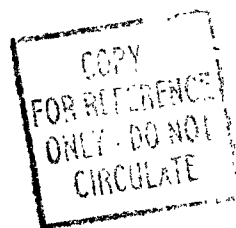


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*Official Records\**



SECOND COMMITTEE  
23rd meeting  
held on  
31 October 1983  
at 10.30 a.m.  
New York

**SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 23rd MEETING**

Chairman: Mr. DIETZE (German Democratic Republic)

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**ELECTION OF THE RAPPORTEUR**

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

AGENDA ITEM 78: DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (continued)  
(A/38/3 (Parts I and II), 57, 68, 106, 132 and Corr.1-2, 168, 186 and Corr.1, 209, 302, 303, 324, 325, 329, 425, 479, 494, 495; A/C.2/38/3, A/C.2/38/5)

- (c) INDUSTRIALIZATION: REPORT OF THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD (continued)  
(A/38/16, 141, 516);
- (e) FOOD PROBLEMS (continued) (A/38/19, 277, 280, 377; A/C.2/38/L.4);
- (g) ENVIRONMENT (continued) (A/38/25, 304, 305, 383, 403, 504; A/C.2/38/L.5);
- (h) HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (continued) (A/38/8, 278);
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SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/38/8, 233 and Corr.1; A/C.2/38/L.9);
- (l) NEW AND RENEWABLE SOURCES OF ENERGY (continued) (A/38/44, 240);
- (n) NEW INTERNATIONAL HUMAN ORDER: MORAL ASPECTS OF DEVELOPMENT (continued)  
(A/38/360; E/1983/68 and Add.1-3; E/1983/89; A/C.2/38/L.6)

1. Mr. SILWAL (Nepal) said that, without food, it was impossible to talk of development. Food production and agricultural growth had become major themes of the International Development Strategy. Although his country accorded agriculture high priority in its development plans, it had not been able to stimulate productivity or do more than perpetuate subsistence farming because of such factors as the absence of improved farming practices, inadequate agricultural credit, extension services and research and the vagaries of the monsoons. His country, which had once exported food products, was now facing the prospect of becoming a net importer.

2. His delegation considered that the recommendations on management and action-oriented research of the ninth session of the World Food Council were of crucial importance. It welcomed the revised concept of world food security endorsed by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and called for increased support by the international community for such food aid agencies as FAO and the World Food Programme. At the same time, the operations of different United Nations agencies dealing with food aid should be well co-ordinated.

3. With regard to the important question of energy, the development of new and renewable sources of energy was imperative in countries like his own, which did not have hydrocarbon deposits. It was therefore gratifying that the General Assembly had established a Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy, which had met in April 1983. He appealed to the affluent members of the international community to lend their full support to the development of those sources of energy.

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(Mr. Silwal, Nepal)

4. In his country, the vast water resources were not fully developed because of limited funds. His delegation reiterated the proposal submitted by the Interim Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy that a regional centre for small hydropower resources should be established in Nepal.

5. The question of the environment was of growing importance to the development of any country. His delegation supported decision 11/3 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) concerning the Special Commission to propose long-term environmental strategies extending to the year 2000. It also supported the proposal to establish an open-ended intergovernmental intersessional preparatory committee to set broad guidelines for the Special Commission. Two other decisions of the eleventh session of the Governing Council of UNEP, namely the Year of the Trees (1988) for Asia and the Pacific and assistance to the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme, were of special interest.

6. One of the most serious environmental problems, whose far-reaching implications had not been understood by many, was the severe environmental deterioration of the foothills of the Himalayas, which would seriously handicap the countries of the region. The modest national efforts being made in that regard were not sufficient, and international support was necessary. As noted in the report of the Secretary-General (A/38/504), one of the two projects selected by the Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions for immediate consideration was the deforestation of the Himalayan foothills. As a result of meetings convened by UNEP on that question, it had been recommended that an overall policy framework should be developed by UNEP for joint consideration by concerned Governments. His delegation was encouraged by the priority attention that the issue was receiving.

7. Regionally, the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, an autonomous international organization based in Nepal, was the first institution of its kind with the objective of applying an integrated approach to promote economically and environmentally sound development in the Himalayas. It was to be hoped that it would play an effective role in the area as a supplement to national, bilateral and international programmes.

8. Mr. SOBHAN (Bangladesh) drew attention to some of the most important conclusions that had emerged from the Committee's general debate: the worst recession since the great depression was continuing unabated in the developing countries, and the fragile recovery in some of the developed countries had had only a marginal impact on the developing world. Such circumstances as high rates of interest, volatile exchange rates and the liquidity squeeze, in conjunction with the debt problem and the drop in overseas development assistance, had forced many countries to adopt deflationary policies, thus seriously impeding their development prospects. A sustained and durable recovery was not possible unless the economies of the developing countries were stimulated, and fresh impetus must be given to multilateral co-operation.

9. The situation was probably most desperate in respect of food and agriculture, as famine spread rapidly in many developing countries, particularly in Africa.

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(Mr. Sobhan, Bangladesh)

Although global food stocks might still be sufficient despite the production setbacks in 1983, they were not available where they were most needed and, even if countries with surpluses were committed to making them available to countries facing an emergency situation, severe logistical difficulties were encountered. His delegation extended its full support to programmes geared towards increasing food production and agricultural capacity in Africa, and concerted international efforts must be made to increase the food production capabilities of the developing countries rapidly. In addition to establishing a credible food security system, measures must be taken to rid mankind of the spectre of hunger and malnutrition by the year 2000 at the latest. Even though an adequate supply of cereals was available world-wide, countries must also have adequate purchasing power and the capability of importing them. It was thus necessary to take measures to generate employment opportunities in the countries concerned and to stabilize foreign exchange earnings. It was especially important that the food-deficit developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, should be guaranteed minimum food supplies in times of world-wide shortages.

10. In many developing countries, the increased production of food grains was directly dependent on the availability of inputs. Although his country had attached the highest priority to the agricultural sector in national planning, additional international support was necessary. Although the official commitment of external assistance to agriculture had expanded rapidly in the mid-1970s, that trend had been reversed in later years.

11. The crucial importance of industrialization to the accelerated development of the developing countries was well known and had been reflected in the Lima Declaration and Plan of Action. Unfortunately, the support of the developed countries had been inadequate, and the developing countries themselves had faced serious constraints in recent years because of the severe economic recession, aggravated by an insufficient flow of resources and increasing protectionist barriers. The Industrial Development Board, at its seventeenth session, had expressed serious concern about resource limitations for the implementation of the technical programmes of the least developed countries. His delegation shared that concern and underlined the usefulness of the UNIDO Senior Industrial Development Field Adviser programme, which should be expanded to cover other developing countries. It was to be hoped that the conversion of UNIDO into a specialized agency would give new impetus to the industrialization process of developing countries. Such a conversion should not disturb the existing UNIDO programmes and the agency should be provided with adequate resources to discharge its functions. Furthermore, the System of Consultations, which should focus on increasing the industrial capacities of the developing countries, should be strengthened.

12. With regard to the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, he shared the view that the observance of the International Year should be a crucial transition phase between an intensive search for solutions and their extensive application and that human settlements should be regarded as an integral part of the overall development process. In connection with the Report of the Secretary-General on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the

(Mr. Sobhan, Bangladesh)

occupied Palestinian territories, his delegation denounced the policies of widespread discrimination and harassment that the Palestinian people had been subjected to in their own lands by the illegal occupation forces.

13. Future global development was inextricably linked with the utilization of new and renewable sources of energy. The role of the United Nations in implementing the Nairobi Programme of Action and in enhancing the scientific and technological capacities of the developing countries to exploit new and renewable sources of energy could not be sufficiently emphasized. The recommendations of the Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy should be implemented in earnest.

14. It was now widely recognized that, to ensure a healthy future for mankind, sound environmental policies were essential. No country had the right to undertake any project which would be detrimental to environmental conditions in another country. His delegation supported the expansion of the role of UNEP and its capacity to deal with such serious environmental problems as the decision of the Israeli Government to build a canal linking the Mediterranean Sea to the Dead Sea and the desertification of the Sudano-Sahelian countries.

15. Mr. BELLO (Nigeria) said it was gratifying that industrialization continued to occupy a conspicuous position on the global agenda, in part because of the importance accorded to it by the developing countries. However, it was regrettable that, rather than advancing towards the Lima target for industrial production, the developing world appeared to be marking time, if not sliding back. While the developing countries were determined to meet the challenge of industrialization, the international community could not shirk its responsibility in that regard, especially at a time when an increased collective effort to restructure the world economy could be expected to aid the recovery of the world economy. If industrial development was to proceed at the pace desired by the developing countries, problems related to the international liquidity shortage, protectionism and the transfer of technology would have to be overcome.

16. His Government considered that the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) had been satisfactorily discharging the mandate given to it to promote international co-operation in support of the industrial objectives of developing countries. The Executive Director of UNIDO had managed to stretch available resources to ensure the current level of technical assistance to developing countries. However, the Assembly should heed the Executive Director's warning that a ceiling had been reached unless an adequate budget appropriation and increased voluntary contributions were made available to UNIDO.

17. The request made by the Industrial Development Board at its seventeenth session that preliminary preparations for the consultations scheduled for the 1986-1987 biennium should commence well in advance was a noteworthy piece of foresight which should not be frustrated by a lack of resources. His country awaited with interest the report which the Executive Director was to submit to the next session of the Industrial Development Board on the work of UNIDO on the development and transfer of technology.

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(Mr. Bello, Nigeria)

18. The high priority accorded by UNIDO to the International Development Decade for Africa was appropriate, but activities must not be slowed down by a lack of adequate resources. He therefore urged that both UNIDO and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) should be provided with sufficient resources to fulfil their responsibilities as lead agencies for the decade. Moreover, steps should be taken to rectify Africa's currently inadequate share of the total resources available in the United Nations Industrial Development Fund (UNIDF), and voluntary contributions, particularly by developed countries, should be increased to UNIDF and to the United Nations Development Programme. However, the attainment by Africa of the target of 1.4 per cent of world industrial production by 1990 would also depend on an adequate response by such other sources of external financing as the World Bank and the regional development banks.

19. It had been suggested that industrialization in Africa would depend to a significant extent on a high rate of growth of agriculture. Since the two sectors were mutually reinforcing, his country was keenly interested in the work of all United Nations bodies involved in the provision of technical and related assistance to promote agro-based industries.

20. All was not well with the world food economy, as was apparent in the concentration of abundant food production in a certain region of the world and the critical shortages which prevailed in many parts of the developing world. Much remained to be done by the international community if the objective of eradicating hunger and malnutrition by the end of the century was to be achieved. Of particular concern was the food and agriculture situation in Africa, whose food self-sufficiency ratio had declined over the past two decades as a result of a continuing drop in per capita food production.

21. In his own country, a national food strategy, referred to as the green revolution, was currently under way and represented a significant part of overall investment in the fourth national development plan (1981-1985). A central part of the comprehensive green revolution programme was a special emphasis on rural development through the provision of such necessary incentives to farmers as credit facilities, subsidized agricultural inputs and the payment of equitable prices for farm products. Although his country had had a good cereal harvest in 1982, it was not yet out of the woods, not only because 1985 was its target for food self-sufficiency but also because it was one of the 34 African countries currently being ravaged by a severe drought. Although it sincerely appreciated the contributions made by international organizations, it found it necessary to call for the full implementation of a number of measures contained in resolutions of the General Assembly: the need to meet the target of the World Food Programme, the International Emergency Food Reserve and the Food Aid Convention; an increased and substantial flow of technical and financial resources to the agricultural sector of developing countries, in particular the African countries; the strengthening of international markets to provide outlets for the agricultural exports of developing countries; and international support for the development of skilled manpower and technology in developing countries.

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(Mr. Bello, Nigeria)

22. With regard to the environment, he underscored the importance of the work of the United Nations Environment Programme. Although his country had taken significant steps to compile relevant data and to co-ordinate inter-agency actions concerning the environment, it recognized that it could benefit from the type of activities undertaken by UNEP. Among the important decisions taken by the Governing Council of UNEP at its eleventh session, his country was especially interested in the exercise concerning the environmental perspective to the year 2000 and beyond and would like to be associated closely with the work of the preparatory committee. It also supported resolutions on the impact of apartheid on the environment and the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification in the Sudano-Sahelian region.

23. On the issue of human settlements, his delegation agreed with the comment made by the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) that investment in housing was wise and productive. His Government had made significant progress during the current plan period to construct a large number of housing units to meet the needs of the growing population, particularly the low-income group. It therefore supported the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless and the increasing responsiveness of UNCHS (Habitat) to the needs of Member States.

24. Mr. HUSSAIN (Pakistan) urged the international community to support implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Third General Conference of UNIDO and of those adopted at the seventeenth session of the Industrial Development Board. Regrettably, the redeployment of industry from developed to developing countries and the restructuring of the latter's industrial sectors had not proceeded as expected, primarily because of the growing resort to protectionist policies in developed countries. Redeployment would be in the long-term economic interests of the developed countries and would add to the strength of the global economy. The need to encourage it should therefore be stressed.

25. The Industrial and Technological Information Bank was performing a useful function, but more resources should be allocated to expand its activities and there should be an increased transfer of industrial technologies relevant to the needs of developing countries. The establishment of a permanent System of Consultations had contributed to the industrialization of developing countries, and the system should be further strengthened.

26. It was a matter for regret that the desired annual funding level of \$50 million for the United Nations Industrial Development Fund remained a distant target, and his delegation urged all countries, in particular the developed ones, to contribute more generously to it. It was up to all countries to ensure the financial viability of UNIDO and to facilitate its early conversion into a specialized agency.

27. On the subject of food problems, the international community must take responsibility for eliminating hunger and malnutrition by the end of the century, a target which could only be achieved by substantially increasing the flow of

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(Mr. Hussain, Pakistan)

external financial assistance to back up the efforts of the developing countries. It was therefore a matter of concern that the current level of such assistance was some 40 per cent short of the annual target of \$8.3 billion. His delegation was also concerned at the fall in commodity prices and the increased trade restrictions hindering the efforts of developing countries. The major grain exporting countries could better devote the billions of dollars they were spending on subsidies to assisting developing countries to increase their food and agricultural production. In his own country, food grain production had increased by 34 per cent since 1977, but there was still a long way to go. The Government was allocating almost a third of its annual development budget to food, agriculture, rural development and irrigation, but the prospects of implementing its present food strategy had been jeopardized by the decline in real net aid flows from abroad. He therefore called upon the international community and international organizations to increase their support for developing countries in implementing their national food policies and strategies.

28. The dimensions of the current catastrophic food shortages in Africa called for urgent collective action to supply emergency assistance and to strengthen the infrastructure for increasing food production. The United Nations had to develop programmes which would eliminate dependence on aid and support the efforts which the African nations were making to that end. The international community should react quickly with emergency food supplies and adequate financial and technical support for the activities already being undertaken at all levels in Africa. His delegation would give all possible support to the Secretary-General's recommendations in that respect. It also endorsed the report of the ninth ministerial session of the World Food Council and hoped that early action would be taken to implement its decisions and recommendations.

29. His country took an active interest in environmental issues and believed that ecological imbalances and pollution resulted from excessive and unplanned exploitation of the world's resources. Another major environmental problem, poverty, resulted from inadequate consumption and a scarcity of basic necessities. Those various phenomena could only be balanced if all countries agreed to a just division of the world's economic resources. Priorities in the environmental field should be viewed as an integral part of global efforts to promote a more just and equitable world order. There was a need for multi-dimensional studies on the relationship between development and environmental protection, to which UNEP must make a major contribution.

30. His own Government had taken steps to increase public awareness of industrial pollution problems and had created a Ministry for the Environment and a high-level committee to identify and deal with the problems involved in various sectors. However, UNEP must give developing countries assistance in the shape of education and technical expertise on environmental matters. His delegation trusted that the General Assembly would endorse the recommendations in the report of the Governing Council of UNEP at its eleventh session.

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(Mr. Hussain, Pakistan)

31. In the context of human settlements and the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, he drew particular attention to the Secretary-General's report on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories. Despite the regrettable refusal of the Israeli authorities to co-operate in its preparation, the report testified to the deteriorating conditions of the Palestinians in their own territories. His delegation expressed its solidarity with those living in such circumstances and pledged support for all efforts to alleviate their sufferings. It noted with satisfaction the progress achieved in preparing for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, to which his country had made a contribution of \$40,000.

32. The results of the first session of the Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy had been meagre but could be an important step towards implementing the Nairobi Programme of Action. His delegation therefore urged maximum support for the implementation of the recommendations which had emerged from the session.

33. In conclusion, he said that his country's five-year plan for the years 1983-1988 envisaged an average annual growth of 6.6 per cent in gross domestic production. Half the estimated cost of the plan would come from public sources and 42 per cent from private investment. The plan emphasized the development of social services, infrastructural facilities and development programmes for the less developed areas of the country. The plan was designed to increase employment opportunities and labour productivity. It also included a special programme to combat malnutrition.

34. Mr. PACHECHI (Iraq) said that his delegation viewed with satisfaction the results achieved by the Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy. The Nairobi Programme of Action was an integral part of the international community's efforts to accelerate the progress of developing countries. The process of conversion to new and renewable sources of energy should be carried out in accordance with the needs, preferences and national priorities of individual States. Developing countries therefore had a particular responsibility to demonstrate their political wishes in that respect. Programmes and projects relating to the rural sector were of special importance in terms of consolidating the economic progress of developing countries.

35. As for the mobilization of the financial resources required to implement the Nairobi Programme of Action, the proposals before the Committee provided an appropriate framework and stressed the role to be played by regional commissions. The activities of the various United Nations institutions involved must be co-ordinated in order to avoid duplication of efforts.

36. On the subject of industrialization, his Government felt that UNIDO had a prime role to play in promoting the redeployment of industry and ensuring that all countries developed their industrial potential. It therefore wished to see UNIDO become a specialized agency and called upon all countries to speed ratification of the organization's new Constitution. One problem tackled by UNIDO in recent years

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(Mr. Pachechi, Iraq)

had been the creation of an effective system of consultations as a tool for inter-State co-ordination in the field of technical co-operation and the restructuring and redeployment of industries in the developing countries. His country believed that such consultations should take account both of activities planned for the biennium 1986-1987 and of the measures adopted by UNIDO, including the Industrial and Technological Information Bank.

37. His delegation considered that the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985 did not provide adequate resources for the promotion of the aims of UNIDO or for its conversion into a specialized agency. It therefore hoped that the General Assembly would take the necessary steps at its current session to remedy that deficiency. He also emphasized the need to consolidate the Senior Industrial Development Field Adviser Programme and hoped that as many posts as possible would be financed. His delegation also supported the two resolutions adopted at the seventeenth session of the Industrial Development Board on technical assistance to the Namibian and Palestinian peoples and condemned Israel for not allowing UNIDO experts and consultants into Palestinian territory to work on development programmes.

38. On the subject of food problems, his delegation supported the World Food Council's recommendations and emphasized that food was a right which must be assured to all peoples and must not be used as a means of exerting political pressure. It was important to ensure the security of food supplies and distribution in the developing countries, and his delegation hoped that the Committee would endorse the resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council on food problems. It was also urgent to adopt an additional resolution on the food situation in Africa.

39. His delegation noted with interest the report on the eleventh session of the Governing Council of UNEP (A/38/25) and supported the Governing Council's recommendations, notably the one concerning the Israeli intention to construct a canal through the occupied territory of Gaza to connect the Mediterranean and Dead Seas. It hoped that the General Assembly would reaffirm the Secretary-General's mandate to evaluate the negative effects of Israeli activities on the ecology of the Palestinian Arab territories occupied since 1967. His delegation also supported the struggle against desertification in the Sudano-Saharan region.

40. With regard to the report of the Commission on Human Settlements (A/38/8), his delegation welcomed the preparations for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless. His own Government had undertaken pilot plans to distribute free land to meet the shelter needs of its citizens and to build large housing projects for the homeless. Such projects concerned rural and urban areas alike and aimed to provide basic infrastructure. His delegation also supported the Commission's resolution on the question of human settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories and condemned Israeli practices there. It deplored both the Israeli authorities' refusal to allow United Nations experts to visit the occupied territories and their efforts to deprive the native Palestinian population of the mainstays of their existence. The only equitable solution would be to restore the rights of the Palestinian people in their own State under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

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41. Mr. DUVERNEY-GUICHARD (France) said that his delegation fully agreed with the World Food Council that food problems must remain a central concern of the international community. The vital importance of national food strategies in increasing food production was generally recognized. The manner in which the 10 States members of the European Economic Community were providing support to the developing countries in drawing up such strategies had already been outlined. However, the search for improved food security in the medium and long term should not cause the international community to lose sight of the need for more immediate relief in the form of emergency food aid. Such aid would continue to be needed for a long time to come. The French Government realized that existing international instruments must be wholeheartedly supported, and it was substantially increasing its contribution to the World Food Programme. That contribution - in cash and in kind - would increase from 14 million francs in 1982 to 40 million francs in 1983. The assistance of the international community was most needed in Africa, and urgent measures must be taken in that connection.

42. Industrialization had been described as a cornerstone of economic development, and his delegation attached great importance to the activities of UNIDO, whose conversion to a specialized agency it supported. The System of Consultations was particularly important and his Government was proposing a three-pronged approach to that system stressing the need for integrated programmes, the need to build up a programme of work during successive meetings and the idea of a committee on consultations. The French authorities were ready to exchange views on that subject with the UNIDO secretariat.

43. His delegation welcomed the determination with which Governments had confirmed their desire to pursue efforts to identify alternative sources of energy at the first session of the Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy. The Committee could have been more specific regarding ways of achieving that aim - for example discussions could have begun regarding the relative importance of the priority areas outlined in the Nairobi Programme of Action - but it had contributed to the advancement of work in that area. It had called for the establishment of a focal point for information within the Unit on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and had clarified the role to be played by consultative meetings. The focal point for information should start identifying existing information sources as soon as possible. His delegation welcomed the central role assigned to the regional economic commissions and looked forward with interest to the results of the meetings planned by ECLA and ESCAP. The French authorities had proposed that they should organize, with UNIDO, a global consultative meeting to consider projects relating to the modernization of industry in developing countries through the development of agro-industrial by-products.

44. The decisions of the Governing Council of UNEP demonstrated the continuing commitment of Governments to environmental protection, coupled with financial stringency. The establishment of a ceiling for support costs and the decision concerning the periodicity of Council meetings were both very sensible. His delegation also approved the topic suggested by the Governing Council for the 1984 report. However, his delegation was a little concerned at the frequency with which political problems interfered with the work of the Council. Such problems should be dealt with in the competent bodies. Its misgivings concerning the usefulness of

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(Mr. Duverney-Guichard, France)

preparing an environmental perspective were well known. He hoped that they would prove unjustified and that the document would not be forgotten as soon as it appeared, as had happened with many similar documents. Certainly the procedure for the preparation of the perspective demonstrated the Council's wish to ensure that that did not happen.

45. The results of the sixth session of the Commission on Human Settlements were positive. His Government had taken a number of initiatives in connection with preparations for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, and in particular, it had suggested that one of the priority programmes of the "Technology, Growth and Employment" group set up at the Versailles Summit should deal with housing and town planning in the developing countries.

46. Mr. SHAGDARSUREN (Mongolia) said that his delegation greatly appreciated UNIDO efforts to increase technical assistance to developing countries and its activities in studying the social aspects of industrialization in those countries and promoting exchanges of experience on the subject. In view of the importance for the industrialization of developing countries of the state sector, the training of qualified personnel, technical assistance programmes, the formulation of an industrial development strategy and planning, his country supported the measures taken in those fields within the UNIDO framework.

47. His delegation shared the view that industrialization was a basic factor in the rapid socio-economic development of developing countries which would enable them to overcome their inherited colonial backwardness. It was for that reason that his country expressed its solidarity with the just struggle of the developing countries for a greater share in world industrial production. In view of the activities of the imperialist Powers and their transnational corporations, his country attached great significance to UNIDO efforts to enable developing countries to create and strengthen the foundations of their national industry and to restrict the role of foreign private capital in their economies. His delegation considered that the forthcoming Fourth General Conference of UNIDO must devote considerable attention to exposing and eliminating the principal obstacles to the industrialization of developing countries. It was important for UNIDO to take effective measures to facilitate the developing countries' efforts to work out their own industrial policy and strategy and to effect a profound transformation of their economic structure. His delegation also hoped that UNIDO activities would help create conditions for mutually advantageous co-operation among all countries in the field of industrial development. It fully supported the important decisions of the Industrial Development Board to give technical assistance to the peoples of Namibia and Palestine through their legitimate representatives, SWAPO and PLO.

48. He also expressed satisfaction at the successful co-operation between his country and UNIDO, which had participated in carrying out a number of important industrial projects, in particular the establishment of a pilot hide-processing enterprise which had subsequently become a large and profitable industry.

(Mr. Shaqdarsuren, Mongolia)

49. With regard to environmental questions, his delegation appreciated the activities of UNEP and supported its decisions, in particular those adopted at the eleventh session of its Governing Council. The accelerating arms race posed a serious problem, on whose solution the fate of present and future generations depended to a great extent. The problem of defending the natural environment from the disastrous consequences of the ceaseless testing of nuclear and other kinds of weapons of mass destruction still remained, and the adoption of practical measures to halt the arms race would help to solve a world-wide environmental problem. His country supported the socialist countries' proposals to halt weapons testing of any kind on land, at sea and in the air, and it hoped that UNEP would pay due attention to that most important problem.

50. Mr. TAKEI (Observer for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) said that UNESCO had been tackling desertification within the framework of its Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme. That programme had been cited in the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification as a means of strengthening scientific capacity to develop a series of pilot projects which would result in guidelines for the integrated management of arid and semi-arid lands. At its twenty-first session, the UNESCO General Conference had drawn up a major project of research, training and demonstration applied to the integrated management of arid and semi-arid regions. That major project comprised four regional networks of pilot projects. The MAB Programme promoted training through in situ training activities organized within the framework of the pilot projects and through specific training projects intended particularly for groups of countries experiencing a shortage of trained manpower. Two seminars, one organized in Tunisia in 1979 and the other in Senegal in 1980 within the framework of MAB, seemed to be particularly relevant to the objectives of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification. The activities of MAB included the production and dissemination of scientific information on arid and semi-arid lands for different target groups. An exhibition on ecology in action had been organized in many countries to arouse public awareness of critical ecological problems. MAB activities related to arid and semi-arid lands had been carried out through co-operation arrangements with UNEP, UNESCO, UNDP and FAO. UNESCO's second medium-term plan (1984-1989) provided for continued efforts under the MAB Programme in arid and semi-arid lands and dealt in particular with problems relating to desertification.

51. Mr. RAMACHANDRAN (India) said that the Nairobi Programme of Action had established the framework for international co-operation in the energy field and that he welcomed the related institutional arrangements, including the Unit on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and the Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy. While it was true that the primary responsibility for implementing programmes in the energy field lay with Governments, international support was crucial for such programmes. The recommendations made by the Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy regarding the strengthening of consultative meetings would prove particularly useful in mobilizing additional financial resources.

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(Mr. Ramachandran, India)

52. The challenge implicit in an energy transition had been examined thoroughly. Given the tremendous pressures on the balance of payments of the energy-deficient developing countries, he appealed to the international community to support national efforts in the area of new and renewable sources of energy.

53. Given the rising cost of oil, his Government had adopted an integrated programme on the development of new and renewable sources of energy. Expenditure on demonstration, development and research would be several times the previous level. At the same time, a Commission for Additional Sources of Energy had been established and had started to consider various projects for production of proto-voltaic cells, bio-gas plants, solar thermal systems and others.

54. Since industrialization was a prerequisite for the attainment of self-reliance by the developing countries, far greater efforts were required in order to reach the targets set in the Lima Plan of Action, including an effort to increase the resources of UNIDO. He welcomed the report of the Industrial Development Board (A/38/16) and took note of conclusion 1983/9 in which the Board had noted with concern that the value of the Industrial Development Fund had declined in real terms since its establishment. As a representative of a country which was among the largest contributors to the Fund, he urged others to maintain the level of their contributions to the Fund in real terms. He also supported the recommendation that the funding of the Senior Industrial Development Field Advisers Programme be maintained at the present level.

55. His delegation supported the System of Consultations and called for the redeployment and creation of new industrial capacity in developing countries based on the principle of comparative advantage. UNIDO could play a valuable role in promoting technical co-operation among developing countries by utilizing and building on existing networks. India already had 113 joint ventures with other developing countries and its terms concerning the transfer of technology were extremely liberal.

56. With regard to the environment, planning and preparation were needed in order to tackle environmental problems and prevent them from becoming crises. His delegation welcomed the decision of the UNEP Governing Council concerning the preparation of an Environmental Perspective to the year 2000 and beyond. The establishment of an intergovernmental committee and a Special Commission to assist in that project was a positive step. The decision concerning periodicity of Council sessions was acceptable, but he hoped that it would be reviewed after the initial trial.

57. His delegation also welcomed the decision on programme matters, particularly as it related to Asia and the Pacific. The emphasis placed on training and education and on the strengthening of the public information network was gratifying, and the decision to designate 1988 as Year of the Trees was most heartening. However, environmental programmes should be more action-oriented in order to stem the growing tide of ecological degradation.

(Mr. Ramachandran, India)

58. His Government attached great importance to human settlement issues and was committed to the objectives of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless. He fully supported the 1984-1985 programme of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), as approved by the Commission, and endorsed the appeal of the Centre's Executive Director for adequate financial resources to be made available through the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation.

ELECTION OF THE RAPPORTEUR

59. The CHAIRMAN said he had been informed that agreement had been reached on the nomination of Mr. Arce-Rojas (Colombia) for the office of Rapporteur.

60. Mr. Arce-Rojas (Colombia) was elected Rapporteur by acclamation.

61. The CHAIRMAN said that the election would have no bearing on any future position which the Latin American countries might wish to take on the question of the officers of the Committee.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.