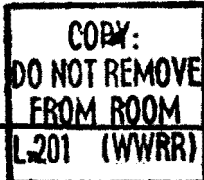


**GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**

THIRTY-SEVENTH SESSION

Official Records*



SECOND COMMITTEE

36th meeting

held on

Monday, 15 November 1982

at 3 p.m.

New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 36th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. FAFOWORA (Nigeria)

later: Mr. FAREED (Pakistan)

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A/C.2/37/SR.36

18 November 1982

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The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

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

Draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.39

1. Mr. FAREED (Pakistan), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.39, entitled "Assistance to the Palestinian people" said that Kuwait had joined the list of sponsors. The situation of the Palestinian people continued to cause great concern to the international community. Since the process of systematic expulsion had begun 35 years before, Palestinians had been driven from their homes and forced to seek shelter in fraternal Arab States, and throughout those years the international community had provided assistance to enable them to survive in exile. Even in exile, however, the Palestinian people remained the target of relentless persecution by Israel. The massacres at Sabra and Shatila were reminders of the other misfortunes and tragedies that had befallen them. When the entire Palestinian nation was fighting for survival, it was the moral obligation of the international community to offer its assistance, and a massive programme of emergency assistance would be required.

2. The report of the Secretary-General on assistance to the Palestinian people (A/37/214) showed that there was a need to continue and strengthen the efforts of organs and organizations of the United Nations system to provide such assistance. The report of the Secretary-General on assistance to the Palestinian people in Lebanon (A/37/571) should have responded more fully to the questions raised in Economic and Social Council resolution 1982/48. The purpose of the draft resolution before the Committee was to mobilize international assistance on an emergency basis for the Palestinian people, especially the victims of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. The cause and the circumstances were such that the Committee must respond by giving full support to the draft resolution.

Draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.44

3. Mr. DIOP (Senegal), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.44, entitled "Permanent sovereignty over national resources in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories", said that the Committee had at previous sessions adopted similar resolutions on the subject of sovereignty over national resources in order to support the efforts of peoples under racist or foreign domination to regain control of their resources. That was a right in keeping with the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States. The provisions of the draft resolution were almost the same as those of a resolution on the same subject adopted by the Committee at the previous session, and he therefore hoped that the international community would have no difficulty in adopting it.

AGENDA ITEM 71: DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (continued)

(j) HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.29

4. Mr. AL GHAMDI (Saudi Arabia), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.29 on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories, said that the entire world knew about those conditions and about the scale of the sufferings of those who resisted Israel's barbarous occupation. The Palestinian people was waging a struggle for its very survival, while inhuman measures were being used against it by the Israeli occupation authorities. The sponsors urged all members of the Committee to support the draft resolution and thereby to express their determination not to recognize the occupation of territory by force. The draft resolution cited the report of the Secretary-General (A/37/238) and a statement made by the Observer for the Palestine Liberation Organization in the Committee (A/C.2/37/SR.31). It referred to the deterioration in Palestinians' living conditions in the territories which had been under Israeli occupation since 1967 and requested the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session a comprehensive report on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in those territories. The sponsors trusted that that report would be truly comprehensive and cover the subject of Jerusalem and that it would not be based solely on tendentious and distorted Israeli statistics.

AGENDA ITEM 72: OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT (continued) (A/37/3 (Part II), 333, 445 and Add.1; E/1982/16/Rev.1, 17; DP/1982/9 and Add.1, 37 and 40)

5. Mr. KUMAR (Fiji) said that the decline in the resources of multilateral organizations engaged in international economic co-operation was of serious concern to his delegation. The developed countries should realize that, while they were in economic difficulties, the developing countries were floundering. His country, for example, expected to achieve an economic growth rate of only 0.4 per cent in 1982. The least developed countries were in even worse straits, and he hoped that the developed world would not allow their economies to degenerate any further.

6. The inability of the developing countries to purchase capital equipment from the developed countries would eventually lead to a decline in the latter's industrial output. Accordingly, it was in the interest of developed and developing countries alike to ensure that aid flows to the developing countries continued at an acceptable level. In that connection he commended the Nordic countries for the generosity they had shown at the recent pledging conference.

7. It was next to impossible for the developing countries to increase their pledges to multilateral agencies when the assistance received from them declined. Moreover, it would be incongruous for a small country such as Fiji to increase its contribution when the United Nations itself owed it a substantial amount of money for its participation in the peace-keeping operations in Lebanon. However,

(Mr. Kumar, Fiji)

experience had shown that military assistance could be furnished swiftly when a military conflict broke out. If nations could so easily finance such military assistance, it was surely not too much to ask that a portion of the money spent on armaments in general should be diverted to operational activities for development.

8. The administrator of UNDP had recently stated that he had no option but to advise Governments immediately to revise downwards their planning estimates to 55 per cent of the agreed indicative planning figures for the third programming cycle. Such a reduction would undermine the confidence of all associated with UNDP programmes and projects. It was time for Governments which had time and again praised the good work done by UNDP to match that praise by concrete action. In view of the extraneous matters that had been introduced at the first meeting of the working group of the Intersessional Committee of the Whole, his delegation was not very optimistic as to the outcome of that Committee's work for the longer-term financing of UNDP. Unless an unequivocal commitment was forthcoming from donor and recipient countries alike concerning the vital role of UNDP in the development process, there was little hope of overcoming the crippling financial constraints affecting UNDP.

9. His delegation fully agreed with the objectives of the United Nations Volunteers programme. Similarly, it had always been a strong supporter of UNICEF and had noted with satisfaction that UNICEF had not been as adversely affected by resource constraints as had other bodies. Industrialization, too, was of vital importance to the developing countries, and the United Nations Industrial Development Fund therefore deserved the full support of all countries.

10. It was gratifying to note that fertility levels had not risen at the rate which had been forecast in the 1950s, and his delegation attributed that result in part to the activities of UNFPA. His Government appreciated the good work being done by UNFPA in Fiji in collaboration with the South Pacific Commission. It was therefore concerned to learn that, for the third consecutive year, voluntary contributions to UNFPA had fallen short of the target.

11. Finally, he welcomed the recent decision of the UNDP Governing Council to authorize the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration to extend its activities into the field of geothermal exploration and expressed the hope that those countries which had yet to announce their pledges would consider favourably making sizeable allocations for the geothermal exploration activities of the Fund. Pledges made to the Fund at the 1982 Pledging Conference had not been very encouraging.

12. Mr. FISCHER (Austria) said that the disappointing outcome of the recent pledging conference raised serious questions about continued support for multilateral technical assistance in general.

13. The importance of operational development activities was well illustrated by the rapid increase in the technical assistance component of World Bank lending. The fact that such assistance was, in general, repayable on the same conditions as

(Mr. Fischer, Austria)

those which governed the Bank's loan policy provided a clear indication of the value developing countries attached to such matters as the transfer of technology and thorough preparation of investment projects through technical assistance programmes. Industrialized countries, for their part, constantly proclaimed their full adherence to the historic 1970 Consensus which had stressed the vital importance of technical assistance and had established the key role of UNDP as the central mechanism for the planning and delivery of multilateral technical assistance within the United Nations system.

14. It was therefore misleading to speak of a UNDP crisis since the confidence of the international community in UNDP's central role in the field of multilateral technical assistance remained unshaken. What was occurring was, in fact, a crisis of expectations. The decision of the Governing Council to base its forward planning for the third programming cycle on the assumption of a yearly growth rate of 14 per cent in resource inflow had been made in the climate of inflationary expectations prevailing in the late 1970s and on the basis of performance criteria that had been valid for the second cycle, which had coincided with a period of inflationary growth in the world economy. At the time many delegations had expressed reservations about the validity of those assumptions, and events had proved them right. The crisis of expectations has been compounded by the phenomenal rise in the value of the dollar against other currencies because, whereas UNDP spent about two thirds of its budget in dollars, less than one quarter of its income was received in that currency. Finally, there was what might be called the remuneration crisis - the tremendous increase in the cost of providing experts to developing countries, one of the major items in the operational budget. To reverse that trend the co-operation of all concerned - agencies, donors and recipient countries - would be required.

15. A concerted effort by the international community could, however, result in a significant improvement of the short- and medium-term outlook. First, traditional donor countries would have to continue to increase their voluntary contributions to UNDP, even if that necessitated a reallocation of official development assistance previously earmarked for other channels. In that connection he observed that Austria had been able to increase its contribution to UNDP by almost 14 per cent while at the same time increasing other multilateral and bilateral technical co-operation outlays. Secondly, developing countries in a position to do so would have to increase their share of the over-all resource flow through UNDP. Thirdly, efforts would have to be made to meet fully the goals set out in UNDP Governing Council decision 80/30 concerning reimbursement of UNDP services by developing countries above a certain national income level. In that context, he had been pleased to note from the Director-General's report (A/37/445) that a number of middle- and higher-income developing countries were increasingly ready to finance from their own resources the provision of technical co-operation provided through the United Nations system.

16. Fourthly, although his delegation had doubts about the usefulness of switching to a system of regular replenishments, a single operation of that kind might be used, as a last resort, to reduce the gap between programme delivery planned for

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(Mr. Fischer, Austria)

the third programming cycle and expected income. Such an operation would need careful preparation. In any event, his delegation looked forward to the findings of the Intersessional Committee of the Whole, as they would form the basis for a thorough study by the Governing Council of all possible options for future financing.

17. His delegation was disturbed to find that UNDP was still rendering invaluable services to the United Nations which were not being reimbursed. As the Administrator had pointed out in the Governing Council, UNDP had become in many developing countries the very presence of the United Nations. It would be only logical that part of the cost of maintaining that presence should be reimbursed out of the regular budget of the United Nations. That would be the fifth step, while the last would be to keep expenditures under continuing review. Given the outrageous cost of some experts, increased use might be made of junior professional officers and United Nations volunteers as a means of effecting savings without cutting budget delivery. The Administrator should be commended for his efforts to cut overhead costs and, at the same time, should be urged to continue exploring ways of streamlining Secretariat services at Headquarters. His delegation fully supported the Administrator's proposal to set up an independent evaluation mechanism. It continued to regard UNDP as the best possible vehicle for the provision of technical assistance within the framework of the United Nations.

18. Mr. HOANG HAI (Socialist Republic of Viet Nam) expressed his deep concern at the decline in real terms in the resources available for operational activities for development. Those activities not only assisted the developing countries in developing self-reliant economies but also had tremendous political significance since the 100 or so Asian, African and Latin American countries which were recipients of such assistance had thrown off the yoke of imperialist domination and were striving to consolidate their economic independence.

19. Increasing priority was being given by the major industrialized market-economy countries to bilateralism and to their private economic interests. That lack of political commitment to multilateral operational activities was compounded by their efforts to shift the burden of their economic crisis on to the developing world despite the fact that, since their prosperity was based on their colonial exploitation of the developing countries they had an obligation towards those countries. It had recently come to light that, while contributing to the financing of operational activities for development, some major developed market-economies had obtained in return benefits at least equal to the amount they had provided for those activities. A number of countries were realizing that it was in their own interest to assist the developing countries.

20. His delegation was appreciative of the decision of a number of countries members of the Development Assistance Committee to maintain their commitment to attain or exceed the target of 0.7 per cent of GNP for their official development assistance. It also highly valued the tremendous efforts made by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and other socialist countries to assist the developing

(Mr. Hoang Hai, Viet Nam)

countries to achieve economic self-reliance. It was likewise very grateful for the efforts made by various agencies of the United Nations system in implementing Viet Nam's country programme. The people of his country treasured the co-operation of the United Nations development system, which had remained in being despite the attempts by forces hostile to Viet Nam to impose an economic blockade on that country and to take advantage of their position in various organizations of the United Nations development system to that end. His delegation was convinced that the co-operation between Viet Nam and the United Nations development system was proof against any hostile manoeuvres.

21. The comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development scheduled for 1983 should also deal with the tendency of certain developed countries, taking advantage of their predominant position in the international economy, to adopt economic measures to exert coercive or political pressures against members of the Group of 77, a matter about which the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 had expressed concern in a recent declaration (A/37/544, para. 7). Recent events within many United Nations agencies had illustrated that negative tendency. On alleged "technical grounds", certain developed market-economy countries had consistently curtailed and opposed assistance rendered by the United Nations system to countries which were struggling for economic independence or with which they had political differences: Afghanistan, Grenada, Nicaragua, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Viet Nam had been among the victims of such discrimination in the International Development Association and the International Monetary Fund.

22. Regrettably, that tendency was on the increase in the United Nations itself. At the most recent session of the UNDP Governing Council, strong opposition had been expressed to the country programme for Argentina and to a project for Viet Nam. At a UNICEF Executive Board meeting a programme for Vietnamese children had also run into harsh opposition. Ironically, one Member State, a self-appointed protector of the third world, had joined certain major developed market-economy countries in such action. That tendency must be reversed. The international community must not allow any more developing countries to be damaged by that policy. No country should be allowed to dictate the policies of international organizations just because it was a major contributor.

23. Mr. KITTIKHOUN (Lao People's Democratic Republic) said that his delegation had learned with concern from the statements made by the executive heads of various United Nations development funds and programmes and from the report of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation that there was a marked shortage of financial resources for the operational activities for development of the United Nations system. The Administrator of UNDP had stated that lack of resources would compel UNDP to cut its programmes, a reduction which was likely to jeopardize progress made during the two previous programming cycles. The Administrative Committee on Co-ordination had, by its decision 1981/24, adopted a statement expressing the serious concern of the executive heads of the organizations in the system at the deteriorating situation facing all organizations with respect to the declining level of concessional resources in real terms

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(Mr. Kittikhoun, Lao People's
Democratic Republic)

available for international technical co-operation and other development activities. The Secretary-General, in his report on the work of the Organization, had likewise drawn attention to the crisis in the multilateral approach in international affairs and the concomitant erosion of the authority and status of world and regional intergovernmental institutions. Nevertheless, the situation had continued to deteriorate. The disappointing results of the 1982 United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities had confirmed the lack of political will on the part of the major Western donor countries.

24. Since its establishment, the General Assembly had supported the international system of co-operation and development as an important instrument for promoting international peace and security. Such multilateral co-operation was also an essential element of the new international economic order. In recent years, however, the world economic crisis, which had affected all countries without exception, had been used by certain developed Western countries to justify their inadequate contribution to United Nations operational activities for development. Those countries did possess the necessary means and were capable of summoning the political will but seemed, unfortunately, reluctant to do so. Some of them, through selfish national policies, such as raising interest rates, imposing restrictions on credit and protectionism, aggravated the crisis without paying due attention to the hardship caused to the third world and, in particular, to the least developed countries. Moreover, they were accusing the socialist countries of not having provided assistance to the developing countries in accordance with their capacities and means. The socialist countries had, in fact, done their utmost to help the developing countries to attain self-reliance. It would be unjustified to accord the same degree of blame to the socialist countries, which built their economies through the work of their own people, as to a group of developed capitalist countries which enriched themselves by exploiting the resources of other peoples.

25. The erosion in operational activities for development had been compounded in recent years by the manoeuvring of certain imperialist and hegemonist circles which had made use of their influence within the development organizations of the United Nations system to obstruct, reduce or delay assistance to certain third-world countries whose only crime was not to have conformed to imperialist norms and tastes. Such practices, which exemplified the carrot-and-stick policy invariably practised by imperialist circles in their relations with developing countries, had the same aim as the propaganda of those same circles for the free play of market forces, the role of transnational corporations and private investment, to the detriment of any multilateral co-operation effort. It was high time for the international community to stem that dangerous tendency, which seriously damaged the spirit of multilateral co-operation and constituted a clear denial of the deepest aspirations of peoples struggling for their development free of any imperialist coercion. Only sincere multilateral co-operation free of any desire on the part of one country or group of countries for domination over another would enable the international community to re-establish those relations of trust between States which were beneficial to all mankind.

26. Mrs. ZHANG Zong-an (China) said that since its inception, the United Nations development system had made useful contributions to the economic and social development of the developing countries through its gradually expanding operational activities and had fulfilled through multilateral channels the aspiration for international economic and technical co-operation between developed and developing countries. China had always supported that co-operation, favoured strengthening and expanding it, and deemed it especially urgent in the current world economic situation.

27. The developing countries, particularly the least developed among them, had been hit hardest by the further deterioration of the international economic situation, and their position in the world economy was worsening. The serious shortage of development resources was a great obstacle to the implementation of their development plans. In their efforts, they needed the support of the international community and the United Nations development system in the form of more concessional economic and technical assistance. The harsh fact was, however, that the volume of official development assistance was constantly dwindling and that all the funding agencies were facing severe challenges as their sources of funding became increasingly unreliable. Contributions to the United Nations development system for 1981 had not only fallen far short of the established targets but had even failed to match the figures for 1980. UNDP's own situation was even worse, its resources having declined by 6 per cent. Unless that trend was reversed, the real delivery rate of the indicative planning figures for the third programming cycle would be only 55 per cent, a decrease of 25 per cent in real terms from the rate of the second cycle. With contributions for 1982 32 per cent short of the planned target, the actual delivery rate for that year would be less than that for 1972.

28. That gloomy prospect had aroused widespread concern, especially among the developing countries. First, the programmes of more than 150 recipient countries and territories would have to be cut by 43 per cent and a number of projects would have to be suspended or postponed, which would be a great waste of human and financial resources and would hinder the implementation of national development plans. Moreover, the operational activities of the various agencies would be adversely affected. Finally, the constant changes to which programmes were subject owing to the unreliability of funds would undoubtedly tarnish the credibility of UNDP and of the United Nations development system as a whole.

29. A major cause of those serious financial difficulties, in addition to the substantial decline of contributions in real terms, was fluctuations in exchange rates, especially in relation to the United States dollar. In all, UNDP had suffered a net loss of nearly \$100 million in 1981 and a loss of \$75 million was estimated for 1982. Many explanations had been given for the decline of contributions. While her delegation did not discount the budgetary restrictions forced on the major developed countries by the sustained economic recession, it believed that the main factor was lack of political will. The required political will should spring from several sources. First, it should be the expression of respect for the Charter, the International Development Strategy and the General Assembly resolutions on promoting the economic and social development of the

(Mrs. Zhang Zong-an, China)

developing countries and narrowing the gap between them and the developed countries, as a primary task of the United Nations. Secondly, it should spring from the recognition of the close economic interrelationship of all countries as it had evolved throughout history. In order to develop their economies through self-reliance, the developing countries needed the financial and technical assistance of the developed countries. On the other hand, the economic welfare of the developed countries required the rich resources, vast markets and prosperity of the national economies of the developing countries. Thirdly, the political will required should be based on Governments' interest in maintaining the United Nations development system, which had been set up through their continuous efforts over the years. UNDP, with more than 30 participating and executing agencies, had technical co-operation relations with more than 150 countries and areas. It was not easy to create such a development network, and while there was undoubtedly room for improvement in efficiency and effectiveness, efforts should be aimed at supporting the network, not weakening it.

30. Those three sources could generate the necessary political will to ease UNDP's plight. Her delegation was pleased that a number of developed countries had expressed their readiness to reach the target of 0.7 per cent of their gross national product for official development assistance and to continue to work with the multilateral institutions in providing development assistance. It hoped that those commitments would be honoured and that industrialized countries whose contributions did not match their economic capabilities would adopt a positive attitude and increase their contributions to the funding agencies of the United Nations development system.

31. Efforts should be made to ensure that the meetings of the Intersessional Committee of the Whole in 1983 produced solutions to UNDP's financial problems. Whatever the new funding arrangements and measures to mobilize contributions might be, they should not jeopardize the basic principles of the Consensus of 1970 and the "new dimensions". UNDP's role as the central funding and co-ordinating agency for development activities should be preserved, and resources for operational activities for development should be provided on an increasingly predictable and continuously growing basis. The annual growth target of 14 per cent was attainable.

32. The outcome of the 1982 United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities was disheartening, although a few major donor countries had yet to announce their contributions. At the current session the General Assembly should therefore adopt effective measures to solve the short-term financial problems and meet UNDP's pressing needs, and the executing agencies must make further efforts to improve the effectiveness of operational activities for development. Her delegation did not favour the establishment of an independent evaluation unit for UNDP, because that would entail duplication and additional administrative costs, and because the idea was not in keeping with the principle of respect for the sovereignty of the recipient countries.

(Mrs. Zhang Zong-an, China)

33. In the 10 years since co-operation between her Government and the United Nations development system had been established, co-operation activities had prospered, although China had only been receiving technical assistance for four years. The third population census had been successful, thanks to UNFPA financing and the technical support of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development. Her delegation was grateful for the technical assistance rendered by UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, UNIDO and other agencies, and it hoped that friendly co-operation between China and the organizations and agencies of the United Nations development system would be further strengthened.

34. Mr. FAILETTAZ (Observer for Switzerland) said that his delegation had decided to take the exceptional step of speaking in the Second Committee in order to express its concern about the situation of UNDP. The Programme was facing grave difficulties, and the 1982 United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities had once again demonstrated the need to strengthen it. It was incumbent on Member States to strengthen the foundations of an institution whose usefulness was more obvious than ever. The necessary instrument, the Intersessional Committee of the Whole, which was to submit proposals to the Governing Council, was already in being.

35. Action was needed in three spheres: the level of funding, the mode of funding and the role and structure of UNDP. Those spheres were connected, and an acceptable solution could be found only if they were considered together. With regard to the level of funding, his delegation was disquieted by the cuts which had had to be made in the programmes of recipient countries. If contributions continued to stagnate or declined in the coming years, UNDP would lose the central role that everyone considered so important. The economic situation was forcing a number of donor countries to make painful readjustments in public expenditure. While those readjustments did adversely affect the financing of development, they also indirectly forced recipient organizations to manage their funds more rationally.

36. As for the level of funding, the current difficulties showed that the system of annual contributions did not meet the need for predictability and continuity. The Swiss authorities were quite prepared to examine alternatives to the system of annual contributions. The growing tendency to attach conditions to resources contributed to UNDP jeopardized the optimum use of available resources by UNDP and by recipient countries.

37. With regard to the role and structure of UNDP, its role within the United Nations system would remain central only as long as most of the resources intended for technical co-operation projects were channelled through it. Only when that was the case could UNDP co-ordinate and supervise the development activities of the entire system in a given country. If it was to perform that task satisfactorily, UNDP should also be able to count on the total support of all Member States. Since it was the Governing Council that laid down overall policy for UNDP, its structure should be adequate for the task. The second session of the Intersessional

(Mr. Failettaz, Observer, Switzerland)

Committee of the Whole, in which Switzerland intended to take an active part, was of particular importance in that context. The interest taken by Switzerland in the ongoing discussions on the reorganization of UNDP was commensurate with the substantial and constantly increasing contributions which it had made to the Programme in recent years.

38. Mr. Fareed (Pakistan) took the Chair.

39. Mr. BELINGA (United Republic of Cameroon) said that the Committee's discussion of operational activities for development was especially important in view of the serious financial situation of the United Nations funding agencies, which called for urgent action.

40. The world economic crisis was affecting the economies of the developing countries most severely. Because of stagflation in the industrial economies, the developing countries were exposed to rising protectionist pressure, which crippled their export earnings, and to higher prices for their imports and a soaring debt burden. Official development assistance, which was so crucial for the poorest developing countries, was declining. The official development assistance provided by the member States of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) had been \$25.5 billion in 1981, compared with \$27.2 billion in 1980, a decline of 4 per cent in real terms. On the other hand, some DAC countries - the Nordic countries and the Netherlands - had reached or exceeded the target of 0.7 per cent of the gross national product, while France had committed itself to reaching the target in six years. His delegation hoped that other developed countries, eastern and western, would demonstrate the same sort of solidarity.

41. In the existing unstable international environment, it would be unrealistic to expect the efforts of the developing countries to mobilize their national resources to be fully effective. Two forms of action were therefore needed: concerted action to reform the international system in such a way as to get development started again, and combined action to increase bilateral or multilateral resources for development assistance to the poorest countries. Such action was essential because the financial situation of the agencies responsible for operational activities was so critical as to jeopardize the implementation of many projects.

42. The volume of UNDP's total resources had remained static in the period 1980 to 1982; it had actually decreased in constant dollars. Contributions for 1982 had fallen short of the target, and the estimated results of the 1982 United Nations Pledging Conference were likewise \$464.1 million below the target set for 1983. That sharp decline was paralysing one of the bodies which in its daily work exemplified the United Nations for many nations and symbolized international co-operation and solidarity. The situation threatened to erode the credibility of the United Nations, which might well come to be viewed as an Organization which was quick to adopt ambitious and hopeful programmes, but unable to mobilize the resources required to carry them out or to fulfil its promises.

(Mr. Belinga, United Republic
of Cameroon)

43. As the Administrator had stated, the reduction of UNDP resources would adversely affect the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries. Similarly, the Director-General had pointed out that those who would suffer the most from the failure to mobilize the required resources would be the developing countries, already facing enormous difficulties in maintaining their growth rate in an increasingly harsh economic environment.

44. Many countries excused their failure to meet their financial commitments by arguing that the target of a 14 per cent annual increase in contributions was unrealistic or that the economic crisis was affecting them severely. However, similar arguments in the past had not prevented UNDP from coming close to the target. The real question, then, was whether the political will to support UNDP existed. For the developing countries, the answer was clear: the world economic crisis had not prevented them from allocating a large proportion of their modest resources to UNDP. His Government's pledge for 1983, for example, represented a substantial increase over its 1982 contribution. The major donors should likewise express their faith in UNDP by enabling it to operate in conformity with the 1970 consensus. The principle of voluntary contributions, if backed up by genuine political will on the part of States, could still serve the cause of development.

45. Unfortunately, the results of the 1982 United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities gave little cause for optimism. The General Assembly must therefore study new ways of giving political impetus to the mobilization of resources. The time had come to review specific ways and means of mobilizing resources for UNDP on an increasingly predictable, continuous and assured basis. His delegation fully endorsed Governing Council decision 82/5 establishing an Interessional Committee of the Whole which was to study various options for the longer-term financing of UNDP. Such a study was urgently needed; uncertainty concerning the availability of resources influenced the planning and budgeting of the developing countries and consequently affected the quality and effectiveness of their programmes.

46. The report of the Administrator (DP/1982/15) contained some useful suggestions on the subject. The system for the replenishment of resources used by the Agency for International Development and the International Fund for Agricultural Development might be employed, *mutatis mutandis*, by UNDP, with due regard for the Programme's specific needs. The multi-annual pledging approach which had already been adopted by some Member States, including developing countries, also merited consideration. Obstacles raised to the adoption of any proposals on that subject should not be viewed as insurmountable. It was a question of preserving the gains of 30 years' experience in technical co-operation for development.

The meeting rose at 5.20 p.m.