



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 22nd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. HARLAND (New Zealand)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.45 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 80: DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (continued) (A/39/3 (Part II), A/39/56, 71, 88, 95, 110, 118, 126, 131 and Corr.1, 133, 187, 226, 236, 269, 302, 303, 304, 314, 323, 331, 448, 495, 536, 554, 560; A/C.2/39/3 and 4)

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- (p) DEVELOPMENT OF THE ENERGY RESOURCES OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (continued) (A/39/420)

1. Mr. SAAB (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) said that the world food crisis remained one of the most intractable issues facing the international community. However, the problem was no longer one of global supply. Many people continued to go hungry simply because they were unable to obtain food or because their Governments lacked the resources to provide it.

2. According to provisional estimates made by FAO, global food and agricultural production would increase between 4 and 4.5 per cent in 1984. Although growth in food production had slowed down a little in the developing countries, it had nevertheless exceeded overall population growth. The higher cereal production would not be fully absorbed by increased demand; thus cereal stocks were expected to rise to a reasonably comfortable level.

3. Agricultural trade, which had fallen in value by 10 per cent between 1981 and 1983, had not yet recovered. A number of developing countries had had to reduce consumption, including that of food in some instances, and there had been intense pressure in developed countries for further constraints on imports. Particular attention therefore needed to be given to the inhibiting effects of protectionism on the growth of agricultural trade and to the threat that high interest rates posed to the development of the developing countries.

4. The food situation in Africa was expected to remain serious in the year ahead. Although food aid deliveries to the 24 countries which had been facing

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(Mr. Saab, FAO)

abnormal food shortages had almost doubled in the past year, harvests in the northern Sahelian countries were expected to be worse than in the previous year and crop prospects had seriously deteriorated in parts of eastern and most of southern Africa. The Joint FAO/WFP Task Force had already identified 11 countries in those three areas which would definitely need assistance. The long-term solution to the food supply problem could only be found by the countries involved. At the recent FAO Regional Conference for Africa, the ministers responsible for food and agriculture had pledged to adopt more effective policies for food and agricultural development and to increase efficiency of resource use in Government institutions. FAO would continue to mobilize emergency relief both directly and indirectly. It provided emergency assistance through its Office for Special Relief Operations and had acted as executing agency for, or participated in the implementation of, 42 projects in Africa funded through bilateral and multilateral assistance.

5. Measures to alleviate cereal price and supply instability remained a priority for achieving world food security. In 1983, the FAO Committee on World Food Security had adopted a revised concept of world food security which was being put into effect. National early warning systems had been established in several countries and one regional grouping - that of the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference. The Director-General had been asked to draft a world food security compact which would consolidate what had already been agreed upon. FAO would continue to focus on food security problems, and would prepare an in-depth examination of the root causes of the African food crisis for presentation in 1986.

6. Recalling the four superimposed crises - technical, developmental, economic and political - which the Director-General had spoken of earlier in the year, he said that, on the technical side, a technology must be found that could include traditional crop varieties, mixed cropping and integrated plant nutrition and pest control methods, and could relieve labour bottlenecks by recognizing the immensely important role that women played in food production. Training must be a major part of efforts to tackle food problems. Nearly all FAO's field projects in Africa had a training component of some kind, and in many it was the sole or dominant activity.

7. High growth rates in urban populations meant that more food had to be produced by relatively fewer farmers and transported over larger distances. The economic recession had curtailed demand for agricultural products and contributed to the deterioration in agricultural terms of trade. In recent years, external assistance had levelled off and real domestic expenditure on agriculture had slackened under the combined impact of inflation and budgetary restraint. FAO had sought, through its Investment Centre, to identify and prepare agricultural and rural development projects and to mobilize resources to finance them. In the period 1981-1983 it had prepared projects totalling nearly \$1.5 billion, of which over \$1 billion was being financed by multilateral lending institutions. It had also sought to offset the decline in UNDP development resources by raising annual expenditure under its trust fund and technical co-operation programmes to the level of \$143 million.

8. Although developing countries were responding to the challenge of development, there was a lack of coherence and clarity in creating the incentives - covering the

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(Mr. Saab, FAO)

whole range of policies that affected income and quality of life in farming areas, including producer prices and land tenure - required to increase the quantities of food entering their domestic markets. The main findings of a comprehensive study of pricing policies would be available in 1985.

9. The recent World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development had adopted a strategy for fisheries management which would act as a guideline for years to come, and a programme of action which would require funding amounting to some \$15 million a year over five years.

10. The first review of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, which had been presented the previous year, had shed light on areas that were often overlooked in the development process revealing that technological policies tended to bypass or marginalized the rural poor, whose lack of access to food was the essence of the food problem.

11. Mr. DIETZE (German Democratic Republic) said that his Government believed that an urgent solution must be found to the critical food situation in many developing countries, and supported the goal of freeing the world from the scourge of hunger by the year 2000. In that regard, the reduction of armaments spending was indispensable. Only recently, the Warsaw Treaty States had submitted concrete proposals on that issue to the States members of NATO. All other States could co-operate in the implementation of those proposals. The German Democratic Republic agreed with the World Food Council's assertion that peace and disarmament were prerequisites to improved economic conditions and enhanced food security. It was also essential to put an end to the destruction of crops and food and the payment of bonuses for fallow land in order to keep world market prices high, and to the use of food supply as a political instrument.

12. At the Fourth General Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the socialist countries had made every effort to settle urgent problems of international economic co-operation. Certain results had been achieved, but there had been no progress on the main issues, particularly the acceleration of industrialization in developing countries, the democratic restructuring of international economic relations and the establishment of a new international economic order. Only the United States of America had voted against the report of the Conference and the conclusions and recommendations contained therein. His delegation was prepared to co-operate in the deliberations on the draft resolutions transferred from the Conference to the General Assembly, and maintained its proposals on the strengthening of the role of the public sector and planning in industrialization and on the socio-economic aspects of industrialization.

13. Training was a basic requirement for the successful development of every national economy. His delegation therefore endorsed the proposal, already supported by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77, for the convening of a United Nations conference on human resources development, as an important multidisciplinary issue of concern to practically all United Nations organs. His Government, which had for many years organized UNIDO training courses on industrial planning and other key economic questions for developing countries could make available useful experience for such a conference.

(Mr. Dietze, German Democratic Republic)

14. In order to expedite the conversion of UNIDO into a specialized agency, his delegation had at the Fourth General Conference agreed to the compromise proposal submitted by the Group of 77 and now it expected a positive and precise decision on that matter at the current session of the General Assembly. Nothing would then stand in the way of ratifying the statute and converting UNIDO into a specialized agency.

15. His delegation endorsed in principle the reports of the Commission on Human Settlements (A/39/8) and the UNEP Governing Council (A/39/25). It particularly supported those decisions which dealt with the dangers to the human environment arising from the arms race, as well as Governing Council decision 12/6 on impacts of apartheid on the environment and the Commission's resolution 7/3 on assistance to victims of apartheid and colonialism in Africa. With regard to Governing Council decision 12/4, it considered that there were already sufficient technical assistance bodies and organs in the United Nations: and to burden UNEP with such issues diverted it from solving global environment problems.

16. Immediate measures for solving urgent economic problems, which his delegation would support as it had at the Assembly's thirty-eighth session, but were not an end in themselves, but a complement to the still pending global negotiations. It would be useful if they contributed to the establishment of a new international economic order. A decision to reduce the artificially increased interest rates would be an immediate measure which could release resources worth billions of dollars for solving the most urgent social and economic problems. Another immediate measure was the convening of an international conference on money and finance, with universal participation, within the framework of the United Nations. Preparatory work for that conference should be initiated at the current session of the General Assembly.

17. One delegation had deemed it opportune to turn the Second Committee into an election campaign arena, to demonstrate a policy of strength and to carry the spirit of confrontation into the dialogue. It was not the socialist States that had rejected a new international economic order, voted against the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, introduced trade sanctions in violation of international law, ended negotiations, taken protectionist measures or abused economic relations for political purposes. Nor was it they who opposed confidence-building measures, threatened to leave UNESCO or exerted pressure on UNCTAD. Ideologically tinted indoctrinations and peremptory lectures could not change realities. The opponents of progress in the democratic restructuring of international economic relations should at least not disturb the constructive dialogue of other States. The chance of success lay only in reasonable negotiation.

18. Mr. BRODODININGRAT (Indonesia) welcomed the positive results achieved by the Fourth General Conference of UNIDO, particularly in respect of the strengthening of scientific and technological capacities, development of human resources for industrial development - both issues of crucial importance - domestic processing of raw materials and rural development. His delegation therefore endorsed the progress recorded at the Conference. At the same time, its failure - mainly because of the intransigence of some developed countries to agree on two

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(Mr. Brotodiningrat, Indonesia)

all-important issues, the mobilization of financial resources for industrial development and world industrial restructuring and redeployment - had been most disappointing. He hoped that the developed countries would be more forthcoming when the two resolutions were considered by the General Assembly.

19. Food production was characterized by excessive imbalance; growing surpluses in some areas concealed the fact that hunger continued to prevail in others. The entire international community must respond to the food crisis in Africa. His delegation therefore concurred with the initiatives taken by the Secretary-General and with the recommendations of the world Food Council. Not only must emergency needs be met, but a recurrence of the crisis must be prevented by urgently implementing food security policies and by encouraging sustained agricultural development through the introduction of incentives and the promotion of participation by farmers and women, and of agriculture co-operatives. Food issues must continue to figure prominently among the concerns of the international community.

20. The UNEP Governing Council had made commendable efforts to promote awareness of the link between sustainable development and the environment. In that connection he welcomed decision 12/5 concerning population and the environment. Recognizing that population pressure was a principal agent in the deterioration of the environment in developing countries, his Government had initiated, with the assistance of the UNEP clearing-house mechanism, an environment and development programme that focused upon land use under severe population and development pressure.

21. His delegation concurred with the Commission on Human Settlements that the concept of human settlements embodied major socio-economic and health issues and should therefore be treated as an integral part of economic and social development. It fully supported resolutions 7/9 and 7/14 of the Commission concerning a systematic and comprehensive approach to information for human settlements and to training for human settlements respectively, and was encouraged by the positive response to preparations for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless.

22. He noted that the United Nations system continued to give priority to economic and technical co-operation among developing countries, and that it stood ready to assist Governments further in that essential area.

23. Mr. BORUSHKO (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that the experience of the past decade had demonstrated the need for détente. However, the imperialist forces had halted that process and stepped up their attempts to turn back the process of economic decolonization.

24. The consequences of the world economic crisis of the capitalist system had become a heavy burden for the economies of the developing countries. By the end of the current century, the developing countries would be able to account for only 15 per cent of world industrial production instead of the 25 per cent provided for in the Lima Declaration and Plan of Action on Industrial Development and Co-operation in 1975. The Western Powers, which continued their economic

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(Mr. Borushko, Byelorussian SSR)

exploitation of the States of Asia, Africa, and Latin America, were chiefly responsible for that unfavourable situation.

25. In recent times, the major source of enrichment of private - especially American - banks and corporations at the expense of the developing countries had become their unprecedented raising of interest rates. The developing countries' industrialization and economic growth were also negatively affected by the restrictions on international trade and deflationary measures adopted by the developed capitalist countries, as well as by growing protectionism in the Western countries, higher prices for imported industrial products and lower prices for their exports of raw materials and products, reduced financial aid, increased outflow of capital to the developed capitalist countries and resistance to the restructuring of international economic relations on a just and democratic basis. It was, then, quite understandable that, at the Fourth General Conference of UNIDO, the developing countries had called upon the Western countries to take immediate steps to solve the third world's indebtedness problem, to lower interest rates, to stabilize prices of developing countries' exports, to abandon protectionism, to change their money and finance policies and to make technology available to developing countries.

26. Industrial development programmes could only be successful when they were based on progressive concepts of industrial development and involved strengthening of the State sector of the economy, improved planning, mobilization of internal resources, increased efforts to develop an independent national economy, in particular of the base branches of industry, and measures for State control over the activities of foreign private capital and transnational corporations.

27. Positive aspects of the report of the Fourth General Conference of UNIDO were the assertion that peace and international security were important prerequisites for successful international co-operation, and the call on states to halt the arms race and to use the resources thus freed for development purposes. His delegation also fully shared the view, that UNIDO should contribute to the implementation of General Assembly resolution 38/196, on confidence-building in international economic relations, and 38/197, on economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries. The socialist countries had resolutely condemned the undermining of the peaceful bases of inter-State relations, and were against all forms of exploitation, attempts to interfere in the internal affairs of States and the use of economic relations as a means of political pressure.

28. A number of representatives of Western Powers had stated that the developing countries should weaken or completely abolish State control of the activities of foreign private capital and transnational monopolies. However, practice had shown that such a cause led to increased economic dependence, hindered the strengthening of the State sector and the planning of the national economy, undermined sovereignty over natural resources and led to the plundering of the natural riches of the developing countries and to the cruel exploitation of their populations.

29. The broadening of co-operation between UNIDO and the world Bank, the establishment in a number of Western countries of investment promotion offices, and

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the use of the System of Consultations for the expansionist goals of foreign investment capital were not in keeping with the status of UNIDO as an organization responsible for industrial development.

30. In the process of converting UNIDO into a specialized agency, the principle of equitable geographic distribution should be observed, and account should be taken of the position of the socialist countries with regard to the programme activities of UNIDO as a whole.

31. The Byelorussian SSR shared the concern of other delegations at the fact that the food situation in many countries of Africa had worsened and had remained critical in a number of other developing countries. International co-operation in the area of food was being negatively affected by the deteriorating international situation. The report of the World Food Council (WFC) on the work of its tenth session underlined the importance of General Assembly resolution 38/188 J on institutional arrangements relating to the process of disarmament. However, documents prepared by the WFC secretariat sometimes contained one-sided evaluations of the reasons for the increased hunger and malnutrition in the developing countries, and failed to take account of the extremely negative influence of the arms race, inequitable international economic relations and the use of food as a means of political pressure.

32. In his delegation's view, food programmes in developing countries should be based on the introduction of progressive agrarian reforms.

33. In response to decisions of its Governing Council, UNEP had begun investigations on the impact of the arms race on the environment. The interrelation of the cessation of the arms race, disarmament and the environment should continue to occupy a priority place in the Programme's work. His delegation supported Governing Council decisions 12/6 on impacts of apartheid on the environment, and 12/7 which condemned Israel's decision to build a canal linking the Mediterranean Sea to the Dead Sea. The Byelorussian SSR approved of the work of UNEP on the Global Environmental Monitoring System and its publication of an international list of potentially toxic chemicals. However, it did not believe that UNEP should engage directly in providing technical assistance, to the detriment of its co-ordinating and catalytic role.

34. The Commission on Human Settlements was on the whole conducting useful work, and, as apparent from its resolutions 7/2 and 7/3, was promoting aid to the victims of apartheid and colonialization in southern Africa, and to the Arab people of Palestine. The Secretary-General's report on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories (A/39/233) once again underscored the tragedy of the Arab people of Palestine who were being subjected to criminal occupation by Israel, which was receiving aid and support of all kinds from its overseas protector. With regard to Commission resolution 7/4, entitled "Participation of youth in the solution of housing problems", his delegation emphasized that the problem of human settlements and the improvement of the quality of life in them were inseparably linked to the ensuring of peace and international security, arms reduction and real disarmament measures, which would release considerable material and human resources for constructive purposes.

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(Mr. Borushko, Byelorussian SSR)

35. The International Year of Shelter for the Homeless was a means of mobilizing the efforts at the national level for providing shelter for the homeless population in countries where the problem existed. However, its conduct should not result in additional expenditure under the regular budget of the United Nations. The work of UNCHS (Habitat) was generally commendable but it should make wider use of the experience of the socialist countries in the various fields of housing construction and the development of human settlements.

36. Mr. EDAFE (Madagascar), commenting on the Fourth General Conference of UNIDO, endorsed the realistic proposals made by the Group of 77 regarding the adoption of new international financing mechanisms, the granting of additional financial resources on mutually advantageous terms and the adoption of a more liberal attitude towards the financing of industrial programmes by multilateral financial institutions. Strengthening and improving the System of Consultations would inter alia make it possible to achieve the industrial restructuring goals set forth in the Lima Declaration and Plan of Action. It was unfortunate that the industrialized countries continued to oppose the idea of industrial redeployment to the developing countries.

37. He welcomed the priority given by UNIDO to human resources development and endorsed the activities in respect of the strengthening of the developing countries' industrial and technological capacity, inter alia through technical co-operation between small- and medium-sized firms in developed and developing countries. He noted with satisfaction the recommendation regarding the transfer of energy-related technologies on equitable and acceptable terms and welcomed the resolution concerning the Industrial Development Decade for Africa, echoing the appeal by the African Ministers of Industry for an annual appropriation of \$5 million for the Decade.

38. His delegation supported the proposal for the establishment of an energy affiliate of the world Bank and welcomed the recommendations made by the Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy in its report (A/39/44).

39. Despite the increase in world food production, people in many countries continued to go hungry. The situation was especially bad in Africa. His Government recognized that countries must increase their agricultural production, and it was endeavouring to achieve food self-sufficiency. His delegation appreciated the activities of FAO and endorsed the proposal for the elaboration of a world food security compact.

40. He endorsed the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on immediate measures in favour of the developing countries (A/39/398) and stressed the need to find a solution to monetary and financial problems in general and to the debt problem of the developing countries in particular. Interesting proposals had been made regarding ways of increasing export earnings. They should be examined and implemented without delay.

41. Economic and technical co-operation among the developing countries had become a reality and should be encouraged. In that connection he recalled the suggestion

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his delegation had made regarding the establishment of funds for the development and stabilization of raw material prices. Madagascar had played an active part in the establishment of the Indian Ocean Commission and in the drawing up of a general agreement on co-operation in the economic, trade, technical and scientific sectors.

42. Mr. TUAN (Liberia) said that his Government attached high priority to industrialization, and urged UNIDO to give priority to the Industrial Development Decade for Africa. He hoped that serious efforts would be made to bring about the conversion of UNIDO into a specialized agency as soon as possible and that donor countries would substantially increase their contributions to UNIDO, the prime objective of which should be to accelerate the industrialization process of the countries that were a long way off from achieving their industrialization objectives.

43. The food situation in Africa continued to be critical. While thanking all donor countries which had responded to the emergency in 1983, as well as FAO, the World Food Council and the World Food Programme, he appealed for an increase in food aid to the affected countries.

44. In view of the continued problems in the world economy, it was important that the developing countries should substantially increase their economic and technical co-operation with each other, which however should not be regarded as a substitute for co-operation between developed and developing countries.

45. Development of the developing countries' energy resources was an important element in their overall development. Countries that had the means should provide the developing countries with the financial and technical assistance needed to develop their energy potential.

46. His delegation attached great importance to the issue of human settlements and believed that UNCHS (Habitat) should make every effort to assist Governments in meeting the housing needs of their growing urban populations.

47. In conclusion, he pointed out that Liberia was an open market economy that welcomed all investors who wished to take advantage of the investment incentives it offered.

48. Mr. SAVIC (Yugoslavia) said that the world economic crisis had seriously affected industrialization in the developing countries. If that trend continued, their increased share of world production as envisaged in the Lima Declaration would not be achieved until well into the next century; increasingly, that situation would affect the world economy as well.

49. His delegation was deeply concerned that no agreement had been reached at the Fourth General Conference of UNIDO on the question of world industrial restructuring and redeployment and the mobilization of financial resources for industrial development. The developed countries should participate more fully in the continuing negotiations relating to those questions so that a meaningful agreement might be reached. At the same time, the Conference resolutions aimed at strengthening the operative activities of UNIDO had been encouraging. UNIDO should

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intensify its efforts to meet the developing countries' scientific and technological needs by helping them to use such new technologies as genetic engineering, biotechnology and micro-electronics as well as by continuing current activities. His delegation hoped that UNIDO could be converted into a specialized agency by 1985.

50. Despite the adoption of important decisions with regard to food problems by the World Food Council at its tenth session, such problems persisted, especially in Africa, where hunger and malnutrition were spreading at an unprecedented rate. Urgent and comprehensive action was required of the international community. At the same time, however, the present need for food relief should not hide the fact that there could be no long-term world food security without a promotion of agriculture and an upgrading of the general level of development in developing countries. To that end, Yugoslavia would continue to increase its own food production and expand economic and technical co-operation and promote trade with those countries.

51. Economic and technical co-operation among developing countries was primarily the responsibility of those countries themselves; nevertheless, it merited the full support of the international community, since it would better enable them to withstand adverse trends in the world economy and would help to bring about self-reliance. Document A/39/154 provided a sound basis for an intersectoral analysis of the relevant mandates of, and problems addressed by, the United Nations system. The notion of economic and technical co-operation among developing countries, which could in no way replace co-operation between the developed and the developing countries, was part of the concept of development defined by the Group of 77 and the non-aligned countries.

52. With regard to the environment, he drew attention to the UNEP Regional Seas Programme, to which his country attached particular significance. Protection of the Mediterranean Sea, under that Programme would be significantly improved if the full co-operation of all the relevant organizations and agencies of the United Nations system could be secured. Yugoslavia was an active participant in the implementation of the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution and the Mediterranean Action Plan, which it believed demonstrated how countries of different cultures and levels of development could work together to solve common environmental problems. UNEP, which Yugoslavia strongly supported, had significantly contributed to that end.

53. The International Development Strategy also contained goals for environmental protection. The insufficient progress made towards those goals, largely because of inadequate funds, had affected the developing countries in particular, since they were faced with an ongoing destruction of their environment which would ultimately have consequences for everyone. Decision 12/2 of the UNEP Governing Council, which dealt in part with the review and appraisal of the Strategy, constituted a solid basis for the elaboration of long-term perspectives for environmental development. His delegation also supported Governing Council decision 12/15, regarding the reform of the UNEP Information Service, and considered that further development of the INFOTERRA system, deserved the support of all Member States.

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(Mr. Savic, Yugoslavia)

54. The situation with regard to human settlements in the developing countries had deteriorated. Activities organized in conjunction with the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless would give the international community a unique opportunity to focus its attention on the growing needs of the poor in those countries. More organizations and agencies, including those concerned with development assistance, should be actively involved in the solution of human settlements problems.

55. It was unfortunate that General Assembly resolution 38/166, concerning the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, had not been implemented. The investigation team established in pursuance of that resolution had been denied access to the occupied territories, and his delegation reiterated its condemnation of Israeli practices there. The Palestinian and Arab peoples were fully entitled to the restoration of sovereignty over their lands and full compensation for the exploitation and expropriation of their natural resources.

56. Ms. LUNDE (Norway), speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries on agenda item 80 (i) and (j), recalled that, at the United Nations Conference on Desertification in 1977, the nations of the world had agreed upon an ambitious Plan of Action to combat that problem. However, the reports submitted at the twelfth session of the UNEP Governing Council had revealed that the global threat posed by desertification had actually grown more severe since that time, and that the outlook for the future was not promising. She commended the Governing Council for having devoted two days of its session to that topic, enabling Governments to realize the need to transform commitments into action. For their part the Nordic countries had been motivated to establish more integrated national approaches to the problem with a view to establishing a stronger foundation for sustained social and economic development in the affected countries. She supported Governing Council decision 12/10, reconfirmed particularly the confirmation of the validity of the 1977 Plan of Action, the endorsement of the view that implementation of the Plan had to be more focused on areas offering the best chances for substantial rehabilitation, the recommended expansion of the role of the Consultative Group on Desertification Control and the transformation of the Desertification Branch of UNEP into a programme activity centre. In addition to international efforts, it was important that the affected countries themselves should give highest priority to national programmes to combat desertification.

57. The 1984 report on the state of the environment, which considered the environment in the dialogue between and among developed and developing countries, was a valuable input to work on the environmental prospective to the year 2000 and beyond. She fully endorsed the request contained in Governing Council decision 12/3 A to forward chapters I to III of the report to relevant international bodies.

58. The UNEP clearing-house mechanism, which would play an important role in the Nordic countries' future collaboration with developing countries in the field of the environment and would promote the integration of environmental projects and concerns in development aid and planning, should not only help secure financing and execution of projects, but should also help national institutions improve the quality of project proposals. In the initial stage, at least, the clearing-house

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(Ms. Lunde, Norway)

should concentrate on a few well-defined projects and programme areas. Furthermore, it should establish contact not only with the relevant recipient-country authorities but also with other United Nations and bilateral agencies and non-governmental organizations present in those countries.

59. In the field of international environmental law, agreement must be reached on concrete international measures to protect the ozone layer. She expressed satisfaction with the decisions taken by the Governing Council in the matter thus far.

60. She welcomed the establishment of an independent Special Commission to play a part in the process of preparation of the environmental perspective, and commended the emphasis which the Commission had placed, in defining its work, on the important link between environment and development. She also welcomed the establishment of the open-ended Intergovernmental Inter-sessional Preparatory Committee to assist in the process. The Nordic countries were in full agreement with the mandate of the Preparatory Committee, but strongly recommended that that it should bear in mind the need to avoid duplication of the Commission's work. At the same time, the extensive exchange of information and views between the Commission, Governments, international organizations and other institutions and individuals, as called for in General Assembly resolution 38/161, should prove very useful. The long-term value of the Commission's report would be greatly enhanced by that exchange and by the strong representation of developing countries on the Commission.

61. The twelfth session of the Governing Council had been marked by a convergence of views on the need for co-operative action between and among developed and developing countries in the field of environment to achieve economic and social development. She hoped that that common understanding and concern for environmental protection and resource management might stimulate more concrete steps in the future.

62. ON the subject of human settlements she drew attention to the cross-organizational programme analysis in that area which had recently been carried out by the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (CPC). The Nordic countries therefore agreed with the recommendations of CPC for improved co-ordination in that field within the United Nations system, at both global and regional levels, and for a review of programme priorities in the light of relevant General Assembly resolutions - the most relevant in their view being resolutions 37/221 and 38/168. The response which the Centre for Human Settlements had made to the comments made by CPC and by the Nordic countries during the second regular session of the Economic and Social Council in 1984, was commendable. In view of the difficulties facing the Centre, all entities within the United Nations system that dealt with human settlements issues should give it all the assistance required to perform its co-ordinating role as effectively as possible.

63. The International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, a joint effort of the entire United Nations system, rightly sought to improve living conditions as a whole, and not merely dwellings. If the Year was viewed against that broader background, it might provide a framework for international efforts taken under the

(Ms. Lunde, Norway)

auspices of programmes such as the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade and the Health for All by the Year 2000 campaign. Accordingly, the Nordic countries were prepared to support the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 7/1 of the Commission on Human Settlements.

64. Mr. AL-MUSFIR (United Arab Emirates) said that economic co-operation could not exist in isolation, but was linked to political stability and peace. Such stability was currently lacking in the world because of the armed aggression, occupation and oppression being perpetrated by Israel in the Arab homeland and by the racist South African Government in South Africa. In addition, economic embargos were imposed and violence and regional wars were provoked solely to increase the industrialized countries' exports of weapons. The current economic crisis had been foreseen some time ago, and the Second Committee had adopted many resolutions which, had they been implemented, would have alleviated its impact in many ways. Instead, the industrialized countries had ignored the interests of the international community and had banded together to adopt policies unfavourable to the interests of the developing countries and the establishment of a new international economic order.

65. His country firmly supported economic co-operation among developing countries. During the period 1973-1981, the United Arab Emirates had provided 10 per cent of all official development assistance from the OPEC countries, ranking third behind Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. The Group of 77 sought contributions for development assistance from the industrialized countries in the amount of 7 per cent of GNP; from 1973 to 1981 contributions from the United Arab Emirates had averaged 6.8 per cent of GNP.

66. The United Arab Emirates was also convinced of the need for technical co-operation among developing countries, and would accordingly make a concerted effort in that regard. During 1973-1981, its assistance to the developing countries had amounted to \$7.4 billion, of which \$4.9 billion had been in the form of grants and \$2.5 billion had taken the form of loans. Developing countries in Asia had received two thirds of that amount, with the remaining third given to African and other countries. The Abu Dhabi Fund for Arab Economic Development, established in 1971 to finance development projects in Asia and Africa, had in 1981 had capital in the amount of \$580.8 million. During the period 1973-1981, Fund transactions had amounted to \$920.8 million and had financed 76 projects in 39 developing countries in Asia and Africa. Emphasis had been placed on aid to infrastructure projects. Financial assistance and loans from the United Arab Emirates had no strings attached, assistance from the industrialized countries did.

67. The greatest obstacle to development in the Middle East was the settlement policies of Israel. Israel had established 182 settlements in the West Bank after having confiscated 55 per cent of all Arab land there. Israel also controlled 80 per cent of all water sources in the West Bank in order to provide water for the settlers, thereby depriving the indigenous population of water and food. Those policies were also pursued in the Gaza Strip, in southern Lebanon, and in the Golan Heights.

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(Mr. Al-Musfir, United Arab Emirates)

68. Conversion of the desert to arable land was a great challenge. In the United Arab Emirates, arable surface area had increased by 186 per cent during the period 1973-1980. His country consequently appreciated the difficulties facing Africa as a result of drought, desertification and food shortages. He called upon all States, particularly the developed countries, to provide the African countries with assistance and support to overcome those problems.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.