

69. At its twenty-seventh session, the General Assembly had recognized the need for the executing agencies to speed up their delivery and to scrutinize possible constraints on their operational capacity, in accordance with the principles laid down in the consensus (resolution 2975 (XXVII)). Some of the agencies had apparently decided to consider that problem, but much remained to be done. The implementation rate had not improved significantly since 1972 and was still at an unacceptably low level. While the United Nations had previously been among the executing agencies with the highest implementation rate, it was now among those with the lowest rate. Her delegation would like to know what measures the United Nations itself had taken to implement resolution 2975 (XXVII). The difficulty experienced by an agency in performing its task on time could have serious consequences for those countries which needed to accelerate their development process, and their entire programme could be disrupted. Furthermore, if it was shown that the United Nations system was incapable of performing the tasks for which resources were available, there would be little incentive for the developed countries to increase their contributions. She hoped that the UNDP and UNFPA sec-

retariats were aware of the seriousness of the situation and would act accordingly, and that the executing agencies would also realize their responsibility. Another possibility would, of course, be direct contracting outside the United Nations system and greater responsibility for the recipient countries themselves in running the programmes.

70. The first review and appraisal had not given much cause for joy in the field of development assistance. It was therefore all the more gratifying to see the progress made by multilateral assistance, which in 1972 had amounted to 22 per cent of the total flow of assistance. Multilateral assistance was free from any political or economic ties and was governed by intergovernmental organs where donors and recipients decided on the content and direction of the assistance programmes in a democratic manner. As many speakers had stressed, the recent Pledging Conference had been a clear vote of confidence by the international community not only in the administration of the programmes and the ongoing reform process but also in multilateral co-operation as such.

*The meeting rose at 1.20 p.m.*

## 1559th meeting

Friday, 16 November 1973, at 10.55 a.m.

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

A/C.2/SR.1559

### 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. LUCHTERHAND (German Democratic Republic) said that UNDP fulfilled an important function by promoting more and more effectively the economic development of the developing countries. His delegation had noted that the view of the Administrator on the question of military expenditures came close to the Soviet proposal that the military budgets of States permanent members of the Security Council should be reduced by 10 per cent and that part of the funds thus saved should be utilized to provide assistance to developing countries (agenda item 102).

2. His delegation believed that UNDP's effectiveness depended essentially on how it implemented its principles in practice and on how it made its activities corres-

pond to the development targets set by countries; it also depended on the rational use of the financial resources available to it and on its capacity to promote long-term stable socio-economic development in the developing countries.

3. UNDP, which was an integral part of the United Nations system of organs dealing with economic, scientific and technological co-operation and development, was bound to comply with the recommendations and decisions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and its own Governing Council, in particular, by observing and implementing the principles of co-operation among States laid down in the Charter of the United Nations, above all the principles of the equality of States and of non-interference in their internal affairs.

4. His delegation, too, thought that the introduction of country programming and indicative planning figures (IPFs) had enabled UNDP to make more rational use of the financial resources at its disposal. It believed that, in accordance with the provisions of the annex to General Assembly resolution 2688 (XXV), it was the responsibility of the Governments of the States concerned to formulate the programmes for their countries. If those States wished, the UNDP resident representatives could help them.

5. Like many other delegations, his delegation was strongly opposed to UNDP preparing programmes for States which continually violated the resolutions and decisions of the principal organs of the United Nations and felt that it should urgently take the necessary steps,

in close co-operation with OAU, to help the movements which were struggling for national liberation in the countries still under the colonial yoke.

6. With regard to the criteria to be used in calculating IPFs for the period 1977-1981, his delegation believed that the decision taken by the Governing Council at its sixteenth session (see E/5365/Rev.1, para. 90) represented important progress. He also supported the decision taken at the fifteenth session (see E/5256 and Corr.1, para. 108) to allocate 25 per cent of the total resources to the least developed among the developing countries.

7. At the 1973 Pledging Conference on UNDP and the United Nations Capital Development Fund,<sup>1</sup> the delegation of the German Democratic Republic had pledged 2 million marks for 1974. In the view of his delegation, UNDP should make the maximum use of the experience and potential of the socialist countries to achieve the targets it had set itself. For that reason, his delegation had noted with some astonishment that the Programme was still not drawing sufficiently on experts from socialist States and was not fully utilizing the means made available to it by those countries. The German Democratic Republic was prepared to co-operate with UNDP and to let the latter benefit from the experience which it had acquired in the field of economic and technological assistance to the developing countries.

8. Mr. MÜEZZINOĞLU (Turkey) said that, in view of the complexity of the development process, it was important to co-ordinate all efforts in that field if the resources available were to be utilized properly and the proposed objectives achieved. On the one hand, the efforts of international organizations should be in line with those undertaken at the national level and, on the other, their activities should be harmonized within the framework of global and country programmes. For that reason, his delegation attached great importance to the co-ordination of the operational activities of UNDP and those of other international organizations in order to avoid any duplication and confusion. The Administration of UNDP had made laudable efforts in that direction and it was to be hoped that the work undertaken on the draft omnibus statute of UNDP would provide an opportunity to strengthen its co-ordination machinery.

9. The encouraging results obtained at the latest Pledging Conference exceeded the targets set in some previous General Assembly resolutions and testified to the desire of the international community to improve the present conditions in the world. His delegation believed that the criteria laid down by the Governing Council for the utilization of the funds available should be further elaborated in order to ensure a more effective and more equitable distribution of the funds. Particular attention should be paid to the least developed among the developing countries and most of the resources of the United Nations Capital Development Fund should be used for their benefit. However, with regard to the distribution of those resources and the orientation of the over-all activities of UNDP, priority should be given to those countries which made special efforts to promote their own development by using the resources available to them and making the necessary structural changes. The assistance given to countries in planning

and development should accord with the priorities which they themselves had established.

10. His delegation agreed with the Administrator that UNDP should expand its activities at the regional, interregional and global levels. It was also important that the Programme should draw on the potential and experience of the developing countries, in particular by calling upon them to participate as subcontractors and to provide the services of experts. In that connexion, the United Nations Volunteers programme was, in the view of his delegation, a very viable means of expanding co-operation among the developing countries.

11. He supported the principle of a revolving fund for natural resources exploration, which would help the developing countries to mobilize the natural resources at their disposal. Voluntary contributions to that fund should be additional to those normally contributed to UNDP.

12. His delegation supported the activities of UNICEF but thought that they should be expanded to meet the needs of the developing countries and that the contributions made to UNICEF should be increased. In order to achieve the target of \$100 million set for 1975, it might perhaps be necessary, as the representative of the Philippines had proposed, to organize a special pledging conference. It might also be useful for UNICEF to expand its nutrition activities in the urban areas of countries which had undergone rapid urbanization. In fact, it was in those urban areas that differences in income were more apparent and socio-economic problems most acute.

13. Turkey, whose population had increased at a very rapid rate despite the efforts made in family planning, was very closely interested in UNFPA. It hoped that the World Population Conference which was to be held the following year at Bucharest would have positive results. Population was an important problem which all developing countries had to face.

14. Mr. PRATES (Brazil) agreed with what Mr. Philippe de Seynes had said at the opening of the general debate (1516th meeting), that the cause of development had lost its momentum and that it did not seem that the gap between developed and developing countries would be reduced in the near future. He also endorsed the view of the Minister for Development Co-operation of the Netherlands (1540th meeting) that that state of affairs would persist until the relationship between developing and industrialized countries was greatly modified. It was therefore important to strengthen as much as possible those instruments of assistance which, like UNDP, had proved susceptible of improvement and had shown sufficient flexibility to adapt themselves progressively to the needs of the developing countries.

15. As one of the main difficulties encountered by UNDP was the limited volume of its resources, it was encouraging to note that at the 1973 Pledging Conference, the funds made available to the Programme had increased by 18 per cent compared with the figure for 1972; that was a vote of confidence in UNDP. Since the problems of under-development were bound to become even greater, it was to be hoped that that increase in UNDP's resources would not be merely temporary.

16. The Administrator of UNDP had spoken of the advantages which the developing countries might pos-

<sup>1</sup> See A/CONF.59/SR.1 and 2.

sibly derive from disarmament. His delegation pointed out, in that connexion, that it had always emphasized the interdependence between security and economic development.

17. With regard to UNDP activities, he agreed with the Administrator that the Programme should not hesitate to undertake experimental projects at the multinational and world levels, even if such projects did not result in an immediate pay-off. The Programme should also try to provide assistance which had a multiplier or catalytic effect in order to obtain as positive results as possible at the national, regional and global levels, despite limited resources. UNDP should also help the developing countries to build up an indigenous scientific capability. Those ideas coincided with the ideas which had inspired Brazil's basic plan for scientific and technological development for the period 1973-1974. That plan should enable Brazil to keep up with scientific progress in the world and gradually to build up a technological infrastructure which would enable it to go beyond the production of goods and services. Instead of importing ready-made technology, Brazil was trying to develop processes suited to its own conditions. That policy, which was in keeping with the recommendations of the Administration of UNDP, could be adopted with profit by many developing countries.

18. The Administrator of UNDP and the President of the World Bank had pointed out that there could be no stable economic growth unless a solution was found to the problem of rural productivity in the least developed countries. In that connexion, Mr. Peterson had pointed out the complexity involved in solving those problems which the Brazilian delegation wished to interpret as also encompassing related conceptual and technical problems. The Brazilian delegation considered that although the need to grant preferential assistance to the least developed countries was above and beyond dispute, the methods used for such assistance should be carefully scrutinized. Like developing countries in general, the least developed countries should be given the tools for building up their own instruments of development. However, the approach to the tackling of the latter's problems should be a comprehensive one, taking into account specific needs of specific countries and areas. A distinction should be drawn between the problems of mass poverty and those of the least developed countries.

19. Like many other delegations, the Brazilian delegation thought that UNDP should distribute subcontracts more equitably between all countries, in order to preserve the universality of the Programme. For that purpose, the Governing Council of UNDP should adopt for use by the executing agencies rules which were as uniform as possible and which gave clear preference, whenever possible, to the developing countries.

20. The activities of the United Nations Capital Development Fund should complement those of UNDP and of the international financial institutions and respond to well-defined financial needs of the developing countries. His delegation agreed that, at least at the beginning, the activities of the Fund should give priority to the least developed countries, but it hoped that other developing countries would be able to benefit from it subsequently. Because of its characteristics, the Capital Development Fund could serve to promote co-operation between developing countries in general.

That suggestion, which the Brazilian delegation had already advanced in the Governing Council of UNDP, should be carefully studied.

21. Instead of concentrating almost exclusively on demographic programmes devoted to family planning and demographic control, UNFPA should concern itself with the collection of the statistical and demographic data which were essential for a better understanding of the world demographic situation. A larger proportion of the Fund's resources should therefore be allocated to projects involving the gathering of basic data. His delegation also had misgivings about the tendency to invest UNFPA with the power to formulate and implement population policies. In its view, it was the intergovernmental bodies responsible for economic and social development which should define such policies in the broad context of development policies. In addition, his delegation was concerned about the establishment of relationships, at the secretariat level, between UNFPA and the specialized agencies. In conclusion, he said that he had taken note of the activities of UNICEF and of the proficient analysis of them given by Mr. Labouisse.

22. Mr. MUTOMBO (Zaire) welcomed the results achieved at the recent Pledging Conference and expressed the hope that they would greatly help to improve and strengthen the activities of UNDP. He announced that his Government would make a contribution of \$250,000 to UNDP and give \$7,000 to the United Nations Capital Development Fund, as evidence of the Zairian Government's support for the activities of the Programme. His delegation had already had occasion to endorse the new criteria for the Second United Nations Development Co-operation Cycle and hoped that the new method would impart greater efficiency and maximum flexibility to the country programme. It noted that the Capital Development Fund had been reactivated in order to provide special assistance to the least developed countries. He hoped, however, that due account would be taken of the request made by certain countries that they be included in the category of the least advanced countries, and that all information from the Committee for Development Planning would be utilized in order to evolve arrangements for the granting of IPFs for all the least developed countries. With regard to the regional programme, Zaire had welcomed the initiative taken by UNDP of convening a meeting between donor and recipient countries with a view to the joint exploitation of the resources of Lake Kivu by Zaire and Rwanda. It was to be hoped that the negotiations would be successful and that it would be possible to execute the project.

23. With regard to UNICEF, his delegation would like to know what was the status of the plan for the establishment of a new UNICEF office in Zaire, because there were more than 1 million Angolan refugees in Kinshasa.

24. His delegation welcomed the diversification of the activities of UNFPA, and in particular the granting of assistance for population censuses.

25. In conclusion, he said that his delegation supported draft resolution A/C.2/L.1306 and wished to join the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1308.

26. Mr. MANARE (Lesotho) said that his delegation was appreciative of the work done by UNDP and was

looking forward to participating in the work of the Governing Council and sharing in the decisions concerning multilateral assistance. Lesotho supported the system of country programming, which enabled the recipient countries themselves to decide their own development priorities and which encouraged closer co-ordination between multilateral and bilateral assistance.

27. The adoption of a system of IPFs was sensible, in that it enabled recipient countries to determine their priorities in the light of the resources to be allocated to them. With regard to the accuracy of those figures, no mathematical calculation could take into account the individual circumstances of all countries. In addition, there was a fundamental asymmetry, if not a contradiction, between the system of IPFs and the system of voluntary contributions. Thus planning figures could be only indicative. It would be necessary to improve the criteria on which the figures were based for the next programming cycle; in that connexion, his delegation welcomed the Governing Council's acceptance at its fifteenth session, of the idea that at least 25 per cent of resources should be allocated to the least advanced countries. It also endorsed the view that the calculation should not be based solely on the criteria of population and *per capita* income but should take into account other criteria, such as geographical situation and other circumstances peculiar to the recipient countries, even if those criteria were not easily quantifiable. The decision to use 7.5 per cent of the resources to take into account supplementary criteria was a welcome one.

28. The success of the country programming system and of the indicative planning figures depended on the level of voluntary contributions and his delegation had therefore been happy to note that the results of the recent Pledging Conference, which indicated an increase of 18 per cent in resources for 1974, represented a vote of confidence in UNDP. For its part, Lesotho had increased the amount of its contribution, despite the fact that it was one of the least advanced countries.

29. His delegation welcomed the decision taken by the Governing Council at its fifteenth session (see E/5256 and Corr.1, para. 129) to earmark \$35 million for the least advanced countries, and hoped that too much time would not elapse between the submission of requests and the implementation of approved projects. It also thanked the countries which had pledged special contributions in favour of the least advanced countries.

30. His delegation supported the proposed reorientation of the United Nations Capital Development Fund, which it hoped would attract increased contributions from rich countries. He saw no risk of competition between the Fund and UNDP for contributions and thought that the dangers of a proliferation of special funds should not be exaggerated. His delegation therefore unreservedly supported draft resolution A/C.2/L.1306, of which it wished to become a sponsor.

31. He reserved the right of his delegation to speak on the other items on the agenda during the consideration of the draft resolutions.

32. Mr. AL-EBRAHIM (Kuwait) said that his delegation had refrained from participating in the discussion on item 49 because, as a member of the Governing Council of UNDP, it had already had many opportunities to state its views. It had asked to speak at the current meeting simply in order to reiterate its opposi-

tion to the arrangement whereby there was one office for Europe, the Mediterranean and the Middle East. Conditions in the Middle East were very different from those in Europe, and a separate office should therefore be established for that region. His delegation hoped that measures would be taken to that end.

33. He praised the efforts made by UNICEF and UNFPA and expressed the view that UNDP should continue and strengthen its activities, which promoted the development of the developing countries.

34. Mr. ABHYANKAR (India) said that it was disquieting that operational activities for development were based on the implicit assumption that a relatively small operational programme could bring about a substantial transformation of the economies and standards of the developing countries without a major change of the existing norms and structures of the international system and without a radical re-examination of the prevailing patterns of political, social, economic and cultural relations between all of the Member States. Moreover, in quantitative terms, operational activities were far from meeting development needs. It was therefore strange, to say the least, that those modest efforts seemed to have no meaningful time-frame. His delegation believed that the gradual approach was bound to fail and could lead only to disenchantment among donors and beneficiaries alike, since the prospect of providing assistance indefinitely with no appreciable results would erode the goodwill of donor countries without meeting the aspirations of the developing countries. A time horizon, on the other hand, could stimulate both the energy of the developing countries and the enthusiasm and idealism of the developed countries in a determined attack on world poverty. In appraising the operational activities for development, it must first therefore be asked whether they were based on a clear time-frame.

35. His delegation whole-heartedly supported the UNICEF shift to a longer-term developmental approach centred on the proposition that children and youth were the most valuable assets of any society. It wondered, however, whether the very laudable activities of UNICEF were placed in a meaningful time-frame. A target in time would be a helpful complement to the financial goal of \$100 million by 1975. The same question could be asked about UNFPA.

36. With regard to UNDP, he pointed out that the new country programming system, with all its advantages, would be a purely academic exercise unless it was accompanied by a much greater effort to achieve independent development within the recipient countries. Still, country programming should have a sound financial basis: the 9.6 per cent increase in resources adopted as a compromise in 1970 had never been achieved. What was worse, the level of the real resources of UNDP for the first development cycle, as a result of inflation and currency revaluation, had remained stagnant, if not slightly reduced. The only viable solution, the only one which could make the programme dynamic, was to increase its resources substantially. It was therefore gratifying to find that as a result of the Pledging Conference, there was a prospect of an 18 per cent increase in UNDP resources.

37. Without reopening the debate on the criteria for calculating IPFs his delegation wished to say that it was not fully satisfied with the compromise reached at the

sixteenth session of the Governing Council and to stress that the compromise was only viable if the total resources were sufficient.

38. The encouraging results of the recent Pledging Conference would be lasting only if multilateral economic co-operation continued to rally the support of world opinion at large. It was therefore gratifying to note the steps being taken in some developed countries to mobilize public opinion, and the Administrator of UNDP and his staff keenly appreciated the importance of that movement. There were some grounds for optimism in that respect since the present flow of development assistance was far below what affluent nations could afford without having to make sacrifices.

39. Mr. SHEMIRANI (Iran) said that the results of the recent Pledging Conference demonstrated the importance attached to UNDP by both developed and developing countries. The results of the Conference had made it possible to avoid the deficit anticipated for 1974 and his delegation hoped that the same generous spirit would enable the Programme to double its resources by 1975.

40. Most of the provisions of the 1970 Consensus<sup>2</sup> had been implemented and it was to be hoped that the remaining provisions, especially the formulation of an omnibus statute for UNDP, would be implemented in the near future. In addition to reorganizing its internal structure, UNDP had improved its activities in the field. Country programming had already had an impact and was now operational in 82 countries. However, as the Administrator had pointed out, country programming was not an end in itself, but a means of generating greater economic independence and self-reliance for the developing countries.

41. UNDP performance in global and regional projects was also encouraging; those projects offered substantial benefits to low income countries and to the least developed countries. As an example, he mentioned the results of agricultural research, pointing out, however, that UNDP should complement that research effort by helping the developing countries to apply the results and adapt them to their own economic conditions. He felt that the share of different regions in UNDP projects should be clearly specified.

42. His delegation was happy to note the steps taken by UNDP to help the least developed countries, particularly the earmarking of \$35 million as the planning level for those countries, the waiver of assessed programme costs payable in local currency and the partial use of the Programme Reserve to meet their specific needs. It also supported the idea that 25 per cent of UNDP resources should be allocated to the least developed countries for the next programming cycle. Another important source which could be used to meet the special needs of the least developed countries was the United Nations Capital Development Fund. His delegation was one of the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1306, which called for a redirection of the Fund to serve, first and foremost, the least developed countries, and it hoped that the new approach would encourage countries to make generous contributions to it. On the other hand, the steps taken to benefit the least developed countries should not cause the United Na-

tions to ignore the needs of the low-income countries and their IPFs should be significantly increased.

43. He emphasized the value of the United Nations Volunteers programme and concurred with the view of the Administrator that it should assume responsibility for its own recruitment. In that connexion, more volunteers should be recruited from developing countries and his delegation hoped that draft resolution A/C.2/L.1309 would therefore be unanimously adopted.

44. Iran attached great importance to the work of UNICEF and welcomed the expansion of its activities and its participation in the system of country programming. It hoped that draft resolution A/C.2/L.1308 would also be adopted unanimously.

45. Iran had benefited from the activities of UNFPA and sincerely hoped that, as a result of the organizational changes it had undergone, it would be in a position to render even more service to interested countries.

46. Mr. WANG Tzu-chuan (China) said that the experience of UNDP in country programming should be kept under constant review in order to appraise that method and possibly improve it.

47. Many developing countries felt that UNDP and its executing agencies should endeavour to simplify their administrative procedures and effect economies; specifically, efforts should be made to reduce administrative and overhead costs and put the financial resources thus released to more effective use. Also more subcontractors and suppliers of equipment should be selected from the developing countries because experts and equipment from those countries were more likely to meet the needs of other developing countries. Furthermore, UNDP resident representatives should frequently study how assistance could be adapted to the actual needs of the recipient countries. In short, UNDP and its executing agencies should constantly seek to enhance the effectiveness of their assistance.

48. On the other hand, multilateral assistance, or even bilateral assistance, accounted for only a small proportion of the development funds of the recipient countries; the latter had to rely primarily on their own financial resources and their own manpower and some developing countries had already made significant progress in that respect.

49. For the forthcoming programming cycle, UNDP resources should be distributed in a rational way. However, the method should be conducive to strengthening the unity of the developing countries. The classification of countries and the criteria for calculating the IPFs were very complicated issues and it was to be hoped that careful consideration would be given to the various opinions of the developing countries and the special needs of the least developed among them. The Chinese delegation believed that the developing countries were resolved to strengthen their unity, show mutual understanding and accommodate each other's interests.

50. The Governing Council of UNDP and the Economic and Social Council had decided to use the funds of the United Nations Capital Development Fund to finance small-scale industrial projects in the least developed countries; his delegation supported that practice and hoped it would not be a temporary expedient. As for the operational activities as a whole, the

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



question whether UNDP could go beyond pre-investment activities merited further exploration.

51. His delegation supported the co-operation between UNDP and OAU and considered that UNDP should give more support to the national liberation movements of the African peoples.

52. Israel, an aggressor which was still occupying many Arab territories, deserved no assistance from UNDP or other agencies; on the contrary, to give aid to Israel was incompatible with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

*Mr. González Arias (Paraguay) took the Chair.*

53. Mr. SEARWAR (Guyana) said that through country programming, UNDP acted as a catalyst helping developing countries to establish their objectives and preparing the way for the mobilization and effective use of resources. That programming technique was especially appropriate to programmes of development founded on self-reliance, as Guyana had found from experience. Guyana was using UNDP assistance for infrastructure projects in key areas which required resources beyond the scope of what Guyana possessed.

54. The search for new areas of action was second in importance only to the achievement of the priorities set in country programmes. His delegation had therefore been particularly gratified to hear the Administrator of UNDP express that view.

55. Although as a general rule there should not be a proliferation of special funds, since that would derogate from the authority of the United Nations his delegation felt that the circumstances and the opportunities that would be opened up justified the establishment of a revolving fund for natural resources exploration. The concept of a revolving fund was founded on self-reliance and solidarity among developing countries. In addition, the fund would enable developing countries to give concrete expression to their permanent sovereignty over their natural resources. His delegation would therefore like to become a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1302, introduced under agenda item 12.

56. The programmes of the Group of 77 and the non-aligned countries gave added importance to the concept of national self-reliance linked to regional and interregional co-operation. It was becoming increasingly evident that the economies of most developing countries would be strengthened by economic co-operation or integration at the regional, subregional or interregional level. Moreover, economic co-operation provided a suitable framework in which to cater to the interests of the least developed and the land-locked countries. His delegation therefore strongly supported draft resolution A/C.2/L.1306 on the United Nations Capital Development Fund, which would enable the Fund to be utilized, *inter alia*, to advance the interests of the least developed countries within the framework of co-operation.

57. The studies of the Working Group on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, established under General Assembly resolution 2974 (XXVII), were a step in the right direction. But technical co-operation as envisaged by the Group was only a small part of the over-all co-operation for development as expressed in several programmes, including the Action Programme<sup>3</sup> adopted by the Conference of Heads

of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Algiers from 5 to 9 September 1973. The Working Group had stressed that such technical co-operation should have as one objective the strengthening of regional and interregional economic integration on as wide a geographical basis as possible. His delegation had therefore been encouraged to learn of the Administrator's intention, given the necessary resources, to place greater emphasis on regional, interregional and global projects.

58. In the area of interregional co-operation, most of the initial work had been done. Planning experts from the regional economic commissions had met twice in the capital city of Guyana to devise an interregional project which identified the further areas for studies which must be undertaken before political decisions could be made. With the concrete support of UNDP, it should be possible to move rapidly towards the implementation of that interregional project, which had been described by the executive secretaries of the regional economic commissions as one of the most challenging in which the United Nations had been called upon to assist. UNDP must now play a pioneering and catalytic role in helping to translate into reality that programme, which had been endorsed at the Conference at Algiers and which was the clear expression of the political will of the leadership of the developing countries to find new ways to accelerate the development of their countries.

59. Mr. JABER (Jordan) said that, despite the shortcomings of the first two years of the Second United Nations Development Decade, the encouraging results of the 1973 Pledging Conference on UNDP gave evidence that the cause of development was still alive. A significant increase in the level of UNDP resources would certainly provide a key to the solution of the question of the 1977-1981 distribution of indicative planning figures. The task was admittedly complex, but it had to be done. In spite of certain reservations on the use of *per capita* gross national product (GNP) and population as basic criteria, his delegation supported the guidelines set forth in the decision taken by the Governing Council at its sixteenth session. It also supported the allocation to the least developed countries of at least 25 per cent of total resources. However, it would like an assurance that the IPFs for recipient countries would not be reduced below the 1972-1976 level. In addition, it agreed with the decision to assign 7.5 per cent of total resources for distribution according to supplementary criteria. In that way, account would be taken of factors other than the *per capita* GNP and population, and the effect of qualitative elements in calculating IPFs would be kept to a minimum.

60. The calculation of regional IPFs for 1977-1981 called for some comment. While global, regional and subregional projects were to receive increased resources, the criteria for calculating regional IPFs might be biased against some subregions in the Europe, Mediterranean and Middle East region, since it was not as homogeneous as others. It might be given the lowest IPF, to the detriment of developing countries in the region.

61. Since the will for regional co-operation was one of the factors which would influence the calculation of the IPFs for 1977-1981, the attention of the Governing Council of UNDP should be drawn to the indications of

<sup>3</sup> See A/9330, p. 85.

co-operation in the two subregions comprising Arab countries. Since 1945 the Arab countries had made many efforts to intensify economic co-operation among themselves. For instance, the League of Arab States had been established in 1945, the Arab Economic Council in 1951, the Council of Arab Economic Unity in 1964 and the Arab Common Market in 1964, and there were a number of projects, one of which was the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development established in 1971.

62. He would also like to draw attention to Jordan's development effort, since that would in future be one of the supplementary criteria for calculating the IPFs. Between 1950 and 1966, Jordan, blending foreign assistance with domestic resources, had achieved an average annual rate of growth of 10 per cent in its GNP. The Israeli aggression of June 1967 had disrupted all its development efforts at the mid-point of its Seven-Year Economic and Social Development Plan, and it had had to redirect its resources towards emergency needs, especially assistance to 400,000 displaced persons.

63. In 1972, a Three-Year Development Plan—1973-1975—had been prepared by nine Jordanian technicians, including himself. An international conference held at Amman in November 1972 had found the plan comprehensive, realistic and balanced. The country programme for Jordan, which was based on the Three-Year Plan, had been approved by the Governing Council at its fifteenth session. In the first year of implementation of the Plan, the follow-up system had been improved and institutionalized, while domestic economic policies had been reviewed to improve the investment climate and mobilize domestic resources. Jordan's development effort had been well received internationally and had been supported by the United Nations specialized agencies and by friendly nations. Jordan had also taken the initiative of contacting a large number of countries with the aim of strengthening its economic relations.

64. While the Government and people of Jordan were doing their best to restore their development momentum, the Israeli occupation of the west bank of the Jordan, Israel's defiance of the will of the international community, its illegal exploitation of the human and natural resources of the occupied areas in three Arab countries and its aggressions, the latest of which had been in October 1973, had created economic instability and uncertainty which handicapped and retarded any serious development effort in Jordan and other Arab countries. Valuable resources had to be allocated to defence.

65. His delegation opposed the provision of any assistance to Israel by UNDP and other specialized agencies, on the grounds stated by the representatives of Hungary and Egypt. Even if the approval by the Governing Council of UNDP of the Israeli country programme did not violate paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 3005 (XXVII), the UNDP Administration, in the implementation of the programme, was responsible for taking all measures needed to ensure that that and other relevant resolutions were observed with regard to the occupied territories.

66. Jordan followed the activities of UNICEF with great interest and satisfaction. His delegation had therefore become a sponsor of draft resolution

A/C.2/L.1308 and hoped that it would be adopted unanimously.

67. He was pleased to see that the resources of UNFPA had increased, and that its activities had been expanded to cover a larger number of countries. His Government supported the activities of WFP, the United Nations Volunteers programme and the Office of Technical Co-operation. His delegation had become a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1309 concerning the United Nations Volunteers programme, and he hoped that it would be adopted unanimously.

68. Mr. HEWITT (Jamaica) said that his delegation was particularly pleased to note that the United Nations Volunteers programme seemed to have overcome its initial difficulties. The programme should be supported but it was essential that every effort should be made to increase substantially the proportion of volunteers from developing countries.

69. Bearing in mind the considerable requirements of developing countries, UNDP resources were quite limited. The Governing Council had therefore attempted to establish principles governing the reallocation of those resources. His delegation felt that *per capita* GNP and population were being wrongly taken as the fundamental criteria for calculating IPFs. Other factors erroneously referred to as "supplementary" were just as important. Those factors included the imbalance in sectoral production and development, unemployment and illiteracy, the ability of developing countries to absorb UNDP assistance, the special needs of newly independent countries, geographical factors limiting development, the donor status of individual recipient countries, and the low ratio of natural resources to needs. Those were only a few of the factors involved. The two most important problems facing UNDP at the present time were thus, first, the establishment of a formula to determine indicative planning figures that would take into account all the important factors affecting the developmental process of all developing countries and, secondly, the insufficiency of resources.

70. Jamaica, like all developing countries, hoped to become a net contributor to UNDP as soon as possible. The developing countries had already impressively demonstrated their drive towards self-reliance and their willingness to co-operate fully with other developing countries. On the other hand, the developed countries had not demonstrated their willingness to assist in the expansion of multilateral agencies such as UNDP. UNDP resources had therefore increased only very slowly, and some developed countries were considering the possibility of cutting off or significantly limiting UNDP assistance at a break-off point of \$500 *per capita* GNP. Such a restriction would have unfortunate consequences for developing countries. It was essential to be frank; what was lacking was not technology or financial resources, but the moral and political will of the developed countries to give meaningful assistance to the developing countries.

71. Mr. HAMID (Sudan) said that the statement by the Administrator of UNDP at the 1554th meeting had been optimistic and constructive in tone. The developing countries were eager to participate on an equal footing in the process of international co-operation for development, and UNDP had an important role to play in that field. Within UNDP itself, much remained to be done in the administrative and operational fields. Coun-

try programming, however, had helped to introduce coherent long-term planning in the form of a new system for allocating resources. Measures that ought to be encouraged included a move towards decentralization, an improvement in the qualifications of staff members, a review of conditions of service and a greater role for the resident representatives.

72. The deliberations at the fifteenth and sixteenth sessions of the Governing Council had indicated that the most important issue facing the Council was the review of criteria for calculating IPFs for the Second United Nations Development Co-operation Cycle. His delegation had already had an opportunity to state its position at the Governing Council; nevertheless, he expressed the hope that in view of the unprecedented increase in voluntary contributions, the new figures would be calculated on a more solid basis.

73. He was gratified to see that the regular programme of technical co-operation had entered a new phase and had expanded its activities.

74. He was also happy to note the efforts made by UNICEF to integrate its activities with the operational activities of other bodies in the United Nations system. That was an indication of a wise planning and programming policy. Moreover, UNICEF had been shaping its programmes to satisfy not only the immediate, but also the long-term needs of children. Its assistance would be even more effective if it was linked to the long-term development programmes of the developing countries and the national plans of the recipient countries. It should also devote special attention to children in the least developed countries.

75. His delegation had listened with interest to the statement by the Executive Director of UNFPA. The Fund had been created at a time when Governments were seeking better understanding of population trends. The recent institutional modifications in the status of the Fund, and the well-deserved up-grading of the status of its Director would certainly put it in a better position to achieve its aims and fulfil its functions. The mandate of the Fund had been broadened and a wider variety of projects would now be eligible for support. The General Assembly had, in resolution 3019 (XXVII), given UNFPA a new impetus by placing it under the authority of the General Assembly and by making the UNDP Governing Council its governing body. The situation of the Fund, particularly its financial status, was promising. He welcomed the decision

to convene a special pledging conference on UNFPA in 1974. He hoped that voluntary contributions would enhance its capacity to help developing countries implement population-related projects and programmes.

76. As a result of the adoption of General Assembly resolutions 2659 (XXV) and 2970 (XXVII), the United Nations Volunteers programme was now able to provide services to the developing countries. There was no doubt that participation of young people would be an important factor in promoting international understanding. The report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Volunteers programme (E/5342) was very encouraging and included an action plan which should be supported and carried out. If the programme was to carry out its functions, it was essential to enact measures to incorporate its activities in United Nations assistance projects. His delegation, however, still held the view that volunteers should not replace experts sent to developing countries by United Nations agencies. Utilization of volunteers should entail only minimal expense or even no expense for the recipient country; he was particularly pleased to see that a decision had been taken not to charge the local costs of volunteers against the IPF of the least developed countries.

77. Draft resolution A/C.2/L.1306, submitted by the representative of the Netherlands, was a most timely proposal, and he was glad to have been able to join in sponsoring the draft. The United Nations Capital Development Fund could play an important role in complementing the technical assistance and pre-investment activities of UNDP and the investment activities of international financial institutions. Some developed countries had already reviewed their policy on the Fund, or would do so in the near future. That was an encouraging sign, particularly since the mandate of the Fund had been changed and it would now serve, first and foremost, the least developed countries. The developed countries should therefore make a clear political commitment to the Fund, which should be provided with substantial resources if it was to be fully operational.

78. In conclusion, he said that his delegation fully supported draft resolutions A/C.2/L.1308 and A/C.2/L.1309.

79. The Chairman said that Thailand and Madagascar had become sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1308.

*The meeting rose at 1.20 p.m.*