

tion. Other countries should follow that example, especially since action was needed to counteract the harm caused by the currency crisis of the capitalist countries and by inflationary tendencies. The responsibility for the financial problems of UNDP lay with the donor countries, and they would have to draw the necessary conclusions. The more or less arbitrary classification of the recipient countries and the obligations and the time-table imposed on them could hardly bring any improvement in the situation. At the same time, those factors gave a somewhat peculiar interpretation of the voluntary nature of the contributions and might result in a politically undesirable division among the recipient countries.

62. More efficient utilization of resources would also be necessary. In that connexion, he pointed out that in too many cases the executing agencies were not implementing General Assembly resolution 2975 (XXVII) as they should. A great deal of improvement was needed in co-operation between UNDP and the executing agencies, which were failing to pay due attention to what was said in the Governing Council and were not always giving the Council the necessary information about their activities.

63. In its resolution 2974 (XXVII) the General Assembly had stated that it was convinced of the need to make the fullest use of the capacity and experience of "all Member States". Yet the Governing Council had heard much justifiable criticism on the distribution of subcontracts and the recruitment of specialists. It often happened that a developing country's needs could be better met through the products and technology of another developing country than through those of a highly industrialized country; nevertheless, most subcontracts were assigned to industrialized countries. Similarly, the specialists of the developing countries and the socialist countries were often better able to assist the less developed countries, and it was therefore hard to understand why UNDP did not make fuller use of their capacities.

64. His delegation wished to emphasize once again its reservations concerning the UNDP programme for Israel. Countries such as Israel which continued to flout the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant resolutions of the Organization should not be eligible for assistance from UNDP. In addition, Israel was not a developing country; what was more, it had been repeatedly condemned by the United Nations for its policy of aggression and was shipping arms to South Africa, Portugal and Southern Rhodesia. It was exploiting the natural resources of the occupied territories and forcing its Arab neighbour countries to devote a significant portion of their resources to defence needs, thereby retarding their economic development.

65. Mr. CHATENAY (International Bank for Reconstruction and Development) said that the World Bank Group welcomed the initiatives and statements of the Netherlands Government concerning international assistance in favour of the poorest countries. Draft resolution A/C.2/L.1306 would make it possible to adopt a new form of assistance designed first and foremost for the least developed countries. The experience acquired by the World Bank Group, especially by IDA, showed that the development problems of those countries were particularly difficult, had characteristics that were peculiar to them and required special efforts on the part of the sources of assistance. The World Bank Group had investigated the matter and worked out realistic solutions which should make it possible to serve the interests of those countries; it would be glad to make its experience available to those who would consider the application of the new activities of the United Nations Capital Development Fund, in such a way that the Fund's activities could either reinforce the work already being done or meet needs not covered by multilateral assistance. He was sure that UNDP and IBRD would co-operate fruitfully in that field as they had in other fields.

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.

1556th meeting

Tuesday, 13 November 1973, at 3.20 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Zewde GABRE-SELLASSIE (Ethiopia).

A/C.2/SR.1556

In the absence of the Chairman, Mr. González Arias (Paraguay) took the Chair.

AGENDA ITEM 49

Operational activities for development (continued)
(A/9003 and Corr.1, chap. VI):

- (a) United Nations Development Programme (E/5256 and Corr.1, E/5365/Rev.1, A/C.2/L.1307);
- (b) United Nations Capital Development Fund (A/C.2/L.1306);
- (c) Technical co-operation activities undertaken by the Secretary-General;
- (d) United Nations Volunteers programme (E/5342);
- (e) United Nations Fund for Population Activities;

- (f) United Nations Children's Fund;
- (g) World Food Programme (A/9003/Add.1 (part IV); A/9031, A/C.2/L.1298)

1. Mr. CZARKOWSKI (Poland) reaffirmed his delegation's support for a consolidated discussion of all operational activities for development. That approach allowed for an exchange of experience among those related activities and contributed to eliminating many of the drawbacks resulting from their dispersion among many funds and programmes. The process of continuous creation of new funds and programmes should be checked since it contributed too much to the increase of overhead and administrative costs and too little to the real needs of the developing countries. The technical co-operation activities undertaken by the Secretary-

General should be consolidated with those of UNDP. The United Nations budget should not be used for increased financing of technical assistance, which should be based on voluntary programmes and contributions. All programmes and projects related to operational activities for development should be consistent with the basic principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and his delegation therefore opposed the granting of technical assistance to States occupying territories of other countries and to régimes working in the interests of colonialism.

2. His delegation attached special importance to the activities of UNDP, which had at its disposal considerable resources for rendering assistance to the developing countries, and utilized those resources in an effective manner. UNDP was one of the most successful ventures undertaken under United Nations auspices, since it had been able to assist the developing countries to expand their productive forces. The principle of counterpart contributions had permitted practical implementation of a dynamic link between self-reliance and external assistance. However, there was still room to improve UNDP operations both quantitatively and qualitatively, and indeed efforts were being made to do so. The work on the establishment of new criteria for indicative planning figures and that on the draft omnibus statute were two examples.

3. His delegation attached great importance to the universality and comprehensive nature of the Programme. Not only should all countries be able to contribute to and benefit from the Programme, but geographical representation should also be taken into account when recruiting personnel and making subcontracting arrangements. Participation by States of all regions would create a permanent and realistic basis for the future successful expansion of UNDP activities.

4. The system of country programming had proved to be a success. The emphasis laid upon each receiving country's right to decide on the form and content of the technical assistance it wished to receive should be maintained and further developed. It was also necessary to respect the time-schedule for project execution since delay in UNDP assistance caused delay in implementation of the country's over-all development programme.

5. With regard to the criteria for the calculation of indicative planning figures, he said that elaboration of the guidelines contained in the decision taken by the Governing Council of UNDP at its sixteenth session (see E/5365/Rev.1, para. 90) had been an unusually heavy task. It had been very difficult to reconcile the divergent interests of Member States, and only because almost all the countries participating in the Working Group on Review of Criteria to be Followed in Calculating Indicative Planning Figures, of which Poland had been a member, had been prepared to make concessions had it been possible to reach agreement. The prospects for successful finalization of the question in January 1974 now seemed fairly good. In a spirit of compromise, his Government accepted the formulas agreed upon at the sixteenth session of the Governing Council, including the principle of gradual transition to net contributor status. One of UNDP's main tasks was to remove the gap between the developed and the developing countries. Since it would not be possible for all States to achieve net contributor status at the same

time, his delegation considered that no time-limit should be set for the transition. It also shared the view of the Administrator of UNDP regarding the need to seek new resources, and was glad to note the positive results obtained at the 1973 Pledging Conference on UNDP.¹ His Government was among those that had announced an increase in their contributions for 1974 at the Conference. Other possible methods of increasing resources included a reduction of overhead costs and the "disarmament dividend" mentioned by the Administrator of UNDP. In that connexion, he reminded the Committee of the proposal by the representative of the Soviet Union regarding a 10 per cent reduction of the military budgets of States permanent members of the Security Council and utilization of part of the funds thus saved to provide assistance to developing countries (agenda item 102).

6. He reaffirmed his delegation's support for joint consideration of UNICEF's activities with other operational programmes for development, since that approach was consistent with the integrated socio-economic approach to development to which his country subscribed. His Government, which had for many years been a member of the Executive Board, considered that the role of UNICEF was a very noble one. Significant progress had been made in programme formulation over the past years, and UNICEF assistance was now more oriented towards the long term and towards projects aimed at achieving self-sustaining programmes. Like other socialist countries, post-war Poland had had to overcome numerous difficulties and had inherited development barriers some of which resembled the problems faced by the developing countries at the present time. Within a relatively short period of time, it had succeeded in achieving a satisfactory level of social reform in the fields with which UNICEF's work was concerned, and it was ready to share its experience with developing countries, and to provide UNICEF with experts and consultants, thus improving the somewhat unbalanced situation obtaining in that connexion both at the headquarters of UNICEF and in the field. Finally, his delegation fully supported the emergency type of assistance which UNICEF had recently started to provide.

7. All the operational programmes under discussion were characterized by specific features but they also had a number of common traits. In particular, he drew attention to the need to take into account the urgent problems of the least developed countries in the formulation of over-all programmes for practically all the operational activities undertaken within the United Nations system. The measures adopted up to present did not take sufficient account of the special needs and specific situation of those countries. Consequently, his delegation fully supported the recent decisions of the Governing Council of UNDP to establish a set of special measures for assistance to the least developed countries.

Mr. Gabre-Sellassie (Ethiopia) took the Chair.

8. The CHAIRMAN announced that Somalia had joined as a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1306.

9. Mr. WIHTOL (Finland) said that his delegation shared the UNDP Administrator's optimism regarding the financial basis for future UNDP activities. The re-

¹ See A/CONF.59/SR.1 and 2.

sults of the recent Pledging Conference were indeed spectacular. A tribute should be paid both to Governments that had announced substantial increases in their contributions and to the Administrator and his collaborators for preparing the ground for that encouraging result. His delegation also noted with satisfaction the progress made in preparing country programmes for approval by the Governing Council. The programming principles embodied in the consensus of 1970² were generally accepted and were being successfully implemented. The UNDP Administration had also been efficient and business-like in conducting the managerial part of programme execution.

10. There were, however, areas in which the 1970 Consensus had not been implemented in a fully satisfactory way. General Assembly resolution 2975 (XXVII), of which his delegation had been a sponsor, invited participating and executing agencies to strengthen their executive capacity. Although quantitative data should not be overemphasized when judging an agency's performance, his delegation could not but react negatively to information implying that, of the resources allocated to the major executing agencies in 1972, amounts ranging from 65 per cent to less than 50 per cent had actually been disbursed during 1973. One of the arguments given for the slow pace of implementation was inadequate availability of qualified experts. In that connexion, his Government was increasingly concerned about the procurement and subcontracting procedures, and regarded the present state of affairs as very unsatisfactory. There was a disproportionate concentration of procurements in a few countries. Much more should be done to establish a comprehensive system for world-wide procurement on the basis of competitive bidding in each of the executing agencies. For the past four or five years, Finland had been practically absent from statistics on contracts and procurements for UNDP-assisted projects. His Government intended to raise that issue in the governing bodies of the agencies participating in the execution of such projects. The possibilities of devising some uniform procedure for contracting and procurements for all the agencies should also be studied. It was the declared intention of his Government to increase its appropriations for international development co-operation as a whole. However, Finland as a net importer of foreign capital was faced with the question of reasonable reimbursement in the form of procurements and contracts and, consequently, with that of how to channel its increased allocations. Unless there was a definite improvement in the situation, the domestic need for using other channels might have a dominating influence.

11. Since a large number of country programmes were now at the implementation stage, it would be appropriate to develop some form of review and appraisal of progress made in the process of implementation. The Governing Council of UNDP, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly should not be allowed to lose sight of the major experience gained in implementing individual country programmes.

12. With regard to the United Nations Capital Development Fund and draft resolution A/C.2/L.1306, the position of his Government on the establishment of new special funds was well known. There was little differ-

ence in practice between creating a new fund and revitalizing an old one; in both cases the end result was the same, namely, a new fund calling upon resources allocated within the framework of multilateral aid budgets. It had been said that the Capital Development Fund must be guaranteed additional resources so as not to interfere with commitments already undertaken in other programmes. His Government would not be in a position to guarantee such additionality should it start contributing to the Fund.

13. UNICEF, which was one of the most efficiently run United Nations undertakings, continued to receive the full support of his Government, which intended to increase its regular contribution in 1974 to approximately \$600,000. His Government appreciated the unanimous decision by the Executive Board to authorize the launching of a project in the Indochina peninsula and was prepared to give favourable consideration to the granting of special contributions for that project.

14. The World Food Programme had a crucial responsibility at a time when the world was facing the threat of an acute food shortage. It was well equipped to carry out both short-term and medium-term food aid and would no doubt be involved in the implementation of any minimum world food security plan.

15. The year 1974 would, it was hoped, bring about world-wide recognition of population problems. His Government would continue to support the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) which had a very important role to play, particularly with regard to the preparation of the forthcoming World Population Conference.

16. Mr. REYES (Philippines) said that the joint consideration by the Committee of the various United Nations operational activities for development allowed for better appreciation of the scope and diversity of the great co-operative enterprise of which each operation was an integral and dynamic part, and provided a clearer picture of the form and substance of the unified approach to development as a single process. His delegation also appreciated the introductory statements by the Administrator of UNDP, the Executive Director of UNICEF and the Executive Director of UNFPA.

17. The unprecedented increase of 18 per cent in the funds pledged to UNDP at the last Pledging Conference was both encouraging and timely. The goal set for UNDP resources was an increase to \$500 million by 1975. His delegation therefore hoped that a steady annual growth rate of at least 15 per cent would be achieved so that UNDP could meet the increasing need for development aid in the poor countries without reducing the present indicative planning figure (IPF) levels of any recipient developing country.

18. Agreement had now been reached within the Governing Council of UNDP on the criteria for calculating indicative planning figures and on the use of so-called IPF weights. It had also been generally accepted that the more advanced developing countries should become net contributors. However, the question of a "cut-off" point in UNDP assistance to countries above a certain income level deserved further consideration. His delegation would be prepared to accept a progressive weighting system under which all countries above a certain *per capita* GNP (gross na-

² See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 6A*, para. 94.

tional product) level would be granted a relatively low IPF weight. In that connexion, it welcomed the Governing Council's decision at its sixteenth session on the use of up-to-date acceptable data on population and *per capita* GNP in the calculation of indicative planning figures.

19. Only two developing countries had achieved net contributor status, and his delegation hoped that more developing countries would take positive steps to become net contributors. It would be impossible to satisfy all countries, whatever set of criteria was ultimately agreed upon. It could only be hoped that any absolute decrease in IPFs could be minimized or avoided through substantial increases in UNDP funds. There seemed to be a general desire to see the new criteria finalized at the seventeenth session of the Governing Council, thus enabling the Council to devote more attention to other important questions.

20. With regard to country programming, he suggested that UNDP should undertake an over-all assessment of the experience gained in the country programming exercise before the start of the Second United Nations Development Co-operation Cycle in 1976. Such an assessment should include evaluation of the participation of the specialized agencies, the speed and effectiveness of programme delivery, and the relationship between country programming and national development priorities. Although the UNDP input into a country's development effort constituted only a small percentage of the total resources required for accelerated national development, it could serve as an effective catalyst for constructive change and progress in developing societies.

21. The current reorientation of Philippine society towards integrated and balanced national development had prompted his Government to announce its intention of inviting the Governing Council of UNDP to hold its June 1974 session at Manila. That would be the first time that a major United Nations operational agency for development would meet in South-East Asia. Such a meeting should prove interesting and useful for UNDP and instructive and stimulating for the people of the Philippines.

22. UNICEF was the only organization in the United Nations system devoted exclusively to the well-being of children—the most vulnerable and important of all human resources. He noted that the Executive Board, at its last session, had reaffirmed that UNICEF should link its material assistance for particular projects to long-term development strategies on behalf of children and adolescents, within the context of national planning. UNICEF was therefore trying to improve the quality of its participation in country programming and to integrate its aid as much as possible with national development. Another important policy trend was the increasing emphasis on assistance to the most disadvantaged children in the developing countries.

23. The Executive Board had also reviewed the possibilities of providing assistance to children in the countries of the Indochina peninsula: it had reaffirmed UNICEF's readiness to help children in all parts of the peninsula, it had approved a commitment of \$3 million from UNICEF's regular resources and it had authorized the acceptance and use of special contributions. UNICEF had been assisting projects in the Republic of Viet-Nam, the Khmer Republic and Laos

for many years and had recently discussed possible UNICEF assistance to the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam. Urgent recommendations had been made for UNICEF to provide the latter with supplies and equipment for child health services and some teaching aids for schools. Possible aid for longer-term reconstruction was also discussed. While in Hanoi, the UNICEF officials had also been contacted by representatives of the Provisional Revolutionary Government and had been given preliminary indications of urgently needed assistance such as medical supplies and equipment and cloth for children's clothing. There had been an encouraging response to the Executive Director's appeal to a limited number of Governments for special contributions to help carry out the various UNICEF programmes in the Indochina peninsula. The programme was worth noting because it highlighted the completely non-political character of UNICEF assistance and its high degree of acceptability throughout the world.

24. The mid-term review of the International Development Strategy should provide UNICEF with a further opportunity to enhance its role. At its next session, the Executive Board of UNICEF should give priority to considering how to make review and appraisal the meaningful exercise it was intended to be. UNICEF should become more actively involved in preparations for the 1975 mid-term review.

25. The main consideration underlying his delegation's appeal to the Committee to adopt the recommendation to convene a special pledging conference in 1974 was that UNICEF's full potential had yet to be realized. His delegation would submit a draft resolution on the matter in due course. He noted that regular contributions to UNICEF were less than half the target figure of \$100 million set for 1975. That target, first agreed upon in 1969, was still reasonable. Appeals to reach it had been made and reaffirmed in UNICEF, and in Economic and Social Council and General Assembly resolutions.

26. UNFPA had entered a new phase. The decision of the UNDP Governing Council at its sixteenth session (see E/5365/Rev.1, para. 247) appeared to strike a proper balance between the Council's duty to provide over-all guidance and the need to allow the Executive Director the necessary independence, authority and flexibility for the smooth and efficient management of UNFPA. Relations between UNDP and UNFPA should be modified according to experience while maintaining the latter's identity. UNFPA's role in preparations for the World Population Year and World Population Conference was to be commended, as were its regular operations, which had been marked by a high degree of efficiency, dynamism, flexibility, dedication and far-sightedness. The best indication of the effectiveness of UNFPA was the phenomenal increase in financial support for it. Its most important achievement, however, was the securing of wide and still-growing acceptance of its activities and programmes in a crucial field during the Second United Nations Development Decade. He welcomed the convening of regular annual pledging conferences and hoped they would consolidate the Fund's already impressive accomplishments and broaden its scope in the future.

27. The United Nations Volunteers programme had yet to find its proper place in the framework of UNDP

assistance. The Volunteers programme had been rather slow in starting because of the difficulty of tailoring the volunteer component to the specific technical requirements of country programmes and projects. He was glad to see that more effort was being put into programming volunteer inputs at the stage of project planning and formulation. The guidelines being formulated should help increase the effectiveness of volunteers in the field and improve their over-all contribution to country programmes, particularly at the grass-roots level. The advantages of using volunteers from developing countries were generally recognized. The pooling of human resources and skills would enhance co-operation between developing countries. He hoped that a more balanced geographical distribution of volunteers would be attained in Asia.

28. The new target of \$440 million for WFP in 1974 should be viewed in the light of recent critical price increases which had obliged WFP to curtail its commitments drastically. Food shortages and greatly increased costs had aroused grave international concern. Every effort should be made to exceed the target figure to enable WFP to cope with a food crisis of major proportions.

29. Mr. MAKEYEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation consistently advocated increasing the efficiency of United Nations operational activities for development. Peace and security were essential to the normal economic development of all countries, including the developing countries, and all States had been convinced from their own experience that economic development could be successful only in a climate of international *détente* in which, irrespective of their social or economic systems or their level of development, they could devote the available resources to their peaceful development.

30. The peace initiatives the Soviet Union had undertaken in implementation of the peace programme adopted by the twenty-fourth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union were designed to ensure peace and international security, and thus to create conditions promoting economic and social progress. Political *détente* contributed to the expansion of mutually advantageous economic, scientific and technological relations between countries with different systems, relations which were likely in the future to become an even more important material factor in peaceful relations among States.

31. Growing requirements in the economic development sphere meant that additional sources of financing must be sought. The problem could be solved only if the international situation improved, which would increase the possibilities of granting the developing countries additional assistance for their economic and social development needs. One possible source of funds would be created by reducing military expenditure. In that connexion, his delegation wished to draw attention yet again to the need for the early convening of a world peace conference, and also to the Soviet Union's initiative at the current session of the General Assembly for a reduction in the military budgets of States permanent members of the Security Council by 10 per cent and utilization of part of the funds thus saved to provide assistance to developing countries. Action on that initiative would release additional funds totalling perhaps more than \$1,000 million for development purposes,

and would thus make a further concrete contribution to the economic and social development of all countries, primarily developing ones, over and above the assistance currently provided through existing channels. The Administrator of UNDP had rightly indicated the advantages which would ensue for the developing countries if swords could be beaten into ploughshares; however, the Soviet delegation regretted the Administrator's uncertainty as to whether those possibilities would in fact be realized, and did not share his pessimistic view. The Soviet proposal was a practical expression of the way in which the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries were linking *détente* and disarmament with the problems of increasing assistance to developing countries. The proposal was designed precisely to provide real disarmament dividends; the question was now up to the countries at which the Soviet proposal was aimed, and to the developing countries, on whom the adoption of a decision on the matter depended.

32. Mobilization of the internal resources of developing countries was extremely important to their development, and had been stressed in the decisions of the recent Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Algiers (5-9 September 1973). The Soviet Union understood the policy of those developing countries which were taking practical steps in that direction and concentrating their resources on key branches of their economy to promote more rapid progress and the achievement of political and economic independence. A number of delegations had advanced interesting ideas for the use of internal resources to finance economic development, ideas which should be taken fully into account in the practical activity of the United Nations in general, and UNDP in particular. The General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council should therefore take steps to study experience in the mobilization of internal resources in various countries and regions, and prepare appropriate recommendations so that that experience could become common property.

33. The Soviet Union was constantly expanding its economic co-operation with the developing countries in the vital area of building independent national economies. Two basic aspects of that co-operation were that it concentrated on the production sphere and that it aimed primarily at the development of the State sector. In the production sphere, attention was devoted primarily to industry and power, but the Soviet Union also met requests from the Governments of developing countries for assistance in connexion with mining, processing, light industry and the food industry, as well as agriculture, in order to promote the speediest possible satisfaction of the needs of the population. The Soviet Union had concluded co-operation agreements with 45 developing countries, and the number was increasing each year. It was providing assistance in the construction or expansion of about 860 projects, of which more than 400 were already in operation. Hydroelectric, metallurgical and petroleum processing plants built in the developing countries with the assistance of the Soviet Union usually accounted for a considerable proportion of production in the relevant branches of industry. At a time when imperialist and neo-colonialist forces continued their attempts to disrupt the social progress of the developing countries, the latter's co-operation with the Soviet Union and the other socialist

countries assisted them in their struggle for political and economic independence.

34. In the United Nations, the Soviet Union actively supported the interests of the developing countries and opposed any attempts to bring pressure to bear on States which undertook progressive social and economic transformations and defended their right to sovereignty over their natural wealth. His delegation believed that UNDP assistance should be closely related to national plans and development goals and to promoting the mobilization of the countries' internal resources so as to have the maximum effect on the acceleration of their development and on the earliest possible elimination from their economies of the disastrous heritage of colonial plunder and neo-colonialist exploitation. The new system of country programming introduced by General Assembly resolution 2688 (XXV) had linked UNDP assistance more closely to national plans and programmes, and 82 country programmes had already been confirmed by the Governing Council. The new procedure enabled the Governments of developing countries to determine their own goals and priorities for United Nations assistance. Respect for the sovereign rights of developing countries was the basis of UNDP's activity, and his delegation was opposed to the increased participation of IBRD in UNDP's work, and against the efforts the Administration sometimes made to strengthen the role of UNDP's resident representatives as co-ordinators for multilateral and bilateral technical assistance programmes in the developing countries. That co-ordination was the exclusive responsibility of national Governments. His delegation could not support the proposal to extend the authority of the Administrator and the resident representatives, since that might lead to interference in the internal affairs of countries and detract from the authority of the Governing Council. At the Governing Council's sixteenth session, some delegations had attempted to grant the Administrator the right to confirm country programmes; such attempts were in conflict with the terms of the annex to resolution 2688 (XXV), according to which country programmes could be approved only by the Governing Council. In his delegation's view, consistent observance of the provisions of that annex was essential if the effectiveness of UNDP's assistance to developing countries was to be increased. The delay in implementation of the request made of the Governing Council in that resolution to prepare for consideration by the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth session, if possible, a draft omnibus statute for UNDP was extremely regrettable. His delegation hoped the preparation of the draft would be completed for the Governing Council's seventeenth session.

35. A balanced staffing policy could make a considerable contribution to increasing UNDP's effectiveness. The guiding principles of that policy were also outlined in the annex to resolution 2688 (XXV), and were based on equitable geographical distribution of posts both at Headquarters and in the field. UNDP could be truly effective only if it drew on experience from all sources and took into account the fact that the developing countries followed different paths in their political, economic and social development. His delegation was concerned at certain recent trends in UNDP's staffing policy, and particularly at the introduction of the career service concept which was, in its view, in direct con-

tradiction to the principle of equitable geographical distribution and could lead to the creation of an ossified bureaucracy serving neither the interests of the developing countries nor those of the United Nations. International co-operation in economic and technical assistance, including the selection of experts and the filling of posts at Headquarters and in the field, should be based on the principles of equitable geographical distribution and on the maximum use of the experience of different countries, irrespective of their economic and social systems and levels of development. The possibility of adding to the staff of UNDP specialists from the developing countries, with personal experience of the needs and problems of the third world, should be taken into account.

36. His delegation had more than once advocated that UNDP should, as it had now begun to, give increased attention to regional, interregional and global projects, which were important means of training national staff from the developing countries on the basis of current developments in science and technology. Soviet organizations were always receptive to proposals from UNDP and the specialized agencies for the conduct of seminars, symposia, training courses and study missions in the Soviet Union. Over the past 12 years, the Soviet Union's contributions to United Nations technical assistance funds had been used to finance more than 200 such undertakings, which had been of great practical value. His delegation felt that more use should be made of Soviet organizations and experts in interregional and global projects. The Soviet Union possessed highly qualified specialists in all spheres of the economy, science and culture, and Soviet organizations were prepared to continue their active co-operation with UNDP and the specialized agencies in the organization of various meetings in the Soviet Union, and to execute subcontracts. Unfortunately, the number of Soviet experts in field posts had fallen in 1972 and 1973; the number of Soviet staff members in UNDP was insignificant, and the number of seminars and training courses held in the Soviet Union in 1973 had fallen to the lowest level for several years on an artificial pretext of local expenses. Soviet organizations had not received a single subcontract in 1972. That situation was clearly a violation of the principle of universality in relation to staffing, selection of experts, allocation of subcontracts and equipment purchases and distribution of regional, interregional and global projects. The result was that the unspent residue of the Soviet Union's contributions to UNDP had now attained the equivalent of some \$15 million. In view of the shortage of funds to implement the technical assistance projects for which the Soviet Union had provided those resources, the developing countries should ask the Administration of UNDP to explain why measures were not taken to remedy that situation. The Soviet Union was prepared to take the necessary action to ensure that those resources could be used to the greater advantage of the developing countries. UNDP should remove the obstacles to the payment by Soviet organizations of additional local expenses for the conduct of undertakings in the Soviet Union. That would rapidly solve the question of the use of Soviet contributions for such useful measures for the developing countries as seminars and training courses, requests for which frequently went unsatisfied. In addition, a mutually agreed programme for the use of the Soviet Union's contribu-

tions to UNDP should be worked out. His delegation hoped that the forthcoming visit to the Soviet Union by a group of UNDP staff members would help solve those problems.

37. In recent sessions, the Governing Council had given considerable attention to the establishment of criteria for calculating the indicative planning figures for the next development cycle. His delegation supported the consensus arrived at by the Working Group on Review of Criteria to be followed in Calculating Indicative Planning Figures at the sixteenth session of the Governing Council, a consensus which should be a generally acceptable basis for the future allocation of resources among countries. The question of the provision of additional assistance to the least developed countries occupied an important place in the Governing Council's work. The Soviet Union appreciated those countries' needs, and took them into account in its bilateral agreements. It had concluded long-term co-operation agreements with a number of the least developed countries in order to promote the establishment of vital branches of the economy and raise the standard of living. Its co-operation was designed to help solve the problems of mass poverty and unemployment, and the Soviet delegation in the Governing Council had supported measures to provide additional assistance for the least developed countries. The idea had recently been advanced that a special fund should be established for those countries. His delegation's view was that the effectiveness of assistance to them should be increased by enhancing the efficiency of existing funds and institutions, reducing their unproductive expenditure and expanding their operational programmes, eliminating duplication and improving co-ordination. A special fund could be established, but it must be financed only from voluntary contributions. With regard to whether or not the Capital Development Fund should be used primarily for assistance to the least developed countries, the decisive voice must be that of the developing countries themselves, who should work out an agreed solution to the question. Additional resources to finance technical assistance programmes in the developing countries could be obtained by slowing down the rapid rate in the increase of UNDP's administrative expenditure, which was one of the causes of the reduction in the volume of its real assistance to developing countries.

38. With regard to United Nations technical co-operation activities, his delegation wished yet again to affirm its position of principle that the United Nations regular budget was not intended for the financing of technical assistance. The regular programme of technical assistance should therefore be transferred to UNDP and financed on a voluntary basis. Such a transfer would promote centralization of all technical assistance and, by providing for a unified policy, would serve the interests of the developing countries.

39. His delegation had stated its position with regard to UNICEF in detail at the fifty-fifth session of the Economic and Social Council. At the present juncture it wished only to stress that UNICEF's efficiency would be increased by the early preparation of a draft charter to define and regulate its activity. UNICEF engaged in many extremely useful activities in developing countries and should, in his delegation's view, also provide assistance to the liberated areas of Angola and Mozambique. It had recently taken a number of concrete steps

to provide assistance to the children of the Indochina peninsula and particularly to Viet-Nameese children; urgent and effective measures to that end should continue.

40. His delegation was consistently opposed in principle to UNDP granting assistance to countries committing aggression, and also to Governments and régimes pursuing a policy of *apartheid* and racial discrimination, which had been condemned by the General Assembly. It supported demands for the cessation of assistance to those whose aggressive actions disrupted the peaceful efforts of peoples and caused them extensive material damage and human suffering. The provision of such assistance meant that United Nations resources were being used to promote activities hostile to the cause of peace. His delegation strongly supported the proposal made at the sixteenth session of the Governing Council of UNDP that UNDP assistance should be made available to national liberation movements. Such support for patriotic forces fighting for national freedom and independence would promote the strengthening of international peace and security.

41. Mr. RANKIN (Canada) said that at the recent Pledging Conference Canada had reaffirmed its continuing support for UNDP activities by again increasing its contribution to the Programme. However, his delegation was concerned at the proliferation of special funds. Canada's official development assistance had increased by \$60 million each year, to a total of \$560 million in 1973, and a recommendation would shortly be before Parliament that the increase for 1974 should be \$80 million, bringing the total figure to \$640 million, or approximately \$30 per inhabitant. Canada was thus moving towards the target for official development assistance of 0.7 per cent of gross national product, and its recognition of the importance of multilateral institutions in the development process had led it to increase its contributions to multilateral agencies to a level above the 25 per cent guideline recommended in the Pearson report.³ Those allocations represented the maximum level currently foreseen for multilateral contributions, and it was thus obvious that Canada's multilateral allocations would grow in future only in proportion to the over-all growth of its development assistance programme. Thus the creation of new special funds would not affect the total amount made available by Canada to multilateral programmes. If it was to contribute to new funds, over-all increases would have to be shared between a greater number of programmes, thus reducing the size of the increase to longer-established programmes. His delegation was concerned about the implications for future UNDP funding if the General Assembly gradually abandoned the original UNDP "umbrella" concept. Inevitably, such action would limit UNDP's flexibility. His Government hoped that UNDP would be strengthened and reoriented to meet new development challenges and that its activities would not be weakened by competition for available resources among a multiplicity of special funds.

42. His delegation noted with interest the progress made by the Governing Council in establishing criteria for the calculation of indicative planning figures, and believed that a solid framework now existed which

³ Commission on International Development, *Partners in Development* (New York, Praeger Publishers, Inc., 1969).

would enable the Governing Council to finalize its recommendations at its seventeenth session.

43. There had been considerable discussion of sub-contracting and procurement by executing agencies for UNDP-financed projects. His delegation continued to support the principle expressed in paragraph 41 of the annex to General Assembly resolution 2688 (XXV) that maximum use should be made of institutions and firms within the recipient countries. Where necessary for the successful implementation of a project, the international bidding system should be used. His delegation was concerned that, as UNDP projects grew in size and complexity, it would become increasingly difficult to recruit capable teams of experts from widely scattered parts of the world. UNDP should emphasize to the executing agencies the need to consider more carefully the suitability of projects for execution by subcontracting, which in many cases would increase the speed of implementation and might improve the quality of the work performed.

44. His delegation noted with satisfaction the increased co-ordination between UNDP and other development agencies in the field. Canada continued to encourage co-operation among host Governments, UNDP and bilateral donors to ensure the most effective use of available development funds.

45. While recognizing the heavy demands placed on the Governing Council of UNDP, his delegation nevertheless urged it to continue its efforts to rationalize its working methods. Some of the suggestions recorded in the report on its sixteenth session (E/5365/Rev.1) warranted very serious consideration.

46. His Government's positive views on WFP and UNFPA had been expressed in their respective governing bodies. At the present juncture, he would confine himself to congratulating the two organizations on their effectiveness and pledging Canada's continuing financial support to them.

47. His Government had noted with continuing satisfaction the efficient operation of UNICEF, which was perhaps the United Nations agency best equipped and most competent to react quickly and effectively to alleviate misery and suffering, and merited increasing support by all Members. The Canadian Government had again increased its contribution to UNICEF for 1974.

48. Mr. SCHMID (Federal Republic of Germany) welcomed the smooth co-operation achieved between UNDP, UNICEF and UNFPA, and the co-ordination efforts being made with regard to WFP, the United Nations Volunteers programme and the technical co-operation activities undertaken by the Secretary-General. However, with regard to the technical co-operation programme, it had been shown in the report on the fourteenth session of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination⁴ and in the 1969 Capacity Study⁵ that programme objectives were unclear and that there was a need for more detailed information on all operational and related activities. Such criticisms were still valid.

⁴ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 12.*

⁵ *A Study of the Capacity of the United Nations Development System* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.70.I.10).

49. His delegation shared the view of the Administrator of UNDP that the creation of a separate revolving fund for natural resources exploration was not the most efficient solution, but had noted the pledge of the Administrator to ensure the success of the revolving fund. UNDP should seek the advice of IBRD both for the establishment of the revolving fund and the revitalization of the United Nations Capital Development Fund.

50. He welcomed the encouraging results of the recent Pledging Conference on UNDP and felt that the expected increase of UNDP resources and pledges for the fourth IDA replenishment by participating countries represented a vote of confidence in multilateral co-operation for development.

51. His Government fully endorsed the intended intensification of efforts to help the least developed of the developing countries and other low-income countries with rapidly growing populations to achieve a more self-reliant economy. It supported the aid priorities mentioned in the statements of both the Administrator of UNDP and the Executive Director of UNICEF at the 1554th meeting. The Federal Republic had decided to participate actively in the regional, interregional and global agricultural research effort. The rural exodus and the resulting urban unemployment was currently a key problem and one which would become more serious in the future.

52. The transfer of technology was not a substitute for the development of local scientific and technological capacity; indeed, local participation was a prerequisite of economic and social progress in many countries. His delegation therefore endorsed the priority programme of UNICEF concerning basic utilities and welfare. As the special purpose grants were fully integrated into the regular UNICEF programme, they should not be treated differently from regular voluntary contributions in the efforts to reach the pledging target for 1975. On the other hand, accounts for special projects for the countries of the Indochina peninsula would have to be handled separately.

53. Since the inception of UNFPA, its policy had been that support for population programmes was a necessary complement to and not a substitute for development assistance. In view of the forthcoming World Population Year and the World Population Conference, he hoped that the public would become more aware of population problems and that the Fund could meet its responsibilities in the most efficient way possible. As the number of requests for its assistance was increasing, the Fund would be compelled to define its priorities for granting assistance more clearly than in the past.

54. His delegation attached great importance to the United Nations Volunteers programme, which could render valuable service to the developing countries, particularly the least developed among them. Accordingly, the programme deserved every possible support; it should continue to pay special attention to the recruitment of volunteers from the developing countries and should consider ways to support the establishment and extension of national volunteer organizations in those countries.

55. Mr. KANKA (Czechoslovakia) said that his Government attached considerable importance to UNDP, which was proving increasingly useful in the context of

the current development of broad economic relations among States with different social and economic systems. Peace was essential for economic advancement, so that all national resources could be allocated to development goals. The policy of the socialist countries had made a positive contribution to the recent change in international relations.

56. His country had participated in the activities of UNDP on a world-wide basis, and had regularly increased its contribution since 1970. It regarded the Programme as an important factor in providing assistance to the developing countries, and as a useful forum for the promotion of multilateral economic co-operation. It had also held an increasing number of seminars, study courses and symposia, and intended to make the experience of its advanced industry, research institutions and skilled experts available to the developing countries through broad international co-operation within UNDP.

57. He welcomed the efforts of the Administrator of UNDP and his collaborators to make the specialized agencies function as economically and effectively as possible. Given the limited resources available, it was essential to plan priorities for UNDP activities. Accordingly, he also welcomed the principle that more and more countries receiving technical assistance should be included among the net contributors.

58. He was pleased to note that UNDP, while concentrating on medium-term and long-term programmes, had coped with various emergency situations requiring immediate assistance. The prestige of UNDP would be further enhanced if it also assisted national liberation movements.

59. The introduction of country programming should enable the Governments of the developing countries to decide on the priorities for technical assistance from UNDP. The switch from the system of individual projects to long-term technical assistance programmes would facilitate the reorientation and concentration of technical assistance activities. In formulating assistance programmes greater attention should be paid to the developing countries individually. The aim of assistance was to promote changes in their social and economic structures and secure balanced economic development. His country had found that such changes were most soundly based on development planning, the exploitation of national resources and the use of the experience of other countries. In facilitating the economic independence of the developing countries, the experience gained by the industrially advanced countries should be taken into account in order to apply the positive elements of industrial development and avoid its adverse effects.

60. It was also essential, when deciding on the work programme, for UNDP to proceed on the basis of a previously elaborated strategy and development plan. Greater attention should be paid to industries using national raw materials, and to the development of branches such as mechanical engineering which could stimulate other related industries. In addition, it was important to stimulate branches of industry which could improve exports and therefore the balance of payments.

61. The role of the State in development was to mobilize internal resources and promote regional and subregional co-operation. Development programmes

should include the training of cadres, the selection of suitable technology and measures to control foreign investment.

62. His delegation expressed reservations regarding the recent trend towards strengthening the responsibility of resident representatives, since the co-ordination and integration of technical assistance programmes was exclusively the competence of the country concerned. His Government regarded UNDP as a universal body for the development of broad international co-operation, and felt that greater use should be made of nationals of the socialist States, both as experts in the field and as regular UNDP staff members. Experts should also be recruited from the developing countries.

63. Efforts to provide assistance to the developing countries had recently been adversely affected by developments in the world economic situation. The crisis of the international monetary system had had adverse effects not only on the capitalist countries but also on the developing countries. UNDP should find measures to eliminate the influence of the capitalist economies on the economies of the developing countries.

64. Mr. GALLARDO MORENO (Mexico) said that all operational activities had one aim, namely, to improve the lot of human beings everywhere, within the framework of the sovereignty of peoples and respect for human dignity.

65. The Mexican Government supported the effective work of the Executive Director of UNFPA in arranging economic and technical assistance within the resources available. He was gratified that assistance was provided at the request of the countries concerned, as that showed a deep understanding of the complex problems of population. He was pleased to announce that his Government would contribute to the Fund, which was receiving increasing numbers of requests for assistance. That reflected the growing awareness of the need for population programmes suited to the requirements of each country and adopted in accordance with its own decisions. He welcomed the general interest in the forthcoming World Population Year and the World Population Conference. His Government, in anticipation of the matters to be discussed at that Conference, was already studying a new act on population submitted by the President of the Republic to Congress. There was a definite need to co-ordinate population programmes with UNDP. Before the World Population Conference arrived at its conclusions, the studies and experience so far accumulated should be distributed.

66. The problems of childhood were in part a consequence of the demographic explosion. UNICEF required greater resources for its valuable work; he hoped that contributions would be forthcoming at the proposed pledging conference and that the World Food Conference would offer assistance to UNICEF not only in terms of participation but also in terms of technical solutions for achieving a higher protein content in food. The food problem was not only one of quantity but also of quality, and thus in preparing the Conference there was a need to obtain reports describing the research work already done or that could be done on the methods and costs of producing protein-rich foods. It was necessary to ensure that human beings had the intellectual and physical capacity to decide on their own way of life. Awareness of that need had grown, and priority should now be given to children's nutrition.

The most serious problem was to be found in rural areas, where school drop-outs were caused by malnutrition in the early years. There was also need to adapt school curricula to the situation in rural areas, steering away from purely academic subjects and emphasizing practical subjects useful to those who would later work in those areas. There was a definite policy in his country to offer different education in rural areas from that dispensed in urban areas, with technical courses so that the rural worker could eventually help to resolve the problems of his environment.

67. He was gratified that there had been an increase in UNDP's resources. His country was witness to the fact that UNDP had been useful in implementing its assistance plans for the development of research centres. He felt that, using the investments already made and the experience acquired, better financial support should be given to the centres in Mexico and India carrying out research into seeds. In all rural areas, the fundamental problem was how to increase agricultural output. Small rural processing industries could help to increase the earnings of the peasant population and, being labour-intensive, would solve the part-time unemployment problem in those areas. UNDP, while respecting the right of each country to decide its own programmes, might suggest such rural projects and provide any technical assistance required.

68. Large urban agglomerations raised a number of moral and economic problems. One solution might be to make small places more attractive by investing in basic utilities and services, especially hospitals and schools. UNDP could be instrumental in such action.

69. The transfer of technology was no substitute for local technological effort; UNDP could help the developing countries to find economical ways of acquiring technology.

70. The developed countries should continue to increase their contributions to UNDP. In view of the limited resources available, emphasis should be placed on subregional and regional integration.

71. Mr. ZOLLNER (Secretary-General of the International Secretariat for Volunteer Service), speaking at the invitation of the Chairman, said that the formal agreement between the International Secretariat for Volunteer Service (ISVS) and the United Nations Volunteers programme, which had expired in April 1973, had been renewed for 14 months. Under the terms of the agreement, ISVS was to assist the programme in the recruitment, pre-selection and training of United Nations volunteers. Once the agreement had expired, the co-ordination of those activities would be carried out directly by the programme.

72. One of the main purposes of ISVS was to promote voluntarism in the service of economic and social development, and its recommendations had led to the creation of the United Nations Volunteers by the General Assembly in December 1970. ISVS had, from the beginning, made its experience available to the new body, and, since the signing of the first agreement in 1971, had placed at the disposal of the Volunteers programme the structures and bonds of co-operation which it maintained throughout the world.

73. Of the 564 candidates which ISVS had presented for positions as United Nations volunteers, 210 had already been accepted and 83 were currently being

examined. ISVS had recruited 83 per cent of the United Nations volunteers currently serving. In collaborating with the Volunteers programme, ISVS had made a particular effort to ensure that a substantial proportion of volunteers from the developing countries would be included, with the result that such volunteers accounted for over 40 per cent of the total qualified candidates it had presented.

74. ISVS had also endeavoured to assist the United Nations Volunteers programme in organizing consultations between representatives of most sources of the programme's volunteers, with the aim of helping the programme to solve some of its difficulties and providing a forum for a thorough and constructive exchange of ideas. The consultations had helped to strengthen co-operation between the programme and the volunteer sources, preparing the way for the eventual take-over by the programme of its own recruitment functions.

75. In addition, ISVS acted as world-centre for the exchange of information and experience relating to volunteer service. It provided a framework for co-ordination and co-operation between volunteer-sending organizations by holding conferences for the directors of those organizations and by arranging study seminars on specific questions. Co-operation was further promoted by the ISVS multinational volunteer teams.

76. The organization's main activities in recent years had been oriented towards direct assistance. When ISVS received requests from the developing countries for qualified volunteer personnel, it forwarded such requests to all the potential sources of volunteers. Where the developing countries did not wish to deal directly with the various volunteer sources, ISVS would take charge of setting up multinational volunteer teams for use in projects where the United Nations programme could not send its own volunteers.

77. Another form of ISVS direct assistance was the creation or expansion of national volunteer services or domestic development services in third world countries; such services included organizations or associations bringing together citizens to participate, either completely voluntarily or in return for a basic subsistence allowance, in socio-economic development projects in their own countries. The ISVS had a series of programmes to assist the promotion of such organizations, including regional conferences of directors of volunteer and development service organizations, and regional and subregional training seminars for the staff of those organizations. Five such conferences and eight such seminars had been held in the past two years in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

78. ISVS also organized staff exchange programmes between domestic volunteer or development services, enabling the leaders and staff to acquire additional training and experience while serving temporarily with other similar organizations. Direct technical assistance in the field of voluntary service was provided in the form of consultants or other qualified people.

79. Through co-operation with UNDP, ISVS had become aware that the entire United Nations system was taking a marked interest in international voluntary service. Several of the specialized agencies had participated in ISVS regional conferences and training

courses or had even co-sponsored such activities. In addition, the regional economic commissions had co-operated with ISVS in programmes in their respective regions.

80. The Council of ISVS had renewed its assurance of practical support for the United Nations Volunteer

programme, and advocated even more intensive co-operation and co-ordination with international organizations, particularly those of the United Nations system.

The meeting rose at 6.10 p.m.

1557th meeting

Wednesday, 14 November 1973, at 3.15 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Zewde GABRE-SELLASSIE (Ethiopia).

A/C.2/SR.1557

AGENDA ITEM 49

Operational activities for development (*continued*)
(A/9003 and Corr.1, chap. VI):

- (a) United Nations Development Programme (E/5256 and Corr.1, E/5365/Rev.1, A/C.2/L.1307);
- (b) United Nations Capital Development Fund (A/C.2/L.1306);
- (c) Technical co-operation activities undertaken by the Secretary-General;
- (d) United Nations Volunteers programme (E/5342);
- (e) United Nations Fund for Population Activities;
- (f) United Nations Children's Fund (A/C.2/L.1308);
- (g) World Food Programme (A/9003/Add.1 (part IV); A/9031, A/C.2/L.1298)

1. Ms. AAS (Norway) said her delegation interpreted the significant increase in voluntary contributions announced at the 1973 Pledging Conference on UNDP and the United Nations Capital Development Fund,¹ the most successful in UNDP's history, as a vote of confidence in the Programme and an expression of the importance Member States attached to technical assistance and pre-investment activities. Substantial increases must also be ensured in future, and to that end the Governing Council must at its seventeenth session decide on the criteria to be followed in calculating the indicative planning figures (IPFs) for the next development cycle. The preliminary decision taken at its sixteenth session (see E/5365/Rev.1, para. 90) was a step in the right direction, but her Government hoped that the final decision would go even further towards more equitable and just redistribution of UNDP resources in favour of the least developed countries and other low-income countries with major problems of unemployment and mass poverty. If the present trend of annual increases in contributions significantly higher than the agreed 9.6 per cent target could be maintained, such a redistribution was a realistic goal, and the prospects of coping with UNDP's predicted deficit problem would also be good. Some delegations considered that problem somewhat fictitious, because of the delayed implementation factor of the Programme over the past few years. Her delegation would like to know whether the rate of implementation had recently gained momentum, and if there was a reasonable chance of achieving an improved implementation factor towards the end of the current cycle.

2. Her Government fully shared the Administrator's concern for the economic and social development of the least developed countries, and had over the past three years pledged special contributions totalling some \$4.7 million to UNDP to be used for accelerated development of the hard core countries.

3. Her delegation supported the idea of transforming the United Nations Capital Development Fund to benefit first and foremost the least developed countries. It was a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1306, and associated itself with the views expressed by the representative of the Netherlands in introducing the draft resolution at the 1555th meeting. Her Government intended to propose to Parliament that Norway should pledge a substantial contribution to the Fund in 1974 as soon as the General Assembly had endorsed in principle its reorientation along the lines envisaged in Economic and Social Council resolution 1753 (LIV).

4. Some of the poorest countries on earth were also among the most populous. Population was one of the most serious problems facing the world, and constituted a challenge which all nations, developed and developing alike, must make a joint effort to solve. That effort would have a decisive bearing on the solution of other urgent and interrelated problems such as mass poverty and unemployment, hunger, malnutrition and pollution, lack of education and inadequate health services. The population issue also affected efforts to achieve a more equitable distribution of wealth, and the pattern of use of existing natural resources in the world. Although population density was not generally felt to be an acute problem in industrialized countries, each individual in those countries consumed several times the energy and resources of an individual in a developing country, and in the light of the relative scarcity of resources on a global basis, slower population growth was needed in the industrialized countries as well. Unless the population explosion could be controlled, endeavours to create decent living conditions on earth would probably fail, and her delegation was therefore encouraged by the increased activities of and support for UNFPA. The fact that it received requests for assistance from an increasing number of Governments confirmed the trend towards enhanced awareness of the urgency and scope of the population problem. The proclamation of 1974 as World Population Year, and the convening of the World Population Conference during it, were concrete manifestations of that trend; her delegation hoped the Conference would be action-

¹ See A/CONF.59/SR.1 and 2.