

## 2088th meeting

Monday, 31 October 1977, at 11 a.m.

President: Mr. Ladislav ŠMÍD (Czechoslovakia).

E/SR. 2088

### AGENDA ITEM 9

#### United Nations University (A/32/31 and Corr.1)

1. Mr. HESTER (Rector of the United Nations University), introducing the report of the Council of the United Nations University (A/32/31 and Corr.1), said that the Council was endeavouring to refine and put into practice the actual concept of the United Nations University, since the University was to be a new type of institution which would complement and reinforce the other United Nations research institutions and the specialized agencies.

2. The main goals of the United Nations University were to alleviate pressing global problems of human survival, development and welfare through research, advanced training and dissemination of knowledge, to contribute to the growth of academic and scientific communities, particularly in the developing countries, and to increase interaction in the world-wide community of learning and research. Its functions were to identify those pressing global problems, to fill major gaps in knowledge and expertise by organizing internationally co-ordinated research and advanced training programmes and by strengthening research capabilities, especially in developing countries, and to disseminate the results of its work to scholars, to policy-makers and to the public.

3. Efforts were being made to maximize the University's effectiveness not only through the coherence of its programmes but also through the integration of the programmes with those of other United Nations agencies, so as to achieve close collaboration and avoid duplication. For example, representatives of the Secretary-General, the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and the Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research had participated in all Council meetings, and the various programmes of the University had been planned in liaison with interested agencies in the United Nations system. In addition, the University was co-operating in preparations for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development.

4. The three priority programmes of the University were all aimed at improving conditions of life through instruments of scholarship, but each had a distinctive emphasis. The World Hunger Programme focused on the most basic material human need—adequate nourishment—and was divided into four subprogrammes. The Human and Social Development Programme was designed to help all those who were working to promote the cause of development in their own countries. It provided an objective forum for scholars, planners and experts seeking useful ideas for the development of their countries and thus gave them an opportunity for sharing experiments, new ideas and information. Lastly, the Programme on the Use and Management of Natural Resources was mainly concerned with problems of ecology and energy.

5. The University was currently engaged in organizing programmes in those three priority areas and networks of scholars and institutions around its three initial associated institutions in Guatemala, India and the Philippines, where the first University fellows were at present working. Additional associations were being proposed or formed in several developed and developing countries. In 1978, the University would be working in association with 35 institutions and supporting 85 University fellows and it planned to

issue 30 publications in order to make the results of its work available to scientists, scholars, planners and policy-makers throughout the world.

6. The University was financed primarily from an Endowment Fund established by voluntary contributions from Member States and other donors. Pledges and contributions to the Endowment Fund had so far been made by only 16 Governments, representing only about 10 per cent of the Member States. By far the largest contributor was Japan, which had pledged \$100 million and paid \$60 million in addition to providing headquarters facilities at Tokyo. A total of \$26,234,000 had been pledged or contributed by 15 other Governments. Those funds would be roughly adequate to cover the estimated costs of the University's planning, co-ordinating and administrative core for 1978 but not external programme activities, which would have to be financed from sources lacking the long-term stability of endowment income. The immediate task was therefore to double the \$66 million of endowment contributions already received. Ultimately, the Endowment Fund should be at least \$500 million.

7. Over the past two years, the University had established its headquarters at Tokyo, conducted extensive consultations with scholars from all over the world, initiated programmes of research and dissemination of knowledge in the three programme areas, established contact with the Governments of 60 Member States in order to solicit contributions to the Endowment Fund, organized consultative meetings with academic, scientific and governmental leaders in many parts of the world, and distributed throughout the world information on its programmes and activities.

8. Although they were developing dynamically, the University's programmes were severely hampered by the current level of income. It was essential for more Governments to make substantial contributions to the Endowment Fund or to provide initial operating contributions, as had been done by the Norwegian Government. The University was eagerly awaiting the financial support of 90 per cent of the Member States, and he made an urgent appeal to them through the Economic and Social Council.

9. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council should take note of the report of the Council of the United Nations University (A/32/31 and Corr.1) and transmit it to the General Assembly at its thirty-second session.

*It was so decided (decision 287 (LXIII)).*

### AGENDA ITEM 14

#### Science and technology (E/6054, E/6055)

10. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council should take note of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Institutional arrangements in the field of the transfer of technology: establishment of a network for the exchange of technological information" (E/6055) and the note by the Secretary-General on institutional arrangements in the field of the transfer of technology (E/6054) and transmit them to the General Assembly at its thirty-second session.

*It was so decided (decision 288 (LXIII)).*

11. Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) explained that the Soviet delegation did not object to the Council taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the establishment of a network for the exchange of technological information, since as a matter of principle the

Soviet Union gave every possible support to the developing countries in order to help them to establish their technical and scientific infrastructure.

12. His delegation was satisfied with the work of the Interagency Task Force, which had successfully fulfilled the mandate entrusted to it in pursuance of paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 3507 (XXX) and paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 31/183. Consideration of the question by the Committee on Science and Technology for Development would make it possible to formulate a specific policy with regard to the exchange of technological information in the interest of all Member States.

13. The Soviet delegation endorsed the recommendations of the Interagency Task Force regarding the use of the advice and services of the Inter-Organization Board for Information Systems (see E/6055, para. 57 (e)), provided that the Board would operate the information network within the framework of the United Nations system and that the cost of its activities would be charged to the budgets of the participating specialized agencies and not be borne by the United Nations regular budget. The Soviet delegation also believed that the report, and the directory of United Nations information services to be published in 1978, should be brought to the attention of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

#### AGENDA ITEM 31

##### Trade and development (A/32/15 and Corr.1)

14. Mr. COREA (Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development) said that, following the decision taken at Nairobi at the fourth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the Trade and Development Board had adopted resolution 154 (XVII), in which it recommended that the fifth session should be held at Manila from 7 May to 1 June 1979 and that its agenda should be selective and supported by concise, action-oriented documents (see A/32/15, vol. II, part one, annex I).

15. Under another decision made at the fourth session, the second part of the ninth special session of the Trade and Development Board would take place in March 1978 and, for the first time, at the ministerial level. The provisional agenda which the Board had proposed for that meeting included two particularly important items: the external indebtedness of developing countries and the special measures to be taken in favour of the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries (*ibid.*, part two, annex II).

16. Among other activities undertaken by UNCTAD since the Nairobi session, mention should be made of the organization of negotiations and the drawing up of new programmes in various spheres. The meetings so far organized within the framework of commodity negotiations covered 18 commodities. In most cases the meetings were of a preparatory nature, except for that concerning sugar, during which significant progress had been made towards negotiating a new agreement.

17. The Negotiating Conference that had been convened in March in connexion with the establishment of a common fund within the framework of the integrated programme for commodities had produced no results and it was to be resumed at the plenipotentiary level during November 1977. In the meantime, however, an agreement in principle had been concluded on establishing the common fund. That Conference was extremely important inasmuch as the improvement of relations between developed and developing countries would depend on its success.

18. Despite the manifold difficulties to be overcome, substantial progress had been made in the transfer of technol-

ogy. The Intergovernmental Group of Experts on an International Code of Conduct on Transfer of Technology had met several times in order to make preparations for the United Nations Conference scheduled for early 1978.

19. UNCTAD had also begun to execute new programmes in other fields within its competence, such as shipping, trade between socialist and developing countries, measures to be taken in favour of the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries, and co-operation among developing countries. UNCTAD was giving increasing attention to the last of those questions and had decided, in accordance with resolution 90 (IV) adopted at Nairobi, to convert the Division on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries into a standing committee, whose terms of reference had been defined in Trade and Development Board decision 142 (XVI)<sup>1</sup> and which had already held its first session, in February 1977, when it drew up its programme of work.

20. In conclusion, he pointed out that UNCTAD had a significant contribution to make to the preparation of the new development strategy and was determined to spare no efforts to that end.

21. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council should take note of the report of the Trade and Development Board (A/32/15 and Corr.1) and transmit it to the General Assembly at its thirty-second session.

*It was so decided* (decision 289 (LXIII)).

22. Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation had no objection to having the report of the Trade and Development Board transmitted to the General Assembly but that it reserved the right to make a statement on the subject in the Second Committee.

#### AGENDA ITEM 20

##### Policy review of operational activities for development (E/L. 1789)

23. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council should adopt the draft resolution contained in paragraph 3 of the note by the Secretary-General on the pledging target for voluntary contributions to the World Food Programme for the period 1979-1980 (E/L.1789) without a vote.

*The draft resolution was adopted* (resolution 2128 (LXIII)).

24. Mr. VOLOSHIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) pointed out that his Government did not participate in the work of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations or the World Food Programme (WFP). Consequently if the draft resolution in document E/L.1789 had been put to the vote, his delegation would have abstained.

25. Mr. RIEMER (United States of America) said that it was regrettable that the volume of voluntary contributions to WFP was still well below the target set and that the donor countries were invariably the same. While his Government believed that the target for pledges to WFP for the period 1979-1980 was probably somewhat unrealistic, it intended to make a contribution of \$220 million. It hoped, however, that the Executive Director of WFP would endeavour to secure new contributions and make an appeal to all countries for that purpose.

26. Mr. KJELDGAARD (Denmark) said that he too hoped that WFP would seek contributions from new donors so that it could attain the target set for the period 1979-1980.

27. Mr. OLIVERI LOPEZ (Argentina) said that it was imperative to find new contributions because the target set, although relatively high, was still below the requirements of the poorest developing countries.

<sup>1</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-first Session, Supplement No. 15*, vol. II, annex I.

## AGENDA ITEM 2

### Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

#### APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE APPLICATION OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TO DEVELOPMENT (E/6060)

28 Mr. MUNGAI (Kenya) said that he had some reservations about the Secretary-General's list of nominees for membership of the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development (E/6060), inasmuch as it was unfair from the point of view of geographical distribution. For example, none of the four candidates proposed by the African group had been nominated and, of the five African candidates nominated by the Secretary-General, three came from the same region of Africa, that north of the Sahara. Moreover, Economic and Social Council resolution 980 A (XXXVI) provided that the Secretary-General should consult the regional groups before making his choice. It seemed, however, that the African group had not been consulted since the submission of its proposals.

29. Mr. OLIVERI LOPEZ (Argentina), supported by Mr. CRUZ (Mexico), said that the outcome of the consultations was unsatisfactory inasmuch as several candidates had been nominated without any explanation being given to justify that choice. The consultation procedures should accordingly be reviewed and improved.

30. Mr. HAQUE (Pakistan) asked for details of the procedures used for the consultations.

31. Mr. CARANICAS (Greece) said that, while he was satisfied in principle with the list prepared by the Secretary-General, he felt that there were grounds for the comments that had just been made. It was surprising, for example, that two thirds of the candidates were being nominated for the second time, and some even for the third time. It should be possible to find a method that would ensure more equitable rotation in the representation of the regions in the Advisory Committee.

32. Mr. MILLS (Jamaica) expressed the hope that a satisfactory solution would be found, so as to ensure a better balance in the membership of the Advisory Committee, to which all countries, particularly developing countries, attached great importance.

33. Mr. STANDKE (Director of the Office for Science and Technology) pointed out that the members of the Advisory Committee were appointed basically by reason of their personal qualifications and their experience in the field of the applications of science and technology to development. Geographical distribution was, however, one of the criteria taken into consideration. Before preparing the list reproduced in document E/6060, the Secretary-General had arranged many consultations and had taken account of all proposals, although he had realized that it was practically impossible to satisfy the aspirations of all regions.

34. Mr. KINSMAN (Canada) said that the Secretary-General had a difficult task and that disappointments were inevitable. The role of the Advisory Committee was highly valued in scientific and technological circles in all countries, and it was to be hoped that, whatever list was finally chosen, its activities would continue to receive the attention they deserved.

35. Mr. AL-HUSSAMY (Syrian Arab Republic) said he was sorry to see the name of an Israeli scientist among the persons proposed for membership in the Advisory Committee, in view of the scientific co-operation which Israel maintained with South Africa.

36. Mr. MAHGOUB (Sudan) and Mr. NISAIF (Iraq) agreed with the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic in objecting to inclusion in the membership of a Committee

whose task was to promote development, of a national of a country that was defying the principles of the United Nations Charter by openly co-operating with South Africa.

37. Mr. LADOR (Observer for Israel), exercising his right of reply, considered it regrettable that a political issue should be made in an area pertaining exclusively to science and technology. The Israeli candidate had been selected on the basis of his qualifications and experience, and it was to be hoped that common sense would prevail and that the list prepared by the Secretary-General would not be altered for reasons which had nothing to do with the activities of the Advisory Committee.

38. The PRESIDENT suggested that, in view of the reservations and views expressed, consideration of the question should be postponed until the following meeting.

*It was so decided.*

#### CONVENTION ON THE PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES OF THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES DRAFT ANNEX RELATING TO THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (E/6059)

39. The PRESIDENT drew attention to the draft resolution entitled "Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies: draft annex relating to the International Fund for Agricultural Development", contained in paragraph 7 of the note by the Secretary-General (E/6059). If there were no objections, the Council might adopt the draft resolution without putting it to a vote.

*The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 2129 (LXIII)).*

40. Mr. MWANGAGUHUNGA (Uganda) said that he was glad that the Council had approved the draft annex relating to the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), in view of the very great importance which his Government attached to the activities of IFAD.

41. Miss GARCIA DONOSO (Ecuador) said that she joined in the consensus on the draft annex, but wished to know if any other United Nations instruments contained provisions similar to those in paragraph 2 (b) of annex II.

42. Mr. SZASZ (Office of Legal Affairs) said that the provisions contained in the draft annex relating to the IFAD were practically identical to those appearing in the annexes to the Convention relating to the International Labour Organisation, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Health Organization and the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization, and that there also were almost identical provisions in the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the International Atomic Energy Agency.<sup>2</sup>

43. Mr. CRUZ (Mexico) pointed out that paragraph 2 (b) of annex II stipulated that experts would still be granted immunity from legal process of every kind in respect of acts done by them in the performance of their official functions, even after they had ceased to serve on committees of the Fund or to be employed on missions for the Fund. He would like to know if that was a normal procedure or a special provision.

44. Mr. SZASZ (Office of Legal Affairs) said that the text of that provision was identical to that in the annexes relating to the five specialized agencies he had already mentioned, which all followed in that respect the corresponding provision of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations.<sup>3</sup> It was clear that an expert acting for the Fund in the exercise of his functions should continue to receive the immunity mentioned in paragraph 2 (b) even

<sup>2</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 374, No. 5334, p. 147.

<sup>3</sup> General Assembly resolution 22A (I)

after he had stopped performing those functions. Furthermore, that immunity was accorded to experts only in respect of acts done by them in their official, and not in their personal, capacity.

#### OTHER MATTERS

45. Mr. AL-HUSSAMY (Syrian Arab Republic) said he was surprised to see that the question of participation of non-governmental organizations in the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination was not on the agenda, although it had been announced that it would be considered at the current meeting under item 2. He would like to know when the Council proposed to consider it.

46. Mr. MAHGOUB (Sudan), supported by Mr. HACHANI (Tunisia), said that, for want of time, the African Group had not considered the question in detail but that, in view of its importance, it would do its best to accelerate its work and take a decision as soon as possible.

#### AGENDA ITEM 8

##### Restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system

47. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Council) recalled that under that item the Council was supposed, first, to consider the report of the *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System and, secondly, to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-second session the report requested of it in General Assembly resolution 3341 (XXIX), concerning the process of rationalization and reform which it had undertaken in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1768 (LIV), adopted on 18 May 1973. Also, in its resolution 31/421, in which it had decided to extend the mandate of the *Ad Hoc* Committee, the Assembly had expressly requested the Economic and Social Council to submit that report at the Assembly's thirty-second session. The Council had included the question of the preparation of the report in the agenda for its sixty-third session.

However, since the *Ad Hoc* Committee had not been able to report to it at that session, the question had had to be postponed until the resumed sixty-third session. The Council therefore had two possibilities to choose from. It could either propose to the Assembly that it would submit in 1978 the report requested in Assembly resolution 3341 (XXIX), or that it would submit to the Assembly a factual report on all the measures taken with regard to the rationalization of the Council's work.

48. Since the Council had only one meeting in which to consider the report of the *Ad Hoc* Committee, the Secretariat could, if the members of the Council decided that a factual report should be submitted in 1977, prepare a draft report enumerating, in chronological order, for example, all the measures taken thus far, and circulate it in sufficient time for the Council to take a decision at the following meeting.

49. Mr. CARANICAS (Greece) felt that it would be wrong for the Council to serve as a mailbox and transmit to the Assembly a report that it had not had time to consider.

50. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Council) said that the report would be prepared by the Secretariat but would be adopted by the Council before it was submitted to the Assembly.

51. Mr. MWANGAGUHUNGA (Uganda), supported by Mr. KINSMAN (Canada), Mr. VERCELES (Philippines) and Mr. MARSHALL (United Kingdom), suggested that the simplest course would be for the Council to request the Secretariat to draft a factual report, which the Council would consider before deciding what procedure should be followed.

52. The PRESIDENT suggested that, if there were no objections, the Council should adopt the course proposed by the representative of Uganda.

*It was so decided*

*The meeting rose at 12.35 p.m.*