, with a stabilization of the population in 90 years.

65. However, the developing countries still needed resources to deal with population problems. In that connection, the results of the recent Pledging Conference for Development Activities, which had reflected a 7 per cent increase over the 1982 level, were encouraging, and UNFPA greatly appreciated that support.

66. Referring to the International Conference on Population to be held in Mexico City in August 1984, he observed that the documents for the Conference would be distributed in advance in all languages. Of the total Conference budget of \$2.5 million, \$800,000 would come from the regular budget and \$1.5 million from voluntary contributions and he noted with satisfaction that \$1,140,000 had already been contributed by 16 developing countries and 6 developed countries.

67. In conclusion, he drew attention to the Caribbean seminar for women leaders to be convened the following day on the relationship between women, population and development.

68. Mr. BI Jilong (Under-Secretary-General, Department of Technical Co-operation for Development), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on United Nations technical co-operation activities (DP/1983/18 and Add.1 and 2), expressed the hope that the Committee's consideration of the report in the context of its comprehensive policy review of operational activities would result in an important discussion of the problems confronting technical co-operation and help to chart the future course of such activities.

69. He drew attention to the fact that the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development (DTCO) had been created in accordance with General Assembly resolution 32/197 for the explicit purpose of consolidating into one department the technical co-operation services provided by the United Nations in certain crucial sectors. A careful examination of the specific problems the Department faced in fulfilling its mandate would significantly help to enhance its ability to render more cost-effective and timely services to Member States. In particular, consideration should be given to the impact of the financial situation on technical co-operation, to the Department's strategy for responding to the needs of developing countries and improving the quality of the services delivered and to the need for greater co-ordination within the United Nations system.

70. Referring to the financial situation, he pointed out that, while technical co-operation could not be isolated from the immediate international environment, it required vigorous and sustained efforts in a longer-term perspective. There was a growing demand for technical co-operation funded by international institutions, and the developing countries themselves were recognizing that they could not derive full

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(Mr. Bi Jilong)

benefit from investments without well-established institutional infrastructures or adequately trained human resources. Even at a time of severe financial constraints, those countries were willing to increase their indebtedness in order to secure funds for technical co-operation. That point, together with the results of the recent Pledging Conference for Development Activities, should be given some thought.

71. The decrease in the funds available to its main funding partners had severely affected the Department and had caused the value of its programme to decline in 1982 for the first time. The decline was particularly serious for the developing countries in view of the nature of the sectors under the Department's mandate. Moreover, the decline was occurring just when the developing countries' need for technical co-operation was increasing and when any disruption might endanger earlier gains. Indeed, in June 1983 the UNDP Governing Council had noted with great concern the impact of the decline in the availability of resources for technical co-operation in certain key economic and social areas. In that connection, he expressed appreciation for the support recently shown in the Fifth Committee with regard to the Department's resource situation.

72. In the past year, the Department had been obliged to take drastic measures in order to do more with less and, for example, had eliminated the equivalent of 37 per cent of its manning table. Moreover, in response to the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit (A/38/172), it had undertaken a major streamlining of its organizational structure, thereby placing greater emphasis on its substantive services. Staff had been redeployed in order to promote a more coherent approach to programme implementation and in order to intensify project evaluation.

73. As a result, the Department had succeeded in retaining the full range of its technical and programming services and would be able to implement the programmes assigned to it even more effectively. However, further staffing cuts might jeopardize the Department's substantive and operational capability. The Department must be allowed a period of consolidation, without any further reduction of its structure or mandate, in order to maintain and further strengthen its technical co-operation activities.

74. In accordance with its mandate, the Department was required to play a vital role in economic and social sectors that were crucial to development. As indicated in the Director-General's report, (A/38/258 and Add.1) 30 per cent of the system's expenditures on operational activities from 1979 to 1981 had been made in fields in which the Department was either directly or indirectly involved.

75. In carrying out its functions, the Department focused on the quality of programmes so as to ensure that they responded to national objectives and to the changing requirements of the developing countries. Special consideration had been given to the need to adapt assistance to different levels of development and to make appropriate use of new modalities for technical co-operation, inter alia, through greater recourse to national expertise and institutions, increased reliance on short-term consultants and intensive training programmes. Emphasis was placed on co-operation with the Governments concerned in order to provide technical expertise suited to the projects being executed.

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76. For the least developed countries, particularly those in Africa, and for land-locked, small island and severely affected countries, technical co-operation should focus on strengthening the basic institutional machinery. To that end, suitable policy options must be identified and economic and social development programmes implemented effectively through the use of appropriate monitoring and forecasting methods. At the same time, increased support must be given to local initiatives, particularly in rural areas, where popular participation was essential. Similarly, efforts must be made to improve national institutions for the collection of statistical data and demographic analysis.

77. He pointed out that, in dealing with the relationship between population and development, more attention should be devoted to the social aspects of population issues. There was a tremendous demand, particularly from the least developed countries for the training of national personnel, to work in areas within the Department's mandate. Although many of the activities designed to strengthen institutions and build self-reliance yielded results only in the long term, they were crucial for sustained economic and social development.

78. Assistance was also required in order to enable the developing countries to exercise sovereignty over their natural resources and to use them in pursuance of their own development goals. Since energy was a key factor of economic growth, the Department was responding, to the extent of its means, to the steady increase in requests for assistance to develop indigenous energy potentials. In many instances, its technical co-operation projects had attracted investments and had provided valuable assistance in sensitive areas where objectivity was essential. The Department had also taken a leading role in developing programmes in new and renewable sources of energy. In addition, national energy planning efforts must be strengthened through the creation of the corresponding statistical systems.

79. In view of the immensity of the tasks, a way must be found to provide adequate and cost-effective services to the developing countries within the available resources. One answer was to strengthen further the capacities of the United Nations organizations and agencies concerned with technical co-operation by improving project design and project document formulation, as well as project monitoring and evaluation. The Department was introducing procedures to facilitate corrective action during the execution of projects so as to ensure that quality projects which responded to national objectives were carried out. On that subject he drew attention to paragraphs 18 and 19 of document DP/1983/18.

80. In addition, activities to promote South-South co-operation and technical co-operation among developing countries should be strongly encouraged. Although ultimate responsibility lay with the countries themselves, the United Nations system could play an active and important role in helping to strengthen national institutions with a view to enabling the developing countries to benefit fully from such co-operation.

81. Technical co-operation also required greater co-ordination and co-operation within the international community as a whole so as to achieve greater coherence at

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the national level and a more harmonized approach. He welcomed the closer co-operation and co-ordination achieved, for example, between the Department and UNDP, especially at a time of severely strained resources.

82. The Department had also welcomed the efforts made by international lending organizations to increase the involvement of technical agencies in the implementation of the technical co-operation component of their loans. Greater co-ordination between the United Nations organizations responsible for technical co-operation activities and pre-investments and those organizations disbursing financial assistance would help all organizations to make a more coherent and thus significant contribution.

83. The complementarity of capital investment and technical co-operation was widely recognized, although the vocations of funding and executing agencies were essentially different. Moreover, it was important to avoid any duplication of existing operational and technical capacities through a clear understanding of the respective roles of financial and technical agencies and through a greater reliance by multilateral and regional banks on those organizations which had the mandate, expertise and experience in technical co-operation activities. An adequate division of labour would lower the overall level of administrative and technical costs and improve the quality of the services provided by funding organizations.

84. The Department had demonstrated its resilience in the difficult streamlining exercise recently completed and had proved its ability to make a significant contribution to the development process. Although it would spare no effort in fulfilling its mandate and implementing forward-looking programmes in response to the developing countries' changing needs, it required the support of Member States for certain undertakings.

85. Some of the steps to be taken to improve the effective use of available resources and to create a more efficient technical co-operation structure within the United Nations had been singled out by the Joint Inspection Unit in its report (A/38/172). In that connection, the Department must have greater flexibility in dealing with administrative, personnel and financial matters, and he drew attention to General Assembly resolution 37/232, which reiterated the need for the full implementation of resolution 37/197, the annex to which set out the functions of a separate organizational entity for the management of technical co-operation activities in order to accomplish economies of scale. Decision 83/16 of the UNDP Governing Council had subsequently made the same point. The UNDP decision had also drawn attention to the problem of duplication of existing structures and had urged that clearer terms of reference for the Department should be issued to that end. Indeed, it was essential to avoid duplication in order to make efficient use of resources.

86. On one level, corrective action required greater efforts within the Secretariat to concentrate all technical co-operation activities in the Department and, on another level, additional measures must be taken to facilitate greater use of the Department's technical and operational expertise within the existing funding



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framework. The need for such action had been highlighted by the same UNDP decision, which recommended that full account should be taken of the Department's expertise in decisions to designate executing agencies for projects funded by UNDP and other sources. In his opinion, more should be done in that regard.

87. In conclusion, he drew attention to the Department's ongoing co-operation with the regional commissions and to its support of their activities. While global and regional technical co-operation were not interchangeable, there must be close co-ordination between them in order to achieve a coherent and consistent approach.

The meeting rose at 1.35 p.m.