



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 48th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. DIETZE (German Democratic Republic)

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

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

- (a) OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/38/258 and Add.1 and Corr.1, A/38/276, A/38/333)
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1. Mr. MORSE (Administrator, United Nations Development Programme) said that, in his previous statements to the Committee, he had repeatedly stressed the steadily worsening resource situation of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and appealed for increased funding levels and assistance in order to reverse the tide of erosion that seemed to be undermining the foundations of multilateralism in the international development effort. Although resources remained the prime concern, the tide of erosion had been halted and, on the basis of the results of the recent Pledging Conference, had even begun to reverse itself.

2. At that Conference, 24 out of 99 countries and self-governing territories had met or exceeded the UNDP Governing Council's planning target of a 14 per cent annual increase in US dollar contributions. The most remarkable result of the Conference was the strong measure of support accorded to UNDP by the developing countries, 23 of which had increased their pledges in US dollars to the central resources of UNDP by 14 per cent or more. Many other countries had increased or maintained their contributions in real terms. The significant increases in the 1984 contributions of both the largest contributor among the developing countries, India, and the largest contributor among the developed countries, the United States of America, were gratifying evidence of the support which UNDP enjoyed from both the North and the South.

(Mr. Morse)

3. In addition to a 4.5 per cent increase in central programme resources for 1984 compared to 1983 there were other positive indications in the resource outlook, among them the steady rise in cost-sharing contributions in recent years, which, in 1984 would probably exceed \$US 100 million, almost a sixth of total UNDP field expenditures.

4. Since the thirtieth session of the Governing Council, UNDP had issued a compendium of some 440 projects in need of co-financing. While it was above all essential to bring renewed growth to the central resources of UNDP, assistance to those projects was also important since they reflected priority targets set by the developing countries themselves. It was gratifying that six donor countries had already expressed a keen interest in helping to co-finance those projects, and it was to be hoped that other countries would lend their support. Credit for that improved situation, which was further enhanced by a trend towards greater stability in exchange rates, was primarily due to the Governing Council, whose intensive, year-long deliberations through the Intersessional Committee of the Whole seemed to have marked a turning point in the overall financial picture. Some of the Governing Council's decisions stemming from the deliberations of the Intersessional Committee should be borne in mind, among them decision 83/5 which, in addition to recommending that all Governments should make their best effort towards the maintenance of the real value of their contributions, as a minimum objective, appealed to all net contributor Governments to consider transferring to UNDP, at the end of their fiscal years, development assistance resources which could not be disbursed through other channels and also decided that a series of informal intergovernmental consultations should be held prior to each annual pledging conference and prior to establishing the target level of resources for a given period. Those steps were important in placing overall resource growth on an increasingly predictable, continuous and assured basis, as repeatedly called for by the General Assembly.

5. Although prospects had improved, the estimates of contributions did not indicate a large enough increase to enable UNDP to raise programming levels beyond the 55 per cent of the illustrative indicative planning figures (IPF) currently in effect for the third programming cycle, except in the case of 23 smaller, mainly island developing countries, for which programming could be restored to 80 per cent of their illustrative IPF levels, in accordance with Governing Council decision 83/14.

6. It was to be hoped that a firmer resource base would allow UNDP to enhance its co-operation with the specialized agencies and increase its assistance to the countries it served, in accordance with the recommendations made by the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation in his recent policy review. The work of UNDP itself had in no way been diverted, delayed or demoralized by the Programme's recent resource constraints. UNDP had already established a central evaluation unit, issued instructions to its 114 field offices on management and other support services to make operational activities at the developing country level more coherent and had instituted a range of new country-level activities to supplement UNDP core resources. It had also expanded

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(Mr. Morse)

co-operative arrangements with the World Bank and other development banks, launched 17 country missions on the future needs of technical co-operation and, under the Substantial New Programme of Action, sponsored a series of donor round-table meetings to encourage additional assistance to the least developed countries. At the country level, UNDP had been involved in curbing drought-related hunger in Africa, in assisting in disaster relief and rehabilitation efforts in 15 countries and in many other important projects. In all its undertakings, UNDP endeavoured to reduce programme overhead costs to the absolute minimum consistent with effective performance. In spite of severe resource constraints, it had expanded the operational activities of the many special purpose funds and programmes administered by UNDP or its Administrator. Total contributions for 1984, not only to the central resources but also to the special purpose funds and programmes under UNDP, could be estimated at \$US 733.7 million.

7. UNDP activities were closely in line with the priority areas for operational activities referred to by the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation. UNDP and its associated programmes were playing an important role in all those priority areas and would continue to collaborate closely with the Director-General and the specialized agencies. It was to be hoped that the renewed interest shown by the international community in finding multilateral solutions to global problems would continue to spread and multiply among nations.

8. Mr. MI Guojun (China) said that, although there had been encouraging signs at the recent Pledging Conference, some major donor countries had failed to maintain the real value of their contributions, which was the minimum objective set by the UNDP Governing Council, and others had even reduced their contributions. Nevertheless, a few developed countries had managed to increase their pledges, despite their slow economic recovery, and several of them had even surpassed the 14 per cent target increase in dollar terms. It was to be hoped that the donors which had not reached that target would make renewed efforts to increase their contributions, especially to UNDP. The Pledging Conference had reaffirmed that the mobilization of resources depended not merely on economic issues but on the political commitment of the major developed countries to international development co-operation.

9. It was increasingly recognized that the world economy would not be revitalized unless the economic situation of the developing countries improved. The developed countries had often expressed their willingness to increase their assistance to the developing countries and it was to be hoped that those verbal commitments would be translated into actual deeds.

10. The Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation had pointed out that, while total official development assistance had increased by 25 per cent during the period 1979-1982, the share for United Nations development activities had increased by only 15 per cent. Moreover, the portion of United Nations development resources that went to UNDP had declined from 50 per cent in 1981 to 46 per cent in 1982. Those figures indicated that there was a growing

(Mr. Mi Guojun, China)

trend towards special purpose contributions and tied aid and that general purpose resources, which were most favourable to the developing countries, were dwindling. Such trends could adversely affect the economic development of the least developed and other low-income developing countries for which operational activities constituted the largest and, in some cases, the only source of external resources. The basic criteria and principles put forth by the Director-General would be helpful in overcoming inadequacies in the mobilization of resources and in co-ordinating the funding agencies.

11. Improving the effectiveness of operational activities was a complex issue involving many factors, including co-ordination and co-operation among various United Nations funding and executing agencies. Efforts must be made to simplify and harmonize the procedures and regulations for the formulation and execution of projects. At the country level, the role of the Resident Co-ordinator should be strengthened. In the meantime, the organizations and agencies should fully utilize the service network of existing UNDP field offices. It was to be hoped that the Director-General would deal with that issue in his next report and put forward specific proposals for consideration by the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session. He shared the Director-General's view that Governments could play an important role in co-ordinating development activities.

12. South-South co-operation in the form of economic and technical co-operation among developing countries would be a significant factor in the establishment of the new international economic order, and despite the difficulties encountered initially, the importance of South-South co-operation should not be underestimated. Moreover, such co-operation served the interests not only of the developing countries but also the developed countries. It was encouraging that the relevant United Nations bodies had promoted that co-operation, and it was to be hoped that the developed countries would do the same. Any developments in United Nations support for South-South co-operation should be described in the Director-General's next annual report.

13. Mr. AMORIN (Uruguay) said his delegation reiterated its support for United Nations operational activities for development, which his country saw as one of the most important ways of working towards the objective of ensuring the economic and social well-being of nations. However, that objective seemed increasingly remote, and the difference between the standard of living of developed countries and conditions in the developing world was constantly growing.

14. His delegation's appraisal of the situation with regard to the effectiveness of operational activities was equally negative in view of the crisis affecting virtually the whole United Nations system for such activities. That crisis was related in part to the global crisis affecting the world economy, but there was also a crisis of confidence in the effectiveness of the system, with the results that donor countries had lost faith in multilateral means and preferred to provide technical assistance on a bilateral basis.

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(Mr. Amorin, Uruguay)

15. The developing countries did not receive as much technical assistance as they needed through bilateral channels. Assistance was constantly decreasing in real terms as a result of the current economic situation, and the use of bilateral channels meant that assistance was not always provided on the best terms. A system which channelled assistance through international bodies was much better for developing countries, since it guaranteed fairness. Moreover, a multilateral system reduced the risks of political pressures or selective assistance, which could restrict the sovereign rights of developing countries. The legitimate interests of those countries were safeguarded by the legal instruments which formed the basis of the United Nations system.

16. Another of the negative consequences of the crisis in the system of operational activities had been the redistribution of assistance to the detriment of many developing countries. Those with an annual per capita income greater than \$500 had seen such assistance reduced by considerable amounts. Such differentiation between developing countries could not ignore the fact that they all needed to increase their scientific and technological capacity through technical co-operation. It was worth stressing that multilateral co-operation implied both action and a contribution from the recipient State. That was what made technical assistance a form of co-operative activity for development, not just a disguised form of grant aid.

17. In conclusion, his delegation wished to indicate certain factors of importance for revitalizing operational activities for development. In the first place, everything should be done to co-ordinate services, avoid duplication, reduce costs and concentrate available resources in priority areas. Preference should be given to the relatively less developed countries but, in consequence, new forms of co-operation with the other developing countries should be explored, with account being taken of their specific needs and possibilities. Initiatives should be taken which took account of the existing capacity of developing countries, their ability to formulate projects and their idle human resources in the scientific and technical field.

18. As for contributions to assistance programmes, the provisions of decision 80/30 of the Governing Council of UNDP should be reaffirmed and implemented. All States should contribute in some way or degree, but contributions would have to take account of the differences between various national economies, and developed countries would have to bear the greater burden. It was therefore necessary to carry out an immediate review of the operational activities of the United Nations system, bearing in mind that the political will of all countries, and the interest of developed countries in particular, were essential to the achievement of real progress.

19. Mr. KAZEM (Afghanistan) said that his delegation attached great importance to the operational activities of the United Nations system, since those activities helped developing countries to consolidate their economic independence. It was regrettable that voluntary contributions to United Nations funds and programmes had stagnated in recent years and seemed likely to continue to do so. The situation

(Mr. Kazem, Afghanistan)

with respect to the availability of resources was a source of great concern; it had caused such major cut-backs as a 45 per cent reduction in UNDP's third-cycle country programmes, with consequent adverse effects on developing countries.

20. His delegation hoped that every appropriate means of increasing resources for the system would be explored. Consideration should be given to the adoption of suitable targets by all United Nations organizations and funds, the greater involvement of members of governing bodies in efforts to mobilize resources and the more effective use of annual pledging conferences. In the longer term, pledging for a period of years should also be considered. His delegation hoped that the problem of finding financial and other resources sufficient to ensure the smooth operation of all United Nations programmes and funds would be solved in the near future.

21. Operational activities for development should contribute effectively to the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade which, together with national plans and programmes, provided a framework for those activities. United Nations bodies should uniformly apply the principles and decisions adopted by the Governing Council of UNDP in 1980 when allocating resources, and programming should be seen as an integrated process. In addition, programmes should be improved and adapted to the needs of developing countries through its full implementation of the various recommendations on technical co-operation adopted by the Governing Council of UNDP in 1975.

22. The need to improve United Nations programmes necessitated a search for new ways of using resources rationally and reducing costs. Apart from further reducing administrative and support costs, other methods should also be vigorously pursued, for example greater use of local resources.

23. United Nations operational activities for development had been undermined by imperialist circles obstructing assistance to those developing countries which were following progressive socio-economic policies. The international community should stem that dangerous trend, which seriously damaged the spirit of multilateral co-operation. The tendency to link the activities of United Nations programmes and funds more closely with those of the World Bank and similar institutions would seriously harm the independent economic development of developing countries. The further intensification of the influence of such institutions on United Nations programmes and funds would undermine the credibility of the system and make it resemble a tool in the hands of imperialism. His delegation hoped that the responsible United Nations authorities would consider the problem seriously.

24. With regard to operational activities for development in his own country, he expressed appreciation for the co-operation and assistance provided, in particular, by UNDP, UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA, FAO and UNIDO. UNDP activities were being harmonized with national plans, and efforts were being made to improve their effectiveness. Artificial obstacles had been created to certain projects for political reasons or want of will, but the UNDP programme as a whole operated successfully and it was hoped to improve it further. UNICEF programmes were also prospering and his

(Mr. Kazem, Afghanistan)

country hoped that the Fund would further increase its assistance. It was unfortunate that certain programmes and funds, such as WFP and UNCDF had not yet resumed their assistance after his country's recent difficulties and he called upon them to do so as soon as possible.

25. Mr. PRADO (Cuba) said that technical co-operation should contribute to the process of economic and social development in accordance with the national priorities established by each recipient country. The process of defining development methods in each country could include appraisals by United Nations bodies, but the final decisions in that respect must always be taken by the recipient country. It was also essential to maintain the character of multilateral assistance and to avoid the dangerous path of bilateralism involving the imposition of conditions.

26. His delegation urged donor countries to achieve the recommended 14 per cent annual increase in resources and thought it was of the greatest importance to ensure predictable and continuous financing. The reduction in resources for operational activities had affected the United Nations system's capacity to implement development projects and programmes.

27. His delegation also supported policies aimed at increasing the use of local resources in developing countries. Better use must be made of contributions in national currencies, since there were areas in which it was possible to use such contributions to advantage, and no resource directed towards the socio-economic development of nations should be neglected. The reduction of operational costs, the more efficient use of personnel and the possibility of making savings so as to use available resources properly were also areas in which it was important to make further progress.

28. His delegation supported the establishment of a programme committee under the Governing Council of UNDP to take charge of country programmes and, if necessary, projects, but the Council's power with regard to policy-making should remain intact.

29. The difficult world economic situation required careful consideration and urgent solutions. The need to achieve profound socio-economic and structural changes in many countries was part of a process to which the different United Nations agencies could contribute through their programmes. UNDP plans for technical and development assistance should help to make all States aware of the need for measures to raise the people's standard of living as an inseparable part of any genuine process of development. UNICEF required a massive mobilization of resources, both financial and human, national and international, to give the essential further impetus to its programmes. It was also necessary to co-ordinate efforts by all agencies in the United Nations system in order to expand activities in the fields of health and personnel training.

30. UNFPA programmes in support of population policies in individual countries were also important. A meeting of the Latin American Committee of High-level Government Experts had recently been held in his country to analyse population

(Mr. Prado, Cuba)

policy in the region and draw up recommendations for the World Population Conference to be held in Mexico in August 1984. Continued support for the programmes of the Latin America Demographic Centre would also be valuable.

31. Operational activities for development increased the authority of the United Nations, and his country gave them its support in the context of the struggle for peace and security, an equitable international order and a solution to the tragic problem of underdevelopment which affected the vast majority of countries. In that context, he had to denounce the fact that, for about 25 years, the Government of the United States of America had been applying a range of economic sanctions against his country as part of a financial and trade blockade. Those unilateral measures had caused losses of over \$9 billion to the national economy, but his country had survived and was making rapid social and economic progress. It paid tribute to the work of the international organizations which had made it possible to breach the blockade and were making an invaluable contribution to the efforts of developing countries.

32. Mr. SILWAL (Nepal) said that his delegation attached great importance to operational activities for development which had benefited over 150 countries and Territories. His delegation believed that the report contained in document A/38/258 would enable the General Assembly to elicit a generous response from the international community to the various programmes and funds for development and co-operation.

33. His country was concerned at the constraints on operational activities for development resulting from the growing tendency to emphasize bilateral as opposed to multilateral aid. While bilateral aid was important, failure to provide adequate resources for the United Nations system would impair existing and projected programmes.

34. UNDP, as the main operational agency, had rendered invaluable service to developing countries and was uniquely placed to help them enhance their human resources. It had been attuned to the needs of each country through the close links established between country programmes and national development plans. It was unfortunate, therefore, that at a time when UNDP was called upon to shoulder greater responsibilities, the third programming cycle had started with a reduction in the programming approval limit from 85 to 55 per cent of the illustrative indicative planning figures. The call by the Intersessional Committee of the Whole of the UNDP Governing Council for contributions to alleviate the shortfall and for the real value of contributions to be maintained from year to year deserved support. At the same time, a system to provide secure long-term funding should also be sought.

35. UNCDF was playing a vital role by providing concessional capital assistance to the most needy countries for crucial areas of their economy. By following a policy of flexible financing and by complementing UNDP's technical co-operation activities with capital assistance, it had responded to the priority needs of the least developed countries in many fields. His delegation welcomed the fact that the Fund had extended its activities, for which greater contributions would be required.

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(Mr. Silwal, Nepal)

36. The United Nations Special Fund for Land-Locked Developing Countries could make an important contribution to these countries' efforts to ease the difficulties caused by their particular situation, but it had had little or no response from donors since its establishment in 1976. His delegation believed that the international community had a serious responsibility to correct that situation.

37. His delegation also recognized the importance of UNFPA, whose participation in various projects in his country was considered vital, since success in development efforts greatly depended on population policies and programmes. Another important fund was UNICEF, whose relatively comfortable resource position indicated its great international support. The agency had been instrumental in evolving such effective measures as oral rehydration therapy, which was of great assistance to poor and developing countries. His delegation regarded basic services and primary health care as being particularly relevant to developing countries.

38. Finally, the United Nations Volunteers Programme had proved to be very useful to the countries it had served, in particular by providing the least developed countries with effective middle-level expertise. It had also made important contributions to technical co-operation activities related to youth and domestic development services. His delegation strongly supported the programme and appealed for greater resources to be made available for it.

39. Mr. SZEREMETA (Poland) said that the General Assembly should spare no effort during its current session to make United Nations programmes and funds for operational activities for development more coherent and more relevant to the objectives of the United Nations. His delegation attached great importance to operational activities for development, largely because they contributed to international peace and security which were essential for the development of all countries. While United Nations development activities must be adapted to the changing needs of the international community, they should remain consistent with the basic principles of the Charter. In view of the world economic situation, available resources should be utilized as effectively as possible.

40. Of the United Nations bodies and agencies involved in development work, UNDP deserved particular support because it was the central body for funding and co-ordination of technical co-operation both within and outside the United Nations system. Moreover, the Programme's basic principles of voluntarism and universality must be maintained. However, while his delegation appreciated the efforts being made to increase the number of technical assistance programmes, particularly for developing countries, it was opposed to competition for resources within the United Nations system, since such competition hampered the effectiveness of multilateral technical co-operation. With regard to the financial difficulties facing UNDP, he expressed appreciation for the compromise which had been worked out by the Governing Council concerning the recommendations of the Intersessional Committee of the Whole and urged that all funds made available to UNDP should be fully utilized, particularly in the case of non-convertible currencies.

(Mr. Szeremeta, Poland)

41. At the most recent session of the Governing Council, most delegations had expressed their continued support for the principles set out in the Annex to General Assembly resolution 2688 (XXV) and the new dimensions in technical co-operation endorsed in General Assembly resolution 3405 (XXX). That support led his own delegation to believe that the Programme's difficulties would be surmounted, particularly since the effectiveness of UNDP assistance had ramifications for all the operational activities of the United Nations system.

42. His delegation supported the view of the Administrator that an analysis of the issues confronting the overall development process was necessary and looked forward to the discussion on measures for meeting the changing technical needs of developing countries at the next session of the UNDP Governing Council. He expressed his Government's appreciation to the Administrator and his staff for their efforts to improve programme efficiency and for their part in making international co-operation for development so successful during the 1970s.

43. As a country which had helped establish UNICEF, Poland appreciated its achievements and supported the thrust of its future activities in such areas as nutrition and maternal and child health. Given the current world economic situation, UNICEF should draw the attention of the developed countries to the plight of children and young mothers in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Co-operation between UNICEF and national governmental and non-governmental institutions should be strengthened to that end.

44. He commended the activities of UNFPA and praised the Fund's deep understanding of the social and economic aspects of demographic processes and its approach to population problems. Poland had rich experience in the field of population, for example in social statistics and demographic research, and he therefore hoped that his country's co-operation with UNFPA would be of benefit to all parties concerned. The World Population Conference to be held in 1984 was likely to be an outstanding success, since UNFPA had proven over the years to be one of the most efficient and action-oriented ventures of the United Nations in the field of operational activities for development. He also expressed the hope that his country's contacts with the United Nations Volunteers would develop further.

45. Mrs. MORENO (Mexico), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 said that United Nations operational activities for development constituted an important instrument in the development process, but contributions were grossly inadequate. Support for operational activities should be motivated by a new, more profound multilateralism as reflected in increased contributions.

46. The true objective of operational activities for development - the development of developing countries - must not be lost from view. Individual countries must be responsible for the content and direction of their own development plans and programmes. Operational activities for development should lead to the establishment of a new international economic order, and assistance should not be subject to any conditions whatsoever. That in essence was the new multilateralism which the Group of 77 advocated.

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(Mrs. Moreno, Mexico)

47. The voluntary nature of contributions for operational activities should be an incentive to increase their amount; however, that voluntary nature should not be used as an excuse to tie resources to the procurement of goods and services from donor countries, since such an approach transformed multilateral assistance into a disguised form of tied credits.

48. Participation in operational activities for development must be universal in the sense that all developing countries must have access to resources, notwithstanding the special effort required in favour of the least developed countries. The future of multilateral co-operation would depend not only on general economic conditions but above all on the political will that would lead to an increased net transfer of resources to the United Nations for development purposes. Some countries had announced increased contributions to UNDP: she hoped that such increases would be sufficient to place UNDP on a financial footing equal to that of previous years and enable it to carry out new activities which had already been programmed and adopted. In that connection, the responsibility for effective utilization of resources lay as much with the developing countries as with the developed countries.

49. Not only must the United Nations be guaranteed resources on a more assured and predictable basis, but it must be provided with an adequate administrative infrastructure for project implementation. The Group of 77 agreed that the departments responsible for project implementation must be strengthened on an ongoing basis, and not only in time of financial difficulty; moreover, that strengthening must not serve as a pretext for reducing net transfers of resources. The United Nations system and the international community should be more active in their support of co-operation among developing countries. Greater imagination and creativity were needed to mobilize resources for operational activities in order to meet the challenge posed by the international economic crisis. Greater flexibility and co-ordination were also required to avoid duplication of efforts.

50. The Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation had pointed out that the results of the recent Pledging Conference had been more positive than in previous years. Those results presented the United Nations with a new opportunity for strengthening and broadening multilateral co-operation. She appealed to the international community to increase its contributions for operational activities for development as an effective means of revitalizing the United Nations system and justifying the developing countries' confidence in the future of the Organization.

51. Mr. MORENO-SALCEDO (Philippines) said that he agreed with the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation concerning the latter's assessment of the results of the 1983 Pledging Conference for Development Activities. The recent experience of the Philippines in so far as United Nations operational activities were concerned had been that project-delivery levels were decreasing because of insufficient resources. That was cause for serious concern in the Philippines, because UNDP projects constituted an important part of national economic development plans. Nevertheless, the Philippine Government continued to

(Mr. Moreno-Salcedo, Philippines)

have faith in United Nations development activities and had consequently maintained the 1983 dollar value of its contributions to UNDP and UNICEF for 1984. It had also maintained the 1983 peso value of contributions to other programmes for 1984; given that the peso had been devalued by nearly one half, his country's contributions to UNDP and UNICEF had virtually doubled.

52. His delegation was puzzled by the inconsistency between the commitment of some countries to operational activities and the inability to secure the resources needed to implement those activities. The representative of the United States had suggested that rationalization of the Committee's work would yield better results, and he suggested that donor countries should indicate what approaches might be adopted in that respect. The most important thing was to increase funds for operational activities as soon as possible. UNDP programme delivery must not be allowed to decline further; in fact, delivery must be restored to 100 per cent of IPFs, since the developing countries needed help with their economic recovery, as well as with their economic development.

53. With regard to financial burden-sharing, he believed that the contributions of the developed countries to development activities were not always given their due in Committee discussions. While the developed countries had a moral obligation to extend assistance to needier countries, it should be acknowledged that without their contributions, in whatever amounts, there would be no operational activities to speak of. He also wished to remind other countries which had not contributed as much as they should or could to increase their contributions, since they, too, had an obligation to participate in the development of the developing countries.

54. Multilateral assistance, which had been conceived as a means of avoiding tied aid, was still much less frequent than bilateral assistance. Moreover, the imposition of conditions on assistance had recently been introduced into some multilateral assistance programmes under such forms as multi-bilateral funding and the use of non-convertible currency. Faced with a scarcity of sources of assistance, recipient countries had little choice but to accept whatever forms of assistance were offered. His delegation believed that the view expressed by the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation that the tying of contributions to the procurement of goods or services had no drawbacks where it reflected prior decisions by recipient countries was an oversimplification, since "prior decisions" could be influenced by the absence of alternative sources of funds.

55. The role of co-ordination and evaluation had become important, as the number of institutions and officials involved in operational activities for development had increased. He warned that, given the preoccupation with project evaluation mechanisms, the resulting administrative procedures could become so complex that the development projects themselves might become secondary. What was most important was that projects in recipient countries should achieve results. Consequently, evaluation and co-ordination efforts should be focused on individual countries and projects. In that connection, he welcomed the establishment of a central evaluation unit within UNDP and the cost-cutting measures initiated by the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation.

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(Mr. Moreno-Salcedo, Philippines)

56. Special purpose funds should not be allowed to proliferate, since they created additional problems of monitoring and co-ordination and added an unnecessary political dimension which worked against economic co-operation. Furthermore, new funds competed for the scarce resources available from voluntary contributions.

57. With regard to UNFPA, he welcomed the FUND's initiatives in the areas of immigration, emigration and demographic trends. The ultimate objective of population activities should be the enhancement of the quality of human life. At the most recent session of the UNDP Governing Council, his delegation had suggested that the criteria for establishing priority countries for UNFPA assistance should be reviewed on a regular basis, beginning in two or three years. He hoped that the matter would be taken up by the UNDP Administrator in his annual report.

58. With regard to technical co-operation for development, he noted that that activity had also fallen victim to insufficient resources. While his delegation had been heartened to learn that a 37 per cent cutback in manpower in the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development had been effected during the past year in order to make better use of existing resources, it hoped that there would be no further reductions in the Department's programme delivery. He concluded by expressing his delegation's support for the operational activities carried out by such agencies as UNICEF, FAO and the World Food Programme, which complemented the activities of UNDP.

AGENDA ITEM 81: SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE (continued)

(a) OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS DISASTER RELIEF CO-ORDINATOR: REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/C.2/38/L.69)

(b) SPECIAL PROGRAMMES OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE (continued) (A/C.2/38/L.39, L.40, L.50-L.61 and L.63-L.68)

Draft resolution A/C.2/38/L.69

59. Mr. AGBASI (Secretary of the Committee) said that Bangladesh wished to be added to the list of sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/38/L.69.

Draft resolutions A/C.2/38/L.39-L.40, L.50-L.61 and L.63-L.68

60. Mr. AGBASI (Secretary of the Committee) said that a number of countries had asked to be included on the lists of sponsors for the following draft resolutions: A/C.2/38/L.39, L.40, L.52, L.54-L.61 and L.64-L.68 - Madagascar; A/C.2/38/L.50 - Madagascar, Singapore and Thailand; A/C.2/38/L.51 and L.53 - Madagascar and Viet Nam; and A/C.2/38/L.63 - Madagascar, New Zealand and Samoa.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.