

1560th meeting

Friday, 16 November 1973, at 3.05 p.m.

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

A/C.2/SR.1560

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, A/C.2/L.1309);
- (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. Mr. HACHANI (Tunisia) welcomed the success of United Nations operational activities for development and trusted that they would continue to evolve fruitfully. The new trends were commendable because they were based on equity and respect for the choices made by the countries and groups of countries concerned. His country was particularly interested in one trend towards experimental and pilot projects to make available to the developing countries the technical assistance they required to resolve their special problems. He would, furthermore, welcome any policy to help the developing countries solve the problem of internal migration.

2. UNDP should help the developing countries to implement their national development plans and meet their economic and social priorities. At the present time, it was concerned with short-term and medium-term problems; the Governing Council at its sixteenth session (see E/5365/Rev.1, para. 90) had made satisfactory progress in establishing just and equitable criteria—a process which Tunisia had helped to further—for calculating indicative planning figures (IPFs) for the period 1977-1981. He supported the decision of the Governing Council to adopt the guiding principle for the new series of IPF calculations that no country should have an IPF lower than that it had enjoyed for the period 1972-1976. His delegation considered that that principle had been definitely adopted and could not be challenged. With regard to the principle of seeking to improve the situation of countries at the lower end of the *per capita* gross national product (GNP) scale, he felt that the concept of "lower end of the scale" should be clearly defined. However valuable and timely it might be, that concept, which had not yet been defined by the General Assembly, should certainly not be made a pretext for giving one region or group of countries an advantage over other regions and countries. That must apply in the case of UNDP as in other cases. Thus, there was a case for regarding countries having a *per capita* GNP of less than, say, \$350 as

falling within the "marginal" category, assuming such a category existed. In any case, the new system of IPF distribution should apply only to resources in addition to those available for the current cycle.

3. He hoped that the encouraging trend noted at the 1973 Pledging Conference on UNDP and the United Nations Capital Development Fund¹ would be sustained, and shared the optimism of the Administrator regarding the new era of closer international co-operation. He supported the application of supplementary criteria in deciding on development assistance for the developing countries, but felt that the criterion of technical assistance absorption capacity had not been clearly defined by the Governing Council. Such supplementary criteria should serve to increase IPFs. The increase in contributions should be taken into account in the new IPF calculations. He hoped that the Governing Council would take into account the observations of the Economic and Social Council and those expressed in the Committee.

4. Tunisia maintained close co-operation with UNICEF and welcomed its effective work. Accordingly his delegation had become a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1308, which he hoped would be adopted unanimously. His delegation was also a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1309, since his Government supported the efforts of the United Nations Volunteers programme to involve youth in the collective development effort. He welcomed the support expressed by the Administrator of UNDP for the programme and hoped that that support would help to broaden its activities to meet Government requests.

5. He would welcome a similar extension of activities by the Office of Technical Co-operation. The revitalization of the United Nations Capital Development Fund should serve to help the greatest possible number of developing countries.

6. In conclusion, his Government welcomed the substantial increase in the financial resources of UNFPA, as his Government was convinced of the need for a demographic policy established in accordance with the resources available.

7. Mr. PINO SANTOS (Cuba) welcomed the introduction of UNDP country programming and the development of regional, interregional and global activities. However, there was still a problem of a lack of definition in IPFs for the period 1977-1981. In recent sessions of the Governing Council, discussions had been held on the various IPF calculation systems proposed by the Administrator, but no general agreement had been reached. Differences stemmed from both the low level of UNDP resources, which was the determining factor, and the unsuitable methods of calculation for IPF distribution. Despite an increase in contributions to UNDP, there had scarcely been any increase in real

¹ See A/CONF.59/SR.1 and 2.

terms because of spiralling inflation and the international monetary crisis. Projecting forward to the year 1981 on the basis of a 9.2 per cent increase in resources, 100 = 1963, there would be a real increase of only \$62 million over those 18 years.

8. His delegation stressed once again that the way in which population and income variables were being used was incorrect and was bound to lead to bitterness and irritation among the developing countries. According to the illustrative IPF calculations recently submitted by the Administrator, for example, while the position of 47 countries with *per capita* incomes of less than \$200 would improve, that of a large group of countries with *per capita* incomes between \$200 and \$750 or over would deteriorate. It was essential, of course, that countries with *per capita* incomes under \$200 should improve their IPFs. That was necessary, right and just. His delegation reaffirmed its solidarity with those countries—particularly in Asia and Africa—which were in that situation. But it was equally important that countries with *per capita* incomes of between \$200 and \$750, and in some cases those with higher *per capita* incomes, should improve their IPFs because—among other reasons—they might be at the critical stage of economic “take-off” when international resources were more necessary and timely than ever. Nevertheless, the latest calculations, those submitted in June 1973 by the Administration, indicated that, for example, most Latin American countries would have lower IPFs for 1977-1981 than for 1972-1976—a clearly inadmissible situation. But that did not apply to Latin American countries alone: others, such as Guinea, Zambia and Algeria, would find their low IPFs further reduced. Calculations based on population and income should merely provide an initial working hypothesis, rather like the astrologers’ stars, which influenced but did not determine, as a starting point for the preparation of calculations that would take into account the specific problems faced by certain countries in promoting their development and, above all, the individual development effort of each country. One point of agreement was that 7.5 per cent of the resources available for IPFs should be distributed in accordance with the supplementary criteria, with special emphasis on the magnitude of the country’s development effort. Furthermore, the IPF calculations for 1977-1981 should make adjustments for inequities deriving from historical circumstances.

9. He welcomed the progress made concerning a draft omnibus statute for UNDP, and supported the proposal that assistance should be given to national liberation movements in countries under colonial rule. He regretted the difficulties hampering the progress of work of the United Nations Capital Development Fund, and welcomed measures to revitalize it.

10. The United Nations Volunteers programme would be all the more successful if it could remain free of imperialist pressures. His Government supported its aims and objectives, which should be fulfilled for the purpose of aiding the economic and social development of the developing countries.

11. His Government had always taken a very definite stand with regard to UNFPA. The Fund, created in the mid-1960s, when the issue of population growth had begun to command attention in certain circles, had been obliged to define its own personality very clearly in

order to avoid being mistaken for a neo-Malthusian instrument of certain ideological theories of purely imperialistic origin, according to which under-development was caused by so-called over-population and the problems of under-development could allegedly be solved by a birth-control policy. Obviously, such false, self-serving and unscientific theories could not prevail. The population growth rate of some developing countries and their over-population in relation to their existing resources were not the cause but the result of under-development. Under-development, in turn, was a historical, not a demographic, phenomenon, and was largely the outcome of centuries of exploitation of part of mankind by a group of capitalist—colonial and imperialist—Powers. That was why any solution to the problems of under-development had to begin with the liberation of the developing countries from the yoke of colonialism, neo-colonialism and imperialism. It had to begin there, with full independence, but as a process that went hand in hand with structural change and such economic and social measures as were fundamental to a true development programme. For certain countries, those measures must include consideration of a specific population policy. In that connexion, he was pleased to commend Mr. Salas and the officers of UNFPA for repeatedly stressing the principle that the Fund advocated no specific population policy but acted at the request of Governments, and that it recognized that population policies and programmes were not alternatives to or substitutes for economic and social development efforts, inasmuch as population planning was not—and could not be—an end in itself. In the short time available, his delegation had studied some of the reports of UNFPA, particularly the sections on the distribution of its resources by type of project and region. He had noted the percentage devoted to promoting lower fertility in some countries, but had also observed that an increasing proportion was being allocated, especially in Latin America, to demographic research and the promotion of mother-and-child projects. In the opinion of his delegation, the goal of UNFPA was to ensure that the geographic and qualitative structure of its programmes was gradually brought into line with the real needs of the developing countries until the two coincided. It should, and under its current management could, achieve that goal, despite the difficulties inherent in what was necessarily a complex task.

12. Mr. MEHDI (Pakistan) said that his country attached special significance to the role and efforts of UNDP in channelling multilateral assistance for the resolution of development problems, and therefore welcomed the recent pledges amounting to an 18 per cent increase in voluntary contributions. However, only 45 countries, not all of which were developed countries, had increased their voluntary contributions to UNDP, and he hoped that there would be an improvement on that figure at the 1974 Pledging Conference. Although he approved of the idea of the “disarmament dividend” mentioned by the Administrator, he doubted whether it could be implemented. Developed countries spent two and a half times as much on armaments as on development assistance. Even with less than 5 per cent of current military expenditure by the developed countries, the total amount of development assistance could be more than doubled. He expressed concern about financial resources because he believed

that it was the key to UNDP's achieving its full development potential.

13. He hoped that when UNDP chose new fields of activity they would be truly significant for the development efforts of the developing countries and that instruments could be evolved to provide the new assistance efficiently. His delegation supported UNDP measures taken concerning the problem of urban migration and the development and transfer of intermediate operative technology.

14. The procurement policies of the executing agencies were heavily biased in favour of certain developed countries. Even where the developing countries could compete with the products of the developed countries, preference was invariably given to the latter. A special effort should be made to draw requirements from within the country in which projects were being implemented. Similar injustice was to be found in the awarding of subcontracts. While respecting the level of expertise and product sophistication required, subcontracts and orders for equipment must be more equitably distributed.

15. While UNDP could not and should not interfere in the internal procedures of the agencies, it could use its influence to make them aware of the imperative need for a change in their policies. A series of seminars had been held with the executing agencies on the problem of the equitable distribution of opportunities to provide supplies and services, and he requested the Administration of UNDP to inform the Committee of the results of those discussions.

16. He noted with regret that while the total resources available for technical co-operation activities had increased between 1971 and 1972, the level of delivered programmes had in fact diminished and the number of experts in the field and fellowships awarded had gone down. The resources of the regular programme of technical assistance were undergoing a decline owing to world currency fluctuations and rising costs. He hoped that the study to be prepared by the Commissioner for Technical Co-operation for submission to the Governing Council at its eighteenth session would suggest ways and means of improving the performance and capacity of the Programme.

17. The decision adopted by the Governing Council at its sixteenth session regarding the calculation of IPFs represented a delicate balance between differing viewpoints, and he anxiously awaited its implementation and realization in a final set of figures at the seventeenth session of the Governing Council.

18. He supported the co-ordination of activities and the establishment of closer links between UNICEF and UNDP, and noted the five main recommendations deriving from the review of UNICEF experience in UNDP country programming. Pakistan, as a member of the Executive Board of UNICEF, had always been aware of the special role that UNICEF played in natural and man-made disasters, and had reason to remember its assistance during the tragic flooding in his country. His delegation supported UNICEF programmes covering a wide range of topics from mother and child care to drug abuse among children. He also supported the programme evaluation methods adopted by UNICEF, and requested information on any projects which had been considered failures or discarded as unfeasible after ini-

tial inputs had been made. His delegation would vote in favour of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1308.

19. He welcomed the revitalization of the United Nations Capital Development Fund as embodied in draft resolution A/C.2/L.1306, for which his delegation would vote. He supported the decision of the Governing Council that the Fund should be used primarily for the least developed countries, and hoped that contributions to the Fund would be in addition to contributions for UNDP.

20. He endorsed the decision of the Governing Council (see E/5365/Rev.1, para. 247) approving the rolling plan proposed by the Executive Director of UNFPA and authorizing him to programme up to an amount of \$108 million for the period 1973-1976. He welcomed the effort by UNFPA to co-ordinate the related components of assistance provided through the organizations of the United Nations system for population activities, and felt that the authority vested in the Executive Director to approve certain innovative and large-scale projects in consultation with the Administrator of UNDP would provide the necessary flexibility for the Executive Director in the discharge of his functions. More information should be made available on the forthcoming World Population Year and the activities of its secretariat should be strengthened. The world plan of action being prepared for the World Population Conference must be a comprehensive document dealing with all aspects of the problem and offering practical solutions.

21. The limited resources of WFP in relation to the demand for food aid had somewhat restricted its role. His delegation would vote in favour of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1298.

22. The United Nations Volunteers programme could make a substantial contribution to development and he supported the decision of the UNDP Administration to strengthen the recruitment process, improve pre-service training and expand field support. The programme had had initial difficulties due to limited resources and to the fact that Governments had had to bear the in-country costs of volunteers as charges against their IPFs. He was sure that those problems would soon be overcome and a highly efficient United Nations Volunteers programme would soon be an integral part of the over-all development process of the United Nations.

23. He introduced draft resolution A/C.2/L.1309 on behalf of the sponsors, who had been joined by Turkey, and commended it to the Committee.

24. Mr. OCHIRBAL (Mongolia) said his delegation shared the fairly optimistic view of UNDP's operational activities for development expressed by many other delegations. Through the efforts of the socialist countries and many developing countries, considerable advances had been made during the past few years towards democratization and the introduction of progressive new principles in UNDP activity which had made it considerably more popular among Member States and non-member States of the United Nations and had thus helped to strengthen its financial and organizational structures. Among the new measures introduced was country programming, designed to link UNDP assistance more closely to the priority tasks of the developing countries. Experience showed that its

introduction had not always been free from difficulties arising from the lack of experience and the complex nature of the task, and from the difficulty of accurately defining national priorities. The differences in conditions and problems in the developing countries and the different paths of development they had selected were also an important factor. However, such difficulties should not be used as pretext for direct or indirect interference in the internal affairs of developing countries by UNDP or any other United Nations organs. The sovereign rights of developing countries to determine the course of their economic and social development and the absolute prerogative of their Governments to define their priorities must be respected. The developing countries wished UNDP to be free from the influence of Western monopolies and to serve as a real instrument for protecting their economies from the harmful effects of the imperialist Powers.

25. Just allocation of IPFs was essential to the success of country programming. His delegation therefore welcomed the progress made in establishing criteria for calculating IPFs and felt that the new criteria approved by the Governing Council at its sixteenth session merited serious attention. Population size and *per capita* GNP were important in determining the development level and needs of a given country, but they should not be used automatically as the main criterion for calculating IPFs, without taking the specific nature of the programme into account. It was clear from the illustrative figures given for the Second United Nations Development Co-operation Cycle for 1977-1981, that more than half the IPFs for countries receiving UNDP assistance would be increased by from 7 per cent to 300 per cent, while the remainder would remain at their former level; taking inflation and the weak position of the dollar into account, the assistance that group of countries would receive would in fact be reduced.

26. Accordingly, his delegation had doubts as to the desirability of using population as a basic criterion for the calculation of IPFs, although it could of course serve as a supplementary criterion. Countries with high population density had priority in the allocation of assistance from UNFPA, and in any case high population density was rather an advantage than a short-coming, since man was the most valuable capital and the creator of material wealth. His delegation believed that such factors as absence of access to the sea, unfavourable ecological and geographical conditions and the necessity to eliminate inappropriate developments caused by historical conditions seriously impaired the economic development of the developing countries. It also supported the use in calculating IPFs of such criteria as the special needs of countries which had recently attained independence, the difficulties a given country encountered in participating in regional and subregional activity, the scale of its own development effort and the introduction of structural changes. Accordingly, his delegation would propose at the seventeenth session of the Governing Council that it should give serious consideration to taking such criteria into account in calculating the IPFs.

27. His delegation advocated the participation of all countries in UNDP activity as both contributors and recipients. There should be no division in that respect, with the exception of cases of aggression or of countries whose internal or foreign policies were in violation of

the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. In that connexion, his delegation believed that UNDP should halt the provision of assistance to Israel, which unlawfully occupied the territory of neighbouring Arab States and was a constant threat to international peace and security. On the other hand, UNDP should assist those countries which had recently achieved independence, as well as national liberation movements.

28. The recent détente between countries with opposing systems, the increased spirit of understanding and the growing desire for mutually advantageous long-term co-operation created favourable conditions for the activity of UNDP and the other international organizations related to it. His Government welcomed the useful work of UNICEF, and was prepared to do what it could to promote the successful achievement of its noble purposes.

29. One concrete manifestation of the recent détente in the world was the Soviet proposal for the reduction of 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 (agenda item 102). That proposal was motivated by the Soviet Union's sincere desire to promote détente and make it irreversible, thus providing a firm basis for universal peace, which was vital to economic and social progress. All United Nations organs should give the fullest attention to that proposal, and his delegation hoped that UNDP and UNICEF would take the initiative of popularizing the idea and thus promoting its earliest possible realization. The world community would welcome such action on their part, which would undoubtedly be supported by the majority of States Members of the United Nations.

30. Mrs. DE ZEA (Colombia) said that development assistance was one of the most important forms of international co-operation. Universality and continuity of multilateral assistance were extremely important, and any measure to freeze or reduce the volume of aid either globally or regionally would be contrary to the International Development Strategy and to the concept of global development. Her delegation therefore welcomed the satisfactory outcome of the recent Pledging Conference on UNDP and hoped that it marked the beginning of a new trend and the end of the era of stagnation in official development assistance.

31. The Administrator of UNDP, in his statement at the 1554th meeting, had made a valuable contribution to a new approach to development co-operation which would meet the needs of the developing countries more adequately. Her delegation fully endorsed the idea that technical assistance should in future be linked not only to growth but also to distribution of benefits. Economic independence was an important goal for development assistance, and UNDP's effort to place more emphasis on regional and global projects was also welcome. The link between disarmament and development was in line with current trends in international politics, and would offer the best proof that détente between the major Powers was of benefit to the countries of the third world.

32. Her delegation had reservations with respect to the consensus reached at the sixteenth session of the Governing Council of UNDP on the revised criteria for calculation of IPFs. Such important matters, affecting

the majority of the international community and constituting the very essence of the concept of international development co-operation, should be the responsibility of the General Assembly. Only by assisting all developing countries at all stages of development could UNDP fulfil the requirements of universality and continuity of international co-operation. There should be no discrimination against developing countries with a slightly higher income, since their income was in any case minimal in comparison with that of the industrialized countries. The adoption of such a criterion might lead to stagnation in the Latin American region. To use *per capita* income and population as basic criteria was an over-simplified solution; other variables should be taken into account, as well as the ways in which each country was particularly vulnerable, the critical sectors in its economic and social development and the idea of linking *per capita* income to the true levels of income redistribution, as IBRD had done. Her delegation shared the views expressed by the representative of Cuba on the subject. The freezing or reduction in the percentages allocated to certain countries would be still further aggravated by the international monetary situation, which would require readjustment of IPFs to counter the effects of devaluation, inflation and other factors affecting their real value. Her delegation hoped that marked inequalities at the regional and global level could be corrected in order to achieve a balance which would be of benefit to all developing countries, without the application of criteria which might restrict the development of countries of the third world.

33. Her delegation was a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1308 relating to a special pledging conference for UNICEF in 1974, and hoped that it would be adopted unanimously as a measure designed to support UNICEF's outstanding work.

34. Mr. RUDNIK (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that in the country programming exercise, which his delegation approved of, the Governments of developing countries must play a decisive role at all stages of programme preparation, and programmes must be closely linked to national development plans. Governments should retain their sovereign right to determine the types of assistance the programmes should include, the co-ordination of assistance in the field was the exclusive function of the recipient countries, not of the resident representatives of UNDP. Technical assistance programming was closely linked to development planning as a whole. A recent positive trend in United Nations assistance was the increased assistance in planning development both at the national level and at the regional level within each country. In that context, the experience of the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries, which had been the first to undertake successful and comprehensive economic and social planning on the national level, should not be ignored. Specialists from those countries should be included in expert planning groups.

35. The recommendations of the Governing Council at its sixteenth session on criteria for calculating IPFs for the 1977-1981 development cycle should be approved. While taking *per capita* income and population as the basic criteria, the Council had indicated that supplementary criteria, including the extent to which the Government was making structural changes to

promote the development process, and the distribution of income and other elements of the establishment of social justice, should also be taken into account.

36. Global, regional and interregional projects were important for promoting co-operation between developing countries and increasing the effectiveness of technical assistance to them. A comprehensive plan for such activity should be prepared, relating particularly to science and technology. His delegation hoped that the possibility of organizing such measures in the socialist countries with the support of their contributions to UNDP would be made full use of.

37. One serious short-coming of UNDP operational activity was that despite the adoption of General Assembly resolution 2823 (XXVI), too little attention was still paid to industrial development projects. The proper definition of UNDP priorities and goals, and in particular a closer link between its pre-investment projects and the industrial facilities provided for in national plans, would lead to more effective use of its resources. The establishment of pilot projects was important, since it would permit both the use of modern production techniques and the training of national personnel. It was regrettable that UNDP continued to concentrate in many cases on pre-investment projects and to pave the way for private capital, which could have no other goal than to derive the maximum profits from its operations in the developing countries. In that context, his delegation opposed the increased participation of IBRD in the activities of UNDP since the Bank's loans and credits were normally made at high interest rates and often led to chronic indebtedness and, in addition, were often used to bring political pressure to bear.

38. Mobilization of the internal resources of developing countries, including progressive taxation systems, was an important means of financing economic development. At the initiative of his delegation and a number of others, the General Assembly had adopted resolution 2562 (XXIV) on tax reform planning. His delegation continued to believe that taxation systems could be effectively strengthened only by increasing the taxation of national corporations and foreign capital, taxing the rich more heavily, establishing strict State control of income calculation and tax collection, and unifying taxation systems.

39. His delegation shared the view of the Administrator of UNDP that if agreement could be reached to beat swords into ploughshares, considerable financial resources would be released for assistance, and it wished in that context to draw attention yet again to the Soviet Union's proposal for the reduction of military budgets of States permanent members of the Security Council by 10 per cent and utilization of part of the funds thus saved for the provision of assistance to developing countries. The advantages the adoption of that proposal would have, both for those countries which reduced their military expenditure and for the developing countries, were clear. Another means of providing financing for developing countries would be for the imperialist countries to pay compensation for the vast damage they had caused to the former's peoples during the colonial period, and continued to cause through the methods of neo-colonialist exploitation.

40. UNDP should make projects more effective, in the first place by ensuring that they were better prepared, by more intensive periodic assessment of their

implementation, and by co-ordinating its activity with that of other agencies in the United Nations system. His delegation had always advocated the reduction of UNDP administrative costs and the overheads of the specialized agencies. Accordingly, it wished to propose that future administrative and overhead costs should be stabilized at the 1973 level, and also that the overheads of the specialized agencies in the implementation of UNDP projects should be reduced to the minimum, that their partial payment from the agencies' regular budgets should cease and that they should be paid in full from UNDP funds.

41. In its staffing policies and appointment of experts, UNDP should follow the principle of equitable geographical distribution and make maximum use of the experience of countries with different social and economic systems and at different levels of development. His delegation could not agree to the introduction of a career service for UNDP staff, which would relegate geographical distribution to second place. The preparation of the draft omnibus statute for UNDP had been excessively prolonged, and work on it should be completed at the seventeenth session of the Governing Council. The basic principles for UNDP activity should include universality of membership; contributions should be voluntary and Governments should have the right to pay them in national currency; assistance should not be provided to countries pursuing the policy of *apartheid* and racial discrimination or to those committing aggression. In particular, assistance should not be given to Israel, which continued its unlawful occupation of Arab lands. His delegation supported the provision of UNDP assistance to national liberation movements, as recommended in the relevant General Assembly resolutions.

42. The United Nations Secretariat continued to make little use of the Byelorussian SSR's possibilities for sending technical assistance experts to developing countries. His delegation hoped that the Secretary-General would take the necessary measures in that respect.

43. His delegation's position with regard to the regular programme of technical assistance remained unchanged; that programme should be transferred to UNDP and financed from voluntary contributions, thus increasing its effectiveness and avoiding duplication.

44. His delegation supported the activities of UNICEF, and his Government regularly contributed to its budget. The Byelorussian SSR attached great importance to the education and health of children, and could share its experience in that area. In full accordance with the directives of the twenty-fourth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, the Byelorussian SSR was each year increasing its exports to developing countries. In addition, the Byelorussian people and industry were making increasing use of imports of primary commodities, finished articles and semi-manufactures from the developing countries. His Government was prepared to continue contributing to the provision of assistance to the developing countries.

45. Mr. BENNANI (Morocco) said that partial implementation of the 1970 Consensus² had injected new life into UNDP. Country programming had enabled countries to co-ordinate the various sources of assis-

tance in the light of their own planning and priorities. However, the co-ordinating role of UNDP should be strengthened; greater co-ordination with all United Nations agencies would promote the implementation of both national and multinational projects, and national or multinational IPFs would be better used. At the stage of calculation of IPFs, co-ordination would ensure that certain countries did not receive too much; the case of Israel was a scandalously eloquent example, in that assistance to it enabled it to step up its aggression and its policy of hegemony. In his delegation's view, a GNP ceiling should be established, above which every country should become a net contributor to UNDP, thus releasing funds to promote the development of the least developed countries. His delegation also agreed that at least 25 per cent of UNDP resources should be reserved for the least developed countries, and that they should not be required to pay counterpart expenses for project implementation. They should also be given priority in the selection of regional projects. In regional projects, UNDP should give preference, depending on the nature of the project, to joint infrastructures or to integrated industrial action. In that context, co-ordination with the regional economic commissions and with UNIDO was essential, and the commissions' interdisciplinary advisers, as well as UNIDO's field advisers, had a role to play in that respect. Co-ordination should also be ensured when the IPF for a multinational programme was calculated.

46. The level of UNDP assistance to a number of countries had been considerably reduced by the latest monetary upheavals, *inter alia* because some contributions to it had been made in currencies which had become less acceptable. In his delegation's view, it would be desirable to base both contributions to UNDP and the assistance it provided on units of account which should themselves be based on a standard to be determined.

47. His delegation would vote for draft resolution A/C.2/L.1306 on the United Nations Capital Development Fund.

48. His Government attached great importance to the activities of UNICEF and to its contribution to the implementation of country programmes. His delegation supported draft resolution A/C.2/L.1308. The activities of UNFPA were oriented in the same direction, and his delegation unreservedly supported its achievements and prospects. The United Nations Volunteers programme pursued similar objectives, and his delegation, which had been a sponsor of General Assembly resolution 2659 (XXV), establishing the programme, endorsed any measure which would expand its activities; consequently, it was a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1309.

49. Mr. CAVAGLIERI (Italy) said his delegation regarded UNDP as a major instrument for channelling multilateral assistance to developing countries and strengthening co-operation between them and industrialized countries. His delegation had been among those which at recent sessions of the Governing Council had supported the creation of a package of measures aimed at providing further assistance for the least developed countries. Those measures had included utilization of the then meagre resources of the United Nations Capital Development Fund. In view of the new contributions to the Fund, the question should be

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

viewed in a different light, and the question arose of what should be done with the money. His delegation had never been in favour of special funds and agreed that the new resources should be employed for purposes not competitive with or replaceable by other sources such as international or regional development banks. It continued to believe that the function of UNDP was primarily planning and pre-investment and that direct financing should be conducted by other institutions, primarily the World Bank Group. Moreover, his delegation was aware that the main requirements of the least developed countries related to agriculture, in which much experience was still to be gained. Accordingly, his delegation would prefer to wait until a clear picture of the activity and orientation of the Capital Development Fund was available before it supported it.

50. His delegation would support draft resolution A/C.2/L.1308, relating to UNICEF, and regretted its inability to state whether, and if so, how much, its Government would be able to contribute to the attainment of the target figure of \$100 million by 1975.

51. His delegation had always supported the United Nations Volunteers programme, and his Government had adopted special legislation to encourage persons who wished to volunteer for work in developing countries. An increasing number of young Italians had enlisted with the International Secretariat for Volunteer Service, and were currently working in a number of countries. His delegation would therefore support draft resolution A/C.2/L.1309, although for the reasons he had already mentioned it had a general reservation with regard to the Special Voluntary Fund mentioned in paragraph 7.

52. Mrs. DE GROSSMAN (Dominican Republic) said that at the recent Pledging Conference her delegation had announced an increase of 40 per cent in its Government's contribution to UNDP. Her delegation welcomed the fact that UNDP was adopting practices capable of meeting the real needs of recipient countries. UNDP should receive sufficient resources to be able to translate national priorities into programmes and to ensure that its resources were distributed in the light of the relative needs of the various recipients.

53. Her delegation hoped that the Office of the Resident Representative at Santo Domingo would continue to co-operate with the Dominican Republic's planning authorities in the implementation of the country programme approved by the sixteenth session of the Governing Council, which was closely linked with the national economic and social development programme.

54. Her delegation endorsed the comments of other Latin American representatives with regard to the latest calculation of IPFs which showed an increase for 47 countries with a *per capita* income of less than \$200, while a large number of countries with *per capita* incomes between \$250 and \$750 had had their IPFs reduced. While her delegation supported an increased IPF for the former group of countries, it could not agree to the Latin American countries receiving for the 1977-1981 development cycle IPFs lower than those for the 1972-1976 cycle.

55. The country programming system was perhaps the best means found so far of enabling the international community to meet the needs of the developing countries. Assistance to the least developed countries

should continue, and her delegation hoped that the total volume of resources available to UNDP would be increased.

56. Her delegation congratulated UNICEF on its assistance, particularly to the poorest countries, in relation to their long-term programmes for mothers, children and adolescents. It was regrettable that UNICEF did not possess sufficient resources to expand its programmes, and her delegation appealed to other delegations to support draft resolution A/C.2/L.1308, of which it had become a sponsor. In the context of the International Development Strategy, UNICEF had set targets and priorities for children and adolescents, and attached particular importance to the strengthening of basic undertakings, in co-ordination with community programmes designed to improve health and nutrition services. The activities of UNICEF merited the support of all Member States, since the creation of a strong and healthy youth was important to the future social development and economic expansion of all countries.

57. Her delegation welcomed the progress made by the United Nations Volunteers programme in assigning volunteers to the field. It would vote for draft resolution A/C.2/L.1309.

58. The expression of support for the United Nations Development Fund by a number of developing countries was encouraging. Her Government continued to support the principles which had led to the establishment of the Fund, and her delegation reiterated its appeal to the developed countries to change their attitude to it. Her delegation wished to become a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1306, which it hoped would be adopted unanimously.

59. Mr. KACIMAIWAI (Fiji) said that his Government was grateful for the continuing assistance it received from UNDP and hoped that the present level of assistance to developing countries would be maintained or even raised over the coming years. In response to the request of the Secretary-General and the Administrator of UNDP for increased financial contributions to UNDP, his Government had increased its contribution by 10 per cent for 1974. Adequate funding was a prerequisite for the successful execution of operational activities for development. His delegation therefore welcomed the initiative of those delegations that had increased their pledges to UNDP for 1974, thus enabling an 18 per cent increase in the Programme's working capital for 1974 to be achieved. His delegation hoped that the same spirit of co-operation and international goodwill would continue to prevail, and appealed to all delegations, particularly those of the advanced industrial countries, to further increase their pledges in 1974 so that the International Development Strategy target of 0.7 per cent of GNP could be achieved, thus enabling UNDP to achieve the annual increase target figure of 9.6 per cent set by the Governing Council.

60. His delegation noted with appreciation the initiative of seven developed countries in making separate voluntary contributions for the least developed countries. Economic assistance to those countries, and to developing countries in general, must be sufficiently substantial to enable those countries to reach the economic take-off point. It was important for the success of UNDP country programmes that priorities, objectives and goals should be set by the countries concerned. Technical assistance should be used exclu-

sively for the purpose of achieving those goals. Although his delegation supported the channelling of special assistance to the least developed countries, it was opposed to channelling resources for that purpose at the expense of other developing countries. The present criteria for identifying the least developed countries were not altogether satisfactory, and the list of those countries³ had been established in a somewhat arbitrary way.

61. He drew the Committee's attention once again to the problems of small island nations and endorsed the concern expressed in that connexion by the representatives of Malta and Australia. Special assistance from UNDP to the Pacific Islands would be negligible, since in the South Pacific region only Western Samoa was considered as a least developed country. Yet that region included the largest group of small island nations and emerging nations, whose social and economic problems were even more acute than those of larger developing countries in view of their small size, limited economic resources, isolation from world markets, small home markets, lack of economic diversification, heavy dependence on a small number of primary commodities and the adverse effects of recent inflationary trends. In certain developing countries that did not qualify for special assistance there were rural and urban areas that were just as depressed as those in the least developed countries. Furthermore, many of the islands in the South Pacific were struck regularly by natural disasters. Consequently, his delegation again appealed to the Committee and to the Administrator of UNDP to take into account the economic and social plight and the special problems of those islands when establishing future IPFs.

62. His Government had made a regular annual contribution to UNICEF, and strongly supported its enlightened efforts to further the development of the greatest resource on earth, human talent.

63. He expressed his delegation's continuing support of WFP from which Fiji continued to benefit. The work done by WFP in collaboration with FAO and other agencies was vital to the development of the many depressed rural areas in the developing countries, and could make an important contribution to improving the quality and conditions of life in rural and agricultural areas and to increasing total agricultural production. Such action was essential if rural poverty was to be overcome.

64. His Government commended the work done by the volunteer services operating under the auspices of the United Nations. However, it had long standing volunteer service arrangements with New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States and would therefore not be able to give financial support to those services.

65. Turning to population activities, he said that his Government had been conducting a successful family planning campaign for many years. Since the creation of an economic surplus was essential for development, the establishment of equilibrium between population and resources was vital for sustained economic growth. UNFPA could undoubtedly make an important contribution to the achievement of social and economic development in the developing countries.

66. Mr. ABDEDDAÏM (Algeria) said that his Government was pleased at the co-operation which existed between Algeria and UNDP. The Administrator and the Governing Council had spared no effort to improve the Programme along the lines laid down by the Consensus of June 1970. With a view to improving the impact of the Programme's activities, he wished to draw attention to some difficulties encountered by his Government during the first programming period. Algeria had been one of the first countries to accept the first country programming cycle, even though implementation of its national development plan had been well under way at the time. It had learned to its great regret that some executing agencies had, for a variety of reasons, not been able to implement the projects entrusted to them. In particular, the lack of experts capable of assessing project implementation within the required time-limit compromised the success of programming, which should be closely linked with the achievement of the priority objectives of national development plans. In order to remedy that situation, it was a matter of urgent necessity to modify the agencies' present recruitment procedures. That question should be studied in collaboration with the Governments of Member States. Furthermore, improvement of the structural arrangements made by each country to receive technical assistance was a prerequisite for the success of programming. In that connexion, tripartite co-operation between Governments, UNDP and the agencies concerned in the examination of projects would promote optimal utilization of resources and enable those projects that best lent themselves to multilateral co-operation to be identified.

67. The material and equipment required for projects was often supplied by several different countries and companies. Once international assistance had ended, national counterpart services were faced with the difficulties resulting from the absence of after-sales services. Buying procedures should therefore be rationalized, and recipient countries should have a greater degree of autonomy in deciding on the type and form of assistance they wished to receive and, in particular, on the origin of equipment supplied under subcontracting arrangements.

68. The result of the recent Pledging Conference bore witness to the international community's confidence in UNDP as an instrument for international co-operation. His delegation hoped that the increase in the level of UNDP resources would result in a more adequate examination of IPFs. His Government had studied the new IPFs envisaged for 1977-1981 and shared the view that the method used to calculate IPFs on the basis of GNP and population figures was too theoretical. Other criteria, such as the national development efforts, the introduction of structural reforms aimed at greater social justice, and absorption capacity, should also be taken into account.

69. His delegation wished to stress the anomalous situation that existed with regard to the granting of assistance through UNDP and the specialized agencies to the Zionist State of Israel, whose policy of permanent aggression against the Arab States, systematic pillage of the natural resources of the occupied territories and inhuman exploitation of the Arab population in those territories handicapped the development efforts of the States of that region. His Government

³ *Ibid.*, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 7, para. 66.

called for the suspension of all multilateral assistance by UNDP and the specialized agencies to that aggressor country, so often condemned by the United Nations.

70. With regard to the United Nations Capital Development Fund, his Government fully shared the view that the Fund's resources should be used primarily for the least developed countries. Used in that way, the Fund should serve not only to promote co-operation between developed and developing countries, but should also foster co-operation between the developing countries themselves. The importance of such co-operation had been stressed by the Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries held at Algiers from 5 to 9 September 1973, and his delegation joined with those that had appealed to all countries, particularly the developed countries, to make substantial contributions to the Fund. In that context, his delegation supported draft resolution A/C.2/L.1306.

71. A special tribute should be paid to the work of WFP, which had saved hundreds of thousands of human beings in many regions of the world from famine and had improved the situation of the underprivileged layers of society in many developing countries. His delegation hoped that WFP would benefit from far more substantial contributions that would enable all the projects which had already been approved to be implemented.

72. Algeria was a member of the Executive Board of UNICEF, which performed commendable work in the fields of nutrition, health and pre-school education. It was for that reason that his delegation had become a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1308.

73. His delegation was appreciative of the co-operation provided through UNFPA, which should take due account of national population policies when meeting requesting countries' needs.

74. Mr. KIRSHI (Yemen) said that the confidence placed in UNDP as a vital institution for multilateral development aid had been demonstrated by the solidarity of the international community at the recent Pledging Conference.

75. His delegation, which welcomed the special measures in favour of the least developed countries, wished to make a few comments of a technical nature in that regard. The use of the concept of absorptive capacity had unfortunately resulted in reluctance on the part of some multilateral aid agencies to provide assistance, on the grounds that the recipient country did not have sufficient administrative and technical ability. UNDP should focus its attention on assisting countries to improve the scope of planning and the quality of the administrative machinery responsible for implementing development programmes. It was gratifying to note that UNDP had responded favourably to the efforts made by his country to move in that direction, and had decided to finance, from the funds set aside for special measures, programmes designed to improve Yemen's administrative capability and to develop manpower resources.

76. The least developed countries needed help specifically designed to deal with their special problems. Sustained efforts should be made to improve and strengthen UNDP machinery in order to minimize red tape and ensure implementation of projects within the

prescribed time. The resident representatives had a crucial role to play in that respect, and his delegation welcomed the steps taken by the Administrator to assign the most experienced and best qualified staff to offices serving the least developed countries.

77. His delegation attached great importance to the humanitarian activities of UNICEF, urged all Member States to contribute generously to the Fund and was pleased to announce that it was a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1308.

78. He expressed his delegation's appreciation of the remarkable achievements of the United Nations Volunteers programme and of the valuable assistance provided to Yemen by WFP.

79. He reiterated his delegation's position concerning United Nations technical assistance given to the Zionist State of Israel. That position was neither sentimental nor politically motivated, but stemmed from facts and economic figures and statistics. In addition to its defiance of the international will, its disregard of General Assembly resolutions and its continuous policy of expansion, occupation and exploitation of the natural resources of three Member States, Israel in purely economic terms was not a developing country. Its *per capita* income for 1970 had been almost \$2,000 higher than that of some developed countries. Accordingly, any assistance given to Israel was incompatible with the criteria for calculating IPFs established by the Governing Council itself.

80. His delegation welcomed the initiative to revitalize the United Nations Capital Development Fund and wished to join the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1306.

81. Mr. OLIVERI LOPEZ (Argentina) expressed his delegation's disappointment that the compromise target of an annual increase of 9.6 per cent in voluntary contributions to UNDP had not been achieved. Although his delegation maintained its critical opinion of some contributors, from whom greater support might legitimately be expected, it considered that the results of the recent Pledging Conference gave some cause for optimism. If the 18 per cent rate of increase was maintained, it should be possible to reduce the deficit that was expected for 1976. However, the financial problem subsisted and was aggravated by the substantial increase in operational costs as a result of inflation.

82. His Government, which was not a member of the Governing Council and had not yet adhered to the consensus reached concerning the guidelines for calculating IPFs, had reservations with regard to the basic criteria in question. It shared the concern of other delegations on that question and trusted that the supplementary criteria, particularly those relating to structural changes aimed at greater social justice, would be given increasing weight when IPFs were finally set. It also trusted that no recipient country would be allocated lower IPFs than for the 1972-1976 cycle. It would support all measures taken to ensure rational utilization of resources, while endorsing the agreement that 25 per cent of the resources available for IPFs should be allocated to the least developed countries.

83. It was vitally important that UNDP should orient its activities and adjust its machinery to better meet the changing needs of all the developing countries. In that respect, his delegation endorsed the Administrator's

conclusions regarding the beneficial results of the country programming approach and agreed that such an approach would only enable significant progress to be made in so far as it was effective in loosening the developing countries' traditional bonds of dependence.

84. The concept of universality should preside over all UNDP efforts. In that connexion, his delegation attached the utmost importance to co-operation between developing countries based on the principle of self-reliance with mutual help. That new trend was the most significant of the times and was already clearly reflected in various bodies of the United Nations system. It had led to the establishment of the Working Group on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2974 (XXVII), whose work would certainly give new impetus to relations between developing countries and serve the cause of greater economic and political independence for those countries. His delegation was confident that UNDP would take appropriate steps to promote mutual assistance among those countries, thus enabling them to become less dependent on the developed countries for expert and consultant services and for the purchase of equipment. As had been stressed by several delegations, the trend should be towards a more reasonable geographical distribution in respect of both subcontracting and the acquisition of equipment. That aspect of technical assistance co-operation among developing countries included several particularly promising fields, such as the development of ability through education and training at the professional level, and the adaptation, transfer and development of technology. Through its regional and global programmes, UNDP could play the role of protagonist in those fields.

85. UNDP should energetically promote horizontal co-operation by helping countries and institutions to establish contacts with one another, reviewing their programmes when necessary, acting as a clearing-house for information, and exercising imagination in devising new financial machinery for mobilizing the resources of both the Programme and the developing countries. His delegation was confident that those tasks would be tackled within the framework of the new UNDP machinery needed to replace the traditional machinery that had outlived its usefulness.

86. His delegation fully agreed that the United Nations Capital Development Fund, which had received the material and moral support of his Government since its establishment, should be used primarily to meet the needs of the least developed countries. It was a matter of concern to his Government that the efforts made to carry out special measures in favour of those countries had not resulted in a significant improvement of their economic situation. His delegation trusted that the example set by a few developed countries would enable the Fund's resources to be substantially increased. It also considered that the Fund should be used as an instrument to promote co-operation between the developing countries. Since that idea was clearly embodied in the last preambular paragraph of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1306, his delegation not only supported the draft resolution but also wished to join as one of its sponsors.

87. His delegation reserved its right to comment on the other operational activities when the Committee considered the relevant draft resolutions.

88. Mr. AL-KHUDHAIRY (Iraq) said that the comment by the Administrator of UNDP that development assistance appeared to have become a low priority issue in many developed countries was borne out by the facts. The relative amount of development assistance was decreasing and the objectives of the Second United Nations Development Decade were not being achieved. That unfortunate and negative trend must be halted. The encouraging results of the recent Pledging Conference on UNDP were a step in the right direction. His delegation agreed with the Administrator that disarmament could have an important impact on the amount of resources allocated to development. It was estimated that less than 5 per cent of current military expenditure could more than double the total amount available for development assistance. The proposal by the Soviet Union that States permanent members of the Security Council should reduce their military budgets by 10 per cent and utilize part of the funds thus saved to provide development assistance to the developing countries should therefore be adopted and implemented as quickly as possible.

89. It was encouraging to note that more and more assistance was being provided through multilateral channels, since that type of assistance was the most neutral and beneficial to the developing countries. His delegation welcomed the Programme's recognition of the exclusive responsibility of countries in formulating their national development plans. It also commended the substantial shift of responsibility away from Headquarters to the resident representatives.

90. His Government attached great importance to regional and interregional projects, and welcomed the Administrator's intent to put greater emphasis on that type of project. In that respect, he drew attention to the meagre resources allocated to the so-called "Europe, Mediterranean and the Middle East" region as compared with those allocated to the other geographical regions. The funds available for regional projects there were below the amount needed to meet existing requests. The smallness of the IPFs allocated to that region had been recognized by UNDP itself. His delegation considered that the resources available for regional IPFs for the 1977-1981 period should be allocated among the various regions in proportion to the total IPFs for all countries within each region for the same period. It called for an increase in the proportion of resources allocated to its region for that period. Furthermore, it requested the Administrator to reconsider the present arrangement by which countries of different geographic groupings were placed under one regional heading. The "Europe, Mediterranean and the Middle East" grouping was anomalous, since it comprised countries with different political and historical backgrounds and different levels of development; furthermore, one of those countries could not under any criteria be considered as a developing country. It was difficult to understand the reason for that anomaly, since every other geographical region comprised countries that were actually situated in the region concerned. His delegation could not see any valid reason why the 16 Arab countries should not be placed under one separate regional grouping, and accordingly re-

quested the Administrator to study the problem thoroughly.

91. His delegation was pleased at the increasing assistance given by UNICEF to developing countries in the field of social welfare. It agreed with the Executive Board's view that UNICEF should give special attention to the very young and to women, and also supported UNICEF activities in the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam. The efforts of UNICEF should be concentrated on food, health and education and it should maintain close working relations with the other technical organizations in the United Nations family. Greater use should be made of national and regional technical, scientific and academic institutions and other voluntary agencies in programme evaluation. His delegation shared the view that a special pledging conference for UNICEF should be convened in 1974.

92. The United Nations Volunteers programme could render valuable assistance to the developing countries and should ultimately assume the principal responsibility for its own recruitment although UNDP should continue to provide every possible assistance to ensure its rapid expansion and progressive integration in United Nations-assisted projects. The Co-ordinator should continue his efforts to recruit more volunteers from the developing countries.

93. His Government attached great importance to special measures for the least developed countries, and noted with regret that the developed countries still chose to ignore the United Nations Capital Development Fund, the effectiveness of which had diminished as a result of decreasing contributions. He appealed to the industrialized countries to contribute directly to the Fund, to which his Government had contributed \$10,000 in 1973.

94. His delegation noted that the IPFs for a number of developing countries had been too low, and hoped that the present figures would be revised and that new criteria would be adopted for calculating the new figures.

95. Turning to the question of UNDP assistance to Israel, he said it was comforting to note that the Administrator had taken careful note of the arguments and feelings expressed in the Governing Council and the Committee, and that no IPFs had been allocated to Israel for the period 1977-1981. However, his delegation urged the Administrator to look carefully into the question of extending any form of assistance to Israel during the present cycle. Israel had not changed its aggressive expansionist policies against the Arab countries. It had not accepted or abided by any of the General Assembly resolutions on the question of the Arab territories it occupied. It continued to exploit the human and natural resources of those occupied territories in defiance of United Nations resolutions and in contravention of the principle of permanent sovereignty of States over their natural resources. It had gone even further in its policy of aggression and aggrandizement, and the latest events in the Middle East clearly demonstrated the vile nature of its policies. It was now occupying more Arab territories and showed no signs of withdrawing from them in compliance with Security Council resolutions. Any assistance granted to aggressive and expansionist Israel by any organization would enable Israel to divert more of

its resources to the permanent annexation and colonization of the occupied territories. Provision of assistance to Israel was incompatible with the purposes of the Charter of the United Nations, was an affront to justice, and was tantamount to implicit support for Israel's policy of aggression and expansion. Furthermore, Israel was at an advanced stage of development. Its *per capita* GNP was higher than that of some highly developed countries. It had reached a high level of technological development, particularly in the field of sophisticated arms manufacture. It exported arms to many parts of the world, including the racist Government of South Africa, the colonialist Government of Portugal and the white minority régime in Southern Rhodesia. Israeli arms were being used against African freedom fighters. His delegation therefore called for Israel's exclusion from all forms of United Nations assistance.

96. Miss RAMOS (Venezuela) said that the criteria for determining the UNDP IPFs should be broad enough to assess the real needs for international technical co-operation of each country. *Per capita* GNP and population should be taken into account in calculating IPFs; they should not, however, be the only factors considered in determining the economic and social situation of a country. Equally important were the structure and composition of the economy, the country's efforts to achieve real development with an equitable distribution of income and a systematic reduction of the unemployment rate, and its willingness and efforts to share its experience with other developing countries. More attention should certainly be paid to the least developed countries; that did not mean, however, that international assistance to the other developing countries should be lessened. It should, on the contrary, complement the national efforts of those countries.

97. Venezuela believed that a country which received assistance for development in a given sector had a duty to share the experience thus gained with other developing countries, especially those in the same region. All developing countries should contribute to, and benefit from, mutual assistance efforts. In other words, all should be donors and recipients of technical co-operation according to their capabilities. Venezuela gave high priority to technical co-operation with other developing countries and had regular meetings with many countries in the region on concrete projects of mutual assistance. That co-operation was also being extended to developing countries in other regions because the Venezuelan Government firmly believed that it should have an interregional scope.

98. In increasing co-operation between developing countries, UNDP should attempt to strengthen not only the ties between Governments, but those between scientific and technical institutions of those countries. Co-operation between developing countries should not, however, replace or compete with existing bilateral and multilateral programmes; they should, on the contrary, complement them. Furthermore, resources earmarked for regional projects should bring about sustained development for the entire region; her delegation reiterated its support for those projects which grouped, within one geographical area, various countries at different stages of development and which enabled them to share their experiences in a given field. In that con-

nexion her delegation wished to suggest that national projects which had received UNDP assistance and which had proved satisfactory should be converted into regional or interregional projects in order to share the successes with other countries.

99. Mr. MOHAMMED (Nigeria) said that one of the gravest problems that had faced UNDP in recent years was the threat of a possible deficit of \$80 million to \$100 million at the close of the first development cycle in 1976, due to inflation and to the fact that although the Programme had been authorized to plan its operations on the assumption of a 9.6 per cent annual increase in resources, actual voluntary contributions had, in fact, failed to match that assumption. That had led the General Assembly to invite those donor Governments whose contributions had lagged behind in recent years to increase their contributions by at least 15 per cent annually. It was therefore gratifying to note that voluntary contributions indicated for 1974 were likely to be 18 per cent above those for 1973. With the threat of a deficit removed, both the Administration and Member States should attempt to ensure the achievement of the goal of doubling the Programme's resources to about \$500 million in 1975.

100. The reorganization of the Programme had been intended to enable it to cope with the expected expansion of its operations. It had therefore been disheartening to hear the complaints of Malaysia regarding delays in implementing that country's programme. The Administrator should undertake an urgent investigation so that similar delays would not recur with respect to other programmes.

101. Some members of the Governing Council of UNDP believed that it was crucial for all country programmes to be presented before 1974. Nigeria believed that the Administrator should have a free hand in working out the most convenient time-table with Governments, depending on the particular circumstances of each case.

102. His delegation supported the Administrator in his intention to intensify his efforts with respect to global and regional agricultural research projects aimed at producing higher yielding grains, utilization research for crops facing competition from synthetics, and research aimed at enabling the developing countries to participate in the exploitation of the resources of the sea.

103. While Nigeria welcomed the result of the work done at the sixteenth session of the Governing Council with regard to the problem of equitable criteria for determining IPFs for all categories of countries, care should be taken to ensure that the supplementary criteria were, as far as possible, quantifiable, and would not expose the Administrator to possible charges of interference in the domestic affairs of Member States.

104. The Administration and Governing Council of UNDP were to be congratulated on being able to set aside, during 1972, \$35 million to meet the needs of the least developed countries and on being able to act with other international agencies to deal with the drought emergency in the Sudano-Sahelian region.

105. His delegation welcomed the courageous efforts to give new life to the United Nations Capital Development Fund and hoped that the Fund would gain wider

support. It agreed that its revitalization need not create any problem for the efficient administration of UNDP.

106. His Government had begun co-operation with UNFPA in connexion with its national census and was grateful for the Fund's assistance. Nigeria continued to emphasize that population policies must spring from the national plans and priorities of recipient Governments.

107. Nigeria appreciated the value of the work of UNICEF in safeguarding the interests of children, adolescents and mothers, the most precious natural resource of mankind. It was therefore happy to support draft resolution A/C.2/L.1308 calling for a special pledging conference to facilitate the attainment of the target figure of \$100 million in UNICEF resources by 1975.

108. Miss BENNATON (Honduras) said that her delegation was particularly pleased that the Latin American countries had substantially increased their contributions to UNDP at the recent Pledging Conference. That was an indication that the Latin American countries desired greater participation of UNDP in their national efforts for economic and social development. The increase in contributions by the developed countries could be even greater, taking into account the regrettable period of constant variations in currency exchange rates and considering that sustained growth in the economies of the developing countries was possible only through an increase in available resources. On the other hand, there was concern in Latin America with respect to the new orientation in the distribution of resources which seemed to set aside certain essential principles of the Programme. Her delegation believed that regional interests should not be jeopardized and that the system of country programming should continue to take into account development needs as defined by the respective countries and on the basis of rational criteria. Furthermore, national plans should be complemented by adequate interregional or sub-regional projects.

109. Honduras had benefited greatly from the activities of the various United Nations programmes and had co-ordinated its efforts with the United Nations in order to further the country's economic and social development. The United Nations bodies concerned with operational activities for development played an active role in the national development plans of Honduras especially with regard to natural resources—such as agriculture, minerals and forestry—and the solution of human, social and cultural problems.

110. Her delegation wished to suggest that UNDP, along with the industrialized countries or those which had positive experience in various programmes, could share that experience with the countries which needed it. For example, countries like Honduras could benefit from the experience of the Nordic countries with respect to forestry, and Iceland's experience in fishing could contribute to the solution of various food problems in countries with rapidly increasing populations.

111. Her delegation also believed that it would be interesting to determine what were the psychological factors which led to hard work and what were their effects on economic and social development. Finally, operational activities for development required co-ordination at the highest possible level in order to

achieve effective results for the benefit of the developing countries.

112. Mr. QUARTIN SANTOS (Portugal), exercising his right of reply, said that the representative of Zaire had stated that there were 1 million refugees from Angola in his country. That figure, as stated in paragraph 49 of the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees⁴ was the total number of all refugees in Africa in 1972.

113. Mr. ELIASHIV (Israel), exercising his right of reply, said that the Arab delegations knew that their allegations were distortions and had no relation to the facts. The statement by his delegation in the general debate in the Committee (1520th meeting) provided sufficient information pertinent to the reference by the representative of Iraq to the IPFs of the second cycle.

114. Mr. AL-KHUDHAIRY (Iraq), speaking in exercise of his right of reply, said that he was sorry that the Committee had to listen to such distortions. He wished to ask the representative of Israel just who was occupying whose lands and why 27 independent African countries had broken off relations with Israel.

115. Mr. ZAHARAN (Egypt), exercising his right of reply, said that it appeared that the representative of Israel was not ashamed of repeating his distortions. Everyone knew that Israel was occupying parts of Egypt, Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic and was

⁴ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 12.

usurping the natural resources of those countries. The continuation of that aggression compelled those States to use their resources for purposes of defence rather than for development. It was time that the leaders of Israel changed their attitude and respected their neighbours' sovereignty, territorial integrity and rights over natural resources. Israel had turned a deaf ear to decisions of WHO, the General Assembly and the Security Council. Its practice of gradual annexation and colonization of occupied territories was the reason for Israel's international isolation. That policy ran counter to the principles of the United Nations and was a threat to peace and security in the Middle East and the world. Because of its aggression and its refusal to withdraw from the territories of three Arab States, Members of the United Nations, Israel was responsible for the current energy crisis in the world. It appeared that that situation would be aggravated as long as Israel continued its aggression. Furthermore, Israel was not a developing country and did not deserve UNDP assistance. Any assistance received by Israel should be paid back and be redistributed to needy countries, especially the least developed countries.

116. The CHAIRMAN announced that Nepal had become a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1306, Gabon and Laos had become sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1308 and the Dominican Republic had become a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1309.

The meeting rose at 7.10 p.m.

1561st meeting

Monday, 19 November 1973, at 10.45 a.m.

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

A/C.2/SR.1561

AGENDA ITEM 49

Operational activities for development (*continued*)
(A/9003 and Corr.1, chap. VI; A/C.2/L.1311):

- (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, A/C.2/L.1309);
- (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. Mr. CHANDLER (Barbados) announced that his delegation wished to become a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1308, relating to UNICEF.

2. His Government attached considerable importance to UNDP and would continue to support the Programme through its annual voluntary contributions. It welcomed the efforts to ensure that the resources of UNDP were utilized as effectively as possible and

hoped that the Programme would not suffer from a lack of adequate resources in future years.

3. The country programming system provided valuable technical assistance within the context of the development plans of recipient countries; it had created a priority-conscious approach to development within recipient Governments and had required them to identify key problem areas and to determine what development efforts should be emphasized to accelerate growth and maximize benefits. As a developing country, Barbados looked forward to continuing assistance from UNDP under the country programming system.

4. From the outset his Government had been concerned at the use of population and *per capita* income as the criteria for determining indicative planning figures (IPFs). Taken alone, *per capita* gross national product (GNP) was not a reliable indicator. Barbados had a *per capita* income of approximately \$700, a relatively high figure in the UNDP context. However, that obscured the fact that the Barbadian economy was small, the economic structure was not diversified, the country lacked adequate resources to permit any great degree of specialization, and its economy was excessively dependent on external demand for its goods and services. Fluctuating capital inflows and an unstable interna-