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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 35th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. PAPADATOS (Greece)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.35 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued)

Draft resolution and draft decision on implementation of section II of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197 on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system (A/C.2/45/L.3 and L.29)

1. Mr. AMAZIANE (Morocco), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft decision A/C.2/45/L.29, based on the informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.3, and recommended it for adoption by consensus.

2. Draft decision A/C.2/45/L.29 was adopted.

3. Mr. PERUGINI (Italy), speaking in explanation of vote on behalf of the member States of the European Community, said that the Community expected the report of the Secretary-General on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system to be a full and comprehensive document. The issue of the revitalization of the Economic and Social Council should be considered in the wider context of that restructuring.

Draft resolution on assistance to the Palestinian people (A/C.2/45/L.12)

4. Mr. AMAZIANE (Morocco), Vice-Chairman, said that it had not been possible to reach a consensus during informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.12.

5. A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.12.

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Rwanda, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining: None.

6. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.12 was adopted by 125 votes to 2.

7. Mr. TENNEY (Israel), speaking in explanation of vote, said that the sole purpose of the resolution that had just been adopted was to express political and ideological support for the theses and objectives of the Palestine Liberation Organization, the standard-bearer of extremism and fanaticism in the Arab world, both with regard to the Arab-Israeli conflict and also to other issues, as could be seen from the recent events in the Gulf.

8. It was distressing to see that, over the years, the resolution had become a sort of ritual imposed on the United Nations, with no basis in logic.

9. The adoption of the resolution, which his delegation deeply deplored, was certainly not a matter for pride on the part of those who dreamed that the United Nations would one day play an objective, pragmatic and constructive role in world affairs. Such resolutions did not contribute to the peace process for which Israel had been striving ever since its creation. It was superfluous to point out yet again that, until that peace was secured, Israel remained the sole authority responsible under international law for the administration and the destiny of the inhabitants of Judea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip.

10. Israel's policy had always been to secure and increase the economic and social well-being of its inhabitants, and to co-operate with all those willing to support it in that matter. However, it must be clearly understood that, until such time as a peaceful settlement had been achieved, any attempt to deny it that right, recognized under international law, would be futile. The resolution was barren, harmful and totally unacceptable, and his delegation utterly rejected it.

11. Mr. DUGAN (United States of America), speaking in explanation of vote, said that his country supported, and was the largest source of, humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people, through UNRWA, UNDP and private voluntary organizations. In 1990, it had disbursed \$57 million to UNRWA alone, an organization whose sole purpose was to provide education, housing, health programmes and other facilities for Palestinian refugees. The United States also had an active aid programme in the territories. Through its Food and Peace Programme, it had also made available basic food commodities for 96,000 recipients. The resolution did not accurately reflect the situation, and had impractical ideas on addressing the problems and his delegation had therefore voted against it. The resolution's call for assistance to the Palestinian people through "close co-operation" with the PLO was unacceptable to the United States. As formulated, it made no practical contribution towards solving the problems it purported to describe. The United States would prefer consideration of practical, workable ways to increase investment, employment, production and income in the occupied territories.

12. Mr. PERUGINI (Italy), speaking in explanation of vote on behalf of the member States of the European Community, said that, although they supported the resolution, they wished to stress that, in the fifth preambular paragraph, they understood the resolution to refer to the economy in the occupied Palestine territories. The Community was providing substantial humanitarian and economic assistance to the Palestinian people through various means. With regard to paragraph 4, Community assistance would continue to be channelled through the appropriate organs, in co-operation with the competent institutions. That assistance included food aid as well as the financing of projects for the benefit of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and elsewhere, through the competent organs of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations.

13. With regard to trade, the European Community had adopted autonomous tariff arrangements, including duty-free access for industrial products and preferential treatment for certain agricultural products. It had accepted the Chambers of Commerce in the West Bank of the Jordan and the Gaza Strip as authorities qualified to issue certificates of origin and to ensure the necessary administrative co-operation. It had repeatedly stressed to the Israeli authorities the importance it attached to the effective implementation of its trade measures without administrative or other obstacles to Palestinian exports. The European Community interpreted paragraph 9 as concerning the establishment in the occupied territories of a network of local banks.

14. The Twelve would continue to grant their aid and development co-operation, both bilaterally and through the Community, as well as through the competent organs of the United Nations system in order to respond to the needs of the Palestinian people.

15. Ms. HJELT af TROLLE (Sweden), speaking in explanation of vote, said that her country fully supported efforts to secure an improvement in the conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and elsewhere. That support took the form of humanitarian assistance, and the Swedish Imports Promotion Office for Products from Developing Countries also encouraged imports of Palestinian products. Paragraphs 5 and 6 of the draft resolution, however, gave rise to formal and technical problems that were at present being studied.

16. Mr. KRAMER (Canada), speaking in explanation of vote, said that while his delegation had voted in favour of draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.12, it had reservations about the language used in the fifth preambular paragraph and some of the operative paragraphs. Canada did not recognize "Palestine" as proclaimed in Algiers, as it did not meet internationally recognized criteria for statehood.

17. Mr. LUFTI (Jordan), speaking in explanation of vote, said that his delegation had voted in favour of the draft resolution because it believed in the justice of the cause of the Palestinian people and its right to establish an independent State on Palestinian soil under the leadership of its sole legitimate representative, the Palestine Liberation Organization. His delegation's understanding of paragraph 4 was that any assistance to the Palestinian people in the territories of the Kingdom of Jordan should be fulfilled with the permission and agreement of the Government.

(Mr. Lufti, Jordan)

of Jordan. The Government of Jordan would not share sovereignty over the territory. His delegation's understanding of paragraphs 5 and 6 was based on the fact that the treatment on a transit basis of non-Jordanian commodities bound for a third party and the concessions and facilities granted by the Jordanian Government should be fulfilled through bilateral agreements between the exporting State and the Jordanian Government, bearing in mind that, ever since the start of the occupation, Jordan had made all necessary concessions and granted all necessary facilities to assist exports from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. Jordan would continue to assist the Palestinian people so as to put an end to the Israeli occupation and achieve a lasting peace through a just and comprehensive solution to the Palestinian question.

18. Mr. FJAERTOFT (Norway), speaking in explanation of vote, said that his country had voted in favour of draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.12 on the understanding that paragraph 4 did not impair or restrict in any way Norway's ability to provide assistance to the Palestinian people through channels of its choice, inter alia, non-governmental organizations.

19. Mr. KAARIA (Finland), speaking in explanation of vote, said that his delegation had expressed its concerns regarding exports from and imports to the occupied territories and the relevant certificates of origin on earlier occasions. Had there been a separate vote on paragraphs 5 and 6, his delegation would have abstained.

20. Mr. GIANELLI (Uruguay), speaking in explanation of vote, said that his delegation broadly concurred with the content and the humanitarian aims of draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.12. However, it would have liked to see greater balance reflected in the text, so as to contribute to dialogue and negotiation between the parties in the region.

21. Mr. BOECK (Austria), speaking in explanation of vote, said that his delegation had voted in favour of draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.12 and wished to reiterate, with regard to paragraph 6, the comments it had made the previous year during the adoption of the resolution on the same subject. He was also pleased to inform the Committee that the occupied Palestinian territories had been included in a list annexed to the Austrian Code on Preferential Customs Treatment.

22. Mr. BABINGTON (Australia), speaking in explanation of vote, said that his delegation had voted in favour of the draft resolution because it supported efforts to assist the economic development of the Palestinian people. The Australian Government provided aid funds expressly for that purpose. However, his delegation had difficulty with the reference in paragraph 6 to Palestinian certificates of origin. His Government accepted certificates of origin only if they were issued by competent State authorities. In the present circumstances, it could not therefore recognize certificates of origin issued by Palestinian Chambers of Commerce. His Government had made it clear that the question of a Palestinian State would arise only in the context of an overall peace settlement. However, it had long supported the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and independence, including, if they chose, an independent State.

23. Mr. STADTHAGEN (Nicaragua), Mr. LOHIA (Papua New Guinea), Mr. LIMON (Suriname) and Mr. AL-SULAITI (Qatar) said that, had they been present during the vote, they would have voted in favour of draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.12.

24. Mr. FYFE (New Zealand), speaking in explanation of vote, said that the provisions of the draft resolution were generally in accordance with New Zealand policy regarding provision of assistance to the Palestinian people by the United Nations. However, his delegation had reservations regarding some paragraphs of the draft resolution, including the fifth preambular paragraph and operative paragraph 9.

25. Mr. MANSOUR (Observer, Palestine Liberation Organization) thanked all those delegations who had voted in favour of draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.12. The Palestinian people saw the adoption of the draft resolution as an expression of international support and solidarity with their struggle to put an end to the Israeli occupation and to attain their national rights to return to their homes and properties, to exercise self-determination, and to achieve full sovereignty over the State of Palestine on its national soil, after the withdrawal of the Israeli authorities, army and settlers, from the occupied Palestinian territories including Jerusalem.

26. The Israeli occupation was the source of all his people's political, economic and social problems. Around 55 per cent of Palestinian land had been confiscated, its water resources stolen, its industry and commerce devastated. Large numbers of women and children had been drafted into Israel's cheap labour market, and the education system had been reduced to a shambles. The massacre of Palestinians in Jerusalem on 8 October 1990, involving hundreds of casualties, was only the latest example of Israel's brutality. Since the start of the intifadah three years previously, more than 1,000 Palestinians had been killed, more than 20 per cent of them children under the age of 15; 100,000 had been injured and another 100,000 had been imprisoned.

27. In his explanation of vote, the representative of Israel had shed some crocodile tears on the subject of peace. The leaders of the Palestinian people were committed to peace and were ready to negotiate immediately with their enemies, with Israel, in an international peace conference under the auspices of the United Nations and with the participation, on an equal footing, of all parties concerned, including the PLO and the permanent members of the Security Council. Only the previous year, 151 countries had voted in favour of convening such a peace conference, with only Israel and the United States opposing it. Israel was the real obstacle to peace in the region.

Draft resolution on assistance for the reconstruction and development of the Republic of Yemen (A/C.2/45/L.9/Rev.1)

28. Mr. GIANELLI (Uruguay), Vice Chairman, said that in operative paragraph 2 the words "on special programmes of economic assistance" should be added after the word "report". He recommended the text to the Committee for adoption by consensus.

29. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.9/Rev.1, as orally amended, was adopted.

30. Mr. MISSARY (Yemen) expressed thanks and appreciation to the Committee for its adoption of the draft resolution.

31. Mr. GEBREMEDHIN (Ethiopia) and Mr. GUERRERO (Philippines) said that they would have liked to join in sponsoring the draft resolution.

Draft resolution on special economic assistance to Chad (A/C.2/45/L.10/Rev.1)

32. Mr. GIANELLI (Uruguay), Vice-Chairman, pointed out that the Philippines, the Sudan and Suriname had joined the list of sponsors and he drew the Committee's attention to operative paragraph 4; the word "Paris" should be replaced by "second United Nations". He recommended the text for adoption by consensus.

33. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.10/Rev.1, as orally amended, was adopted.

34. Mr. DOUTOM (Chad) expressed the gratitude of Chad to the entire international community which for more than a decade had contributed to the reconstruction and development of Chad.

Draft resolution on assistance to Mozambique (A/C.2/45/L.18/Rev.1)

35. The CHAIRMAN announced that Australia had withdrawn from the list of sponsors.

36. Mr. GIANELLI (Uruguay), Vice-Chairman, announced that the Philippines and Zimbabwe had joined the sponsors, and he recommended the draft resolution for adoption by consensus.

37. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.18/Rev.1 was adopted.

38. Mr. ZANDAMELA (Mozambique) thanked all delegations that had worked closely on the project, and expressed the readiness of his Government to work with the donor countries, the United Nations and non-governmental organizations in the task of economic recovery of Mozambique.

Draft resolution on emergency assistance to Somalia (A/C.2/45/L.20)

39. Mr. GIANELLI (Uruguay), Vice-Chairman, announced that Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guinea-Bissau, Jordan, Maldives, Mozambique, Myanmar, Peru, the Philippines, Rwanda, Senegal, Singapore and Suriname had joined the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.20 and pointed out that the first preambular paragraph should be deleted. He recommended the draft resolution for adoption by consensus.

40. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.20, as orally revised, was adopted.

41. Ms. HASSAN (Somalia) thanked the Committee and expressed the hope that the draft resolution would respond fully to her country's needs.

AGENDA ITEM 86: SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE (continued)

(b) SPECIAL PROGRAMMES OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE (continued)

Draft resolution on assistance to Benin, Central African Republic, Ecuador, Madagascar and Vanuatu (A/C.2/45/L.28)

42. Mr. AYALA (Ecuador), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.28 on behalf of the sponsors, said that it followed on from Assembly resolutions 42/205 and 43/211 which had been adopted for the purpose of putting in motion mechanisms for assisting countries which, in addition to their economic and social problems, had suffered real catastrophes that had put a stop to all development. He drew particular attention to paragraphs 4 and 6.

43. A number of corrections should be made to the text. The third preambular paragraph should read as follows: "Deeply concerned at the seriousness of the economic and financial crisis faced by these countries, which is intensified by the catastrophic effects of natural disasters". The footnote on the first page should simply refer to document A/45/358, and the ninth preambular paragraph and paragraph 6 of the French text should be aligned with the English text.

44. The sponsors expressed the hope that the draft resolution would receive unanimous support.

AGENDA ITEM 84: OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT (continued) (A/45/3, A/45/76-E/1990/12 and Add.1, A/45/77-E/1990/10 and Add.1, A/45/584, A/45/598-S/21854, A/45/648; A/44/646)

- (a) OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM (continued) (A/45/273-E/1990/85 and Corr.1 and Add.1-5, A/45/281-E/1990/66 and Corr.1)**
- (b) UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (continued) (A/45/347; E/1990/29)**
- (c) UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND (continued) (A/45/529; E/1990/29; DP/1990/44)**
- (d) UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND (continued) (A/45/3; E/1990/28)**
- (e) WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME (continued) (A/45/3; E/1990/99)**

45. Mr. ZIELINSKI (Poland) said that the positive change in the political climate and the growing credibility of the United Nations happily coincided with what the report A/45/273 called "adjustments and innovations in operational activities", a process which had started with the adoption of resolution 44/211 and was scheduled for completion in 1992. It had already brought about many discussions and decisions by intergovernmental and inter-agency bodies, and the question was how to translate them into concerted action by all participants.

(Mr. Zielinski, Poland)

46. In response to that challenge, Poland had substantially increased its pledges to UNDP, UNICEF and UNFPA for 1991. He expressed his delegation's appreciation for the understanding shown by the Administrator of UNDP in view of Poland's tremendous technical co-operation needs as the country endeavoured to stabilize its economy and create a new economic system. Poland's efforts to achieve a parliamentary democracy and a market economy were interconnected, and the transition was a difficult one, entailing heavy social costs. However, he was confident that multilateral technical co-operation would make that transition smoother; once it was completed, Poland would be in a better position to extend international economic co-operation to other countries.

47. In fact, Poland had been providing assistance to developing countries in the form of seminars, training courses and expert and consultant services. A successful international seminar on privatization had recently been held in Warsaw and another one, on entrepreneurship, was scheduled to take place with UNDP assistance in December. His delegation looked forward to sharing Poland's experience in the area of economic and social reforms with all interested countries and the United Nations system.

48. Given the important role that operational activities would play in meeting the development challenges of the coming decade, the efficiency, transparency, accountability, effective management and cost-effectiveness of the United Nations system must be increased. In that connection, former United Nations experts and staff members from recipient countries could be very useful in the design and implementation of projects in their own countries. They would be able to develop programmes which took into account the specific situations of their countries. Such arrangements were particularly significant in view of the increased emphasis placed on national execution and the adoption of a programme approach to technical co-operation.

49. The growing demand for multilateral technical co-operation would require increased contributions in the form of financial resources and technical assistance. Third-party cost-sharing would have to be utilized to a greater extent than before, requiring greater involvement on the part of Governments and the governing bodies and administrations of the specialized agencies. The role of field offices and the co-ordination of their activities were of particular importance in that regard.

50. Non-IPF countries should play a greater role in inter-country and regional projects, in view of the relative reduction of regional IPFs in overall programme resources for the fifth cycle. The five regional programmes should preserve their distinct features and separate IPF allocations. Given the dramatic changes taking place in that region, the regional programme for Europe should broaden multilateral technical co-operation in traditional areas and in new areas, such as the transition of Central and Eastern European economies to market-oriented systems. Special attention should be given to those countries in the allocation of Special Programme Resources for the fifth cycle.

(Mr. Zielinski, Poland)

51. He commended the efforts of the Director-General to comply with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 44/211 and expressed support for the revised implementation schedule set out in the Director-General's report (A/45/273/Add.5). He looked forward to the findings of the independent study on ways to improve the co-ordination of the United Nations system at the country level and expressed confidence that the programme on management of field co-ordination for senior representatives of the United Nations system would enhance the effectiveness of operational activities. He supported most of the Director-General's recommendations regarding the implementation of resolution 44/211.

52. Mr. AMAZIANE (Morocco) reaffirmed his delegation's commitment to the principles underlying the multilateral assistance provided by the United Nations system. Development assistance was not intended to perpetuate the dependence of recipient countries, but to lead to self-sustained development. While the United Nations system should bear international guidelines and strategies in mind when programming operational activities, national policies and plans provided the most appropriate frame of reference for those activities. Operational activities must be given adequate financial support and be organized effectively.

53. The resources allocated for operational activities each year accounted for only 12-15 per cent of official development assistance because donors preferred bilateral channels in which aid was often tied, limiting the economic independence of beneficiary countries. In fact, the growing gap between needs and available resources continued to be a source of concern. Consequently, donor countries should make a genuine effort to increase their contributions to operational activities in real terms on a continuing, predictable and assured basis.

54. With regard to the organization of operational activities, the routine utilization of national expertise and technical co-operation among developing countries would have a multiplier effect where the dissemination of technical skills in recipient countries was concerned. His delegation therefore welcomed decision 90/26 of the UNDP Governing Council, on agency support costs, because it made provision for financial support for national execution and, unlike the existing arrangements, distinguished between administrative support and technical support. He wondered, however, why the Council should have decided to appropriate 2 per cent of programmable resources for centrally financed services when they might better have been included under national IPFs (decision 90/26, para. 10).

55. General Assembly resolution 44/211 had emphasized the need for a shift from a project approach to a programme approach and had urged that all relevant governing bodies should develop more programme-oriented mechanisms for the provision of technical co-operation. The programme approach concept must be clearly defined and major modifications should be made to the rules and procedures governing operational activities with a view to simplifying them and striking a judicious balance between the decision-making bodies and the field offices so that decisions concerning project management could be completely decentralized. The programme approach must be viewed as a sectoral development strategy that would facilitate the integration of all types of development assistance. Simplification of

(Mr. Amaziane, Morocco)

procedures should significantly reduce the documentation required for project approval. Follow-up reports should be submitted at one-year intervals, and a single format should be adopted for reports from the various organizations of the United Nations system. Likewise, procurement procedures should be adapted to those of recipient countries in order to reduce costs.

56. In general, decentralization meant allowing country offices to take decisions regarding all aspects of project management; accordingly, it would require the strengthening of the technical and staffing capacities of the field offices. The wide range of procedures followed by the organizations of the system and bilateral donors exacted a heavy toll on recipient Governments in terms of cost. Consequently, a joint review of those procedures, involving representatives of beneficiary countries, should be conducted to make them coherent and flexible for end users.

57. There had been little progress in the implementation of resolution 44/211 during the past year. Those organizations which had responded to the requests set out in the text had limited themselves to welcoming the resolution and expressing their readiness to support its provisions. Eight organizations had yet to consider the resolution officially. His delegation therefore hoped that those bodies would do so as soon as possible and carry out the measures called for in that text.

58. His delegation was concerned at the responses of some organizations cited in the Director-General's report (A/45/273 and Add.5) which gave the impression that the developing countries were not ready to assume their responsibilities where operational activities were concerned and that, because the resolution was so complex, implementation could only be carried out selectively and gradually. His delegation believed that the resolution's provisions were interdependent; failing to implement some of them would have an adverse effect on the implementation of the resolution as a whole. Moreover, some of the responses and questions were merely indicative of bureaucratic resistance to change. Paragraph 10 of document A/45/273/Add.5 stated that present constraints on the regular budgets of some agencies meant that implementation of the resolution must proceed selectively. His delegation believed that such selectivity should not be exercised at the expense of recipient countries, who wished to have decisions concerning project management taken by field offices. The national programme framework referred to in paragraph 17 of the resolution should be established solely by recipient countries on the basis of national development plans, priorities and objectives. He questioned the advisability of allowing the United Nations to design both the national programme framework and the integrated support system, which might infringe on the prerogatives of beneficiary countries by encouraging them to determine their co-operation needs in terms of satisfying United Nations organizations.

59. Finally, he wished to know why the report said that opportunities for expanding the use of national execution were contingent upon local factors as a recipient Government's desire to take on new responsibilities, since the use of

(Mr. Amasiane, Morocco)

such arrangements was not directly linked to level of economic development. Countries which were interested in employing such arrangements needed to have the obstacles thereto removed.

60. Given the uncertain state of the world economy caused by the crisis in the Gulf, which had led to rising energy bills for countries like his own, he could only deplore the fact that Morocco's IPF for the fifth programming cycle had been reduced by 10 per cent while the figure for the Arab regional programme had been reduced by 40 per cent. In allocating resources for that programme, consideration must be given to the fact that the regional integration process currently in progress (the establishment of the Arab Maghreb Union) required adequate financial support.

61. He concluded by expressing support for the recommendations of the Director-General contained in paragraphs 154-206 of his report.

62. Mr. HASSAN (Pakistan) said that, although his delegation was concerned about the availability of resources for operational activities, it was heartened to note that pledges for UNDP core funding had increased by 7 per cent at the recent United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities. The need for a significant, continuous, predictable and real increase in resources for operational activities could not be overemphasized.

63. The principle of strict adherence to the policies and priorities of recipient Governments had been recognized by all major funding agencies and the donor community, a principle which the Director-General had also stressed in his statement. Yet in reality, project implementation and preparation tended to deviate from that principle, as funding and executing agencies promoted projects and programmes which they considered useful from their own viewpoint. That practice must be eliminated.

64. While his delegation attached great importance to the implementation of General Assembly resolution 44/211, the report of the Director-General unfortunately conveyed the impression that that task was a complicated and time-consuming one. Moreover, the governing bodies of a number of agencies had yet to meet to consider the resolution. The adoption of that resolution had been the culmination of years of effort to improve the efficiency of the United Nations system and consequently demanded a more positive response.

65. He endorsed the resolution's emphasis on a programme, rather than a project, approach. Under the project approach, funds were allocated even when it was obvious that a recipient country's economic situation would prevent the Government from meeting its counterpart and recurrent cost obligations. Unless external assistance organizations jointly funded well-conceived and technically sound national strategies, development assistance would amount to nothing more than a succession of ill-assorted projects. The programme approach made it possible to co-ordinate and integrate various forms of assistance into a coherent government programme.

(Mr. Hassan, Pakistan)

66. The development of a programme approach called for a harmonization of the programming cycles of the funding agencies of the United Nations system and the adaptation of those cycles to the planning periods of national Governments. There should be no delay in implementing that provision, for most developing countries were fully prepared to harmonize their own programmes with those of bodies providing external assistance.

67. The rapidly evolving technical capabilities of the developing world and the advantages of technical co-operation among developing countries had not led to a greater use of that arrangement in the project execution activities of the United Nations system, which tended to transfer technologies from the developed countries rather than employ solutions available in the countries of the South. Emphasis should be placed on the utilization of indigenous, technical manpower and local expertise. Furthermore, the effectiveness of technical assistance depended not only on the way it was used but also on the way it was administered. Such assistance was often undermined by the complex and diverse procedures required by different external assistance organizations. The decentralization of decision-making was essential if programme implementation was to be swift, high-quality and relevant to local realities. When alien management techniques were imposed, such assistance sometimes acted as an obstacle to development. Decentralization would thus permit the use of innovative techniques that worked in a particular culture.

68. His delegation strongly supported the objective of national project execution and hoped that UNDP resident representatives would be allowed to approve projects above the newly-set limit of \$700,000. They should also be authorized to approve nationally executed projects.

69. Mr. CAMARA (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) said that, since its founding over 40 years earlier, FAO had been a major contributor to the operational activities of the United Nations system. FAO had already demonstrated its keen interest in General Assembly resolution 44/211, through its regular and substantive contributions to the work of the Office of the Director-General for International Economic Co-operation and its full participation in the useful activities of the Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions (Operations activities) (CCSQ (OPS)) in such key areas as the improved role of resident co-ordinators, enhanced national programming and increased technical and operational support through projects and programmes at the country level. In that important process, the extensive practical experience of agencies such as FAO in field operations should be fully reflected. That would require a true spirit of co-operation among the organizations involved, and between those organizations - individually and collectively - and the Office of the Director-General for International Economic Co-operation. The resolution would be debated at the forthcoming ninety-eighth session of the FAO Council in Rome later in the month.

70. In order to implement the changes and improvements advocated by General Assembly resolution 44/211, it would be important to have in place the appropriate mechanisms and financial arrangements. The framework decision on support costs taken by the Governing Council of UNDP was intended to strengthen the tripartite

(Mr. Camara, FAO)

partnership in the technical co-operation of the United Nations system, enhance the national role in project execution and reinforce agency substantive and technical support to projects. The decision called for an extensive consultation process between UNDP and the agencies concerned, and for joint work in identifying and analysing parameters and procedures so that a final decision could be taken by the Governing Council in June 1991. Over the past three months, FAO had worked very closely with its agency partners in seeking to elaborate the various measures identified in the framework decision. However, more had to be done if that consultative process was to be concluded successfully.

71. The World Food Programme (WFP) had been conceived and established jointly by the United Nations and FAO. That joint action and responsibility reflected the perception of States Members of the United Nations and of FAO that food aid, whether provided as an outlet for the utilization of surplus stocks or as a component of development assistance, had to be managed in the context of general economic and social development - the mandate of the United Nations - and that of nutrition, food production and distribution - the mandate of FAO. The provision of food aid also called for co-operation with other United Nations agencies and appropriate intergovernmental bodies.

72. The future modalities for the most effective use of WFP, and the Programme's continuing close relations with its parent organizations were currently being discussed in a sub-committee of the WFP Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes. The sub-committee's recommendations regarding proposals put forward by Member States, and the executive heads of WFP, FAO and the United Nations would be considered by the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes at its forthcoming session.

73. Ms. EHRENREICH (Denmark) said that her Government fully associated itself with the statement on operational activities for development which had been made by the representative of Norway on behalf of the Nordic countries. As the host country for the next meeting of WFC in June 1991, Denmark hoped that the work of the Second Committee would contribute to further progress in operational activities related to food questions.

74. Mr. ZHANG Guanghui (China) said that the ultimate goal of multilateral technical co-operation was to assist the developing countries in their efforts to promote economic development and self-reliance. When formulating country programmes, the relevant United Nations organizations and bodies providing assistance should take account of recipient countries' national development plans, policies and priorities.

75. China had paid much attention to the integrated and co-ordinated use of United Nations multilateral and technical assistance at the country level. With respect to programming, China had always designated ministries and departments whose field of competence corresponded to the mandates and characteristics of the bodies and organizations of the United Nations system involved in formulating and managing country programmes. At the country level, recipient Governments should assume full

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responsibility for overall co-ordination of all assistance provided by the various bodies and organizations of the United Nations system. The resident co-ordinators should work closely with the responsible authorities of recipient Governments in implementing and managing programmes in order to achieve the objectives of the programmes.

76. Over the past four decades, the United Nations Development Programme had provided large amounts of technical assistance to more than 100 developing countries and regions and had established good relations of co-operation with them. China hoped that UNDP would adhere to its principles concerning universality, neutrality, fairness and the grant nature of its assistance, particularly when adopting guidelines and policies for assistance. At the same time, China hoped that the developed countries would adopt a positive attitude towards the economic rehabilitation and development of the developing countries and make appropriate contributions in that regard.

77. The practice of the past few years had proved that the modality of national execution in the implementation of assistance projects contributed positively to the enhancement of recipient countries' capabilities for self-reliance. In order to promote and further expand national execution, the relevant organizations and agencies of the United Nations development system should organize various kinds of training courses for the management personnel of recipient Governments in order to familiarize them with procedures and regulations and to improve their operational and management skills.

78. In its resolution 1989/91, the Economic and Social Council had decided, in principle, to convene in 1994 an international meeting on population for a comprehensive appraisal and review of the implementation of the World Population Plan of Action. The meeting would facilitate the formulation, on the basis of the principle of mutual respect for sovereignty, of national population policies and development strategies in the light of the actual conditions prevailing in each country, for the benefit of their economic and social development. The Chinese Government supported the convening of the meeting and was prepared to contribute to it.

79. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) should be commended for its successful World Summit for Children. The Summit had outlined guidelines for the directions and objectives of UNICEF in its future work and had laid the foundation for the further promotion of the cause of children throughout the world. His delegation hoped that UNICEF would make the necessary arrangements to implement all co-operation programmes, as required by the Plan of Action of the Summit.

80. As the largest agency which provided free food aid within the United Nations system, the World Food Programme (WFP) played an important role. In view of the fact that WFP had been jointly established by the United Nations and FAO, its co-operation with those two organizations should be further strengthened. The general rules should be revised on the basis of full respect for the interests of developing countries in order to enhance the efficiency of WFP. Without full

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representation, the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes would not become a genuine intergovernmental organisation which effectively reflected the interests of Member States. The future status and mandates of that Committee should be considered in conjunction with the change of its composition.

81. The question of emergency food relief was closely linked to the food and agricultural situation as well as to the food security of recipient countries. The current approval system with regard to emergency relief had proved to be effective, and China believed that it should be maintained. At the same time, in order to increase efficiency, a deadline should be set for the Director-General of FAO to make decisions after receiving the proposals of the Executive Director of WFP.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

82. The CHAIRMAN announced that a number of delegations wished to join in sponsoring draft resolutions which the Committee would consider. The draft resolutions and respective sponsors were A/C.2/45/L.16 (agenda item 86 (b) - Brazil, Cyprus, Morocco and Tunisia; A/C.2/45/L.25 (agenda item 12) - Bulgaria, Luxembourg and Turkey; and A/C.2/45/L.27 (agenda item 12) - Honduras, Ireland and New Zealand.

The meeting rose at 6.20 p.m.