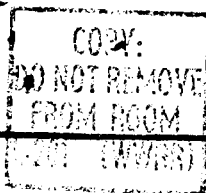


United Nations  
**GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY**  
THIRTY-SEVENTH SESSION  
*Official Records\**



SECOND COMMITTEE  
13th meeting  
held on  
Tuesday, 19 October 1982  
at 10 a.m.  
NEW YORK

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 13th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. FAFOWARA (Nigeria)

CONTENTS

AGENDA ITEM 73: TRAINING AND RESEARCH (continued)

- (a) UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE FOR TRAINING AND RESEARCH (continued)
- (b) UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY (continued)

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

- (a) INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR THE THIRD UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT DECADE
- (b) CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF STATES
- (d) INDUSTRIALIZATION
- (e) SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT
- (f) FOOD PROBLEMS
- (k) EFFECTIVE MOBILIZATION AND INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT
- (l) LONG-TERM TRENDS IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
- (m) UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL FUND

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

\* This record is subject to correction. Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned *within one week of the date of publication* to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, room A-3550, 866 United Nations Plaza (Alcoa Building), and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate fascicle for each Committee.

Distr. GENERAL  
A/C.2/37/SR.13  
23 October 1982  
ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

The meeting was called to order at 10.45 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 73: TRAINING AND RESEARCH (continued) (A/37/14, A/37/3  
(Part II), A/37/31, A/37/111)

(a) UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE FOR TRAINING AND RESEARCH (continued)

(b) UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY (continued)

1. Mr. DIECKMANN (Federal Republic of Germany) said that, in order to promote the economic, social, cultural and humanitarian objectives of the Charter, it was necessary to define clearly a long-term perspective, and he noted with satisfaction that UNITAR's project on the future served to illuminate some of the most important and pressing economic and social issues of the time.

2. His country also recognized the value and timeliness of studies such as those which had been published on peaceful settlement of disputes, on the Security Council and disarmament and, more particularly, on the policy and efficacy of the United Nations and several of its organs. UNITAR's programmes on regional and interregional co-operation, on energy supply and on development strategies in Africa and Asia also constituted a very important contribution. His delegation noted with satisfaction that, in spite of its financial difficulties, UNITAR was continuing well-co-ordinated training programmes.

3. His Government welcomed the efforts made by UNITAR to balance its budget, rationalize its programmes and reduce its staff. His country, which was one of the main contributors, was a member of the financial committee entrusted by Board of Trustees with the task of submitting a study on the budgetary situation of UNITAR by March 1983.

4. The best way for UNITAR to increase its effectiveness was not only to reduce its cost but also to attract more voluntary contributions. In that regard, those countries which had not yet made a contribution should give financial support in order to show their appreciation of UNITAR's programmes. His country, for its part, would endeavour, in spite of the considerable financial difficulties which it was facing, to increase its contribution for 1982 and was willing to continue to give UNITAR all the moral and financial support possible in the future.

5. Mr. PIRACHA (Pakistan) said that it was regrettable that, in order to balance its budget, UNITAR should be reduced to restricting the number of its activities, and he considered that it would, unquestionably, be preferable to increase the amount of voluntary contributions. Current trends would, if they continued, necessarily have disastrous consequences for the future of UNITAR. As Mr. Nicol had noted, if UNITAR was to continue to play a useful role, it was necessary to increase either voluntary contributions or subventions from the regular budget of the United Nations. Pakistan, for its part, supported the proposal to provide UNITAR with a core budget. Meanwhile, his delegation appealed to all nations, particularly those which were not contributing at a level commensurate with their capacity, to strengthen their support.

/...

(Mr. Piracha, Pakistan)

6. He also urged the Executive Director of UNITAR to ensure that UNITAR's studies remained action-oriented. In that regard, Pakistan welcomed the recent efforts of the Secretary-General and the Executive Director to strengthen the co-ordination of training activities throughout United Nations systems.

7. His Government also unreservedly supported the activities of the United Nations University, but believed that their number should be substantially augmented, in order to strengthen the United Nations presence in the developing countries. The report of the Joint Inspection Unit contained a useful analysis of the University's activities and served to identify areas in which greater emphasis would enable it to fulfil the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly. In spite of the problems encountered, the University was a viable institution, and it was for its Rector and its Council to find practical solutions to its problems.

AGENDA ITEM 71: DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (continued)  
(A/37/324, A/37/333, A/37/447, A/37/3 (Part II), A/37/16, A/37/291, A/37/37 (Part I and Corr.1 and 2 and Part II), A/37/19, A/37/390, A/37/260, A/37/381, A/37/211 and Corr.1-4 and Add.1; A/C.2/37/2; A/C.2/37/L.5, L.6, L.8)

- (a) INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR THE THIRD UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT DECADE
- (b) CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF STATES
- (d) INDUSTRIALIZATION
- (e) SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT
- (f) FOOD PROBLEMS
- (k) EFFECTIVE MOBILIZATION AND INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT
- (l) LONG-TERM TRENDS IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
- (m) UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL FUND

#### ORGANIZATION OF WORK

8. Mr. SZEREMETA (Poland), after quoting from the introductory statement of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, said that the world economy was in a state of crisis and that international relations in that field were gradually becoming one of the major sources of political tensions. However, the national dimensions of the crisis were even more important, inasmuch as it threatened the rights of millions of human beings who suffered from unemployment, malnutrition and even hunger. That crisis was not new, however, and all knew its most severe characteristics: low growth rates, unemployment, inflation, growing protectionism in trade, high interest rates and lack of stability in international financial relations.

/...

(Mr. Szeremeta, Poland)

9. In the present troubled times, the price that mankind had to pay for an uncontrolled arms race was out of all proportion. The waste of raw materials, capital and human resources which it involved was almost criminal. It was scientifically established that the manufacture of armaments did not promote the economics of any country, not even the United States. There was no doubt that nations would very soon have to find political means of ensuring their national security, because the military option would only increasingly choke socially oriented economic development at the national and international levels.

10. The arms race did not, however, explain all the world's economic problems. Mankind was engaged today in the process of the greatest restructuring ever of the world economy. That positive restructuring was the consequence of great political and social progress, technological change and the world-wide dissemination of new techniques. The cost of that operation, however, could be lower and the difficulties involved less severe if the economically powerful countries of the West had a keener sense of their responsibilities. The progressive democraticization of international political relations and the revolution in the field of information had led all societies throughout the world to aspire to a better future. Was it then responsibility to offer a country financial co-operation only to withdraw at the first difficulty or to use that economic leverage to exert political pressures on troubled countries?

11. In a world in crisis, it was only natural that all nations should try to build a system of economic security, the goal of which should be to establish a stable network of permanent economic links. To that end, Poland had on various occasions proposed that a set of economic confidence-building measures should be designed and implemented. Such measures would include: outlawing the use of economic instruments for the political blackmail of sovereign States; improving the machinery for consultations among States on matters of common economic interest; promoting higher forms of economic co-operation in all spheres of economic exchange; and reaching an agreement on the multilateral development of larger scale, longer-term regional and global projects. The idea of economic confidence-building measures was attractive to a large number of nations in all continents and not only in Europe.

12. For the purposes of clarification, he wished to recall that it was contrary to the provisions of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States to use political pressure to make sovereign States comply with the political wishes of more powerful countries. At present, such a policy was being pursued by the United States and its allies vis-à-vis Poland. That created an extremely dangerous precedent for both East-West and South-West relations, since it might prompt political leaders the world over to limit their economic, political and cultural relations in the fear that over-exposure might tempt others to use that spirit of co-operation against them.

13. Poland also believed that if States acquired the habit of consultations, even in the worst possible times, it would be much easier to avoid the complications arising from unilateral decisions. Such consultations were already going on among

(Mr. Szeremeta, Poland)

States. An attempt must therefore be made, in the light of the experience gained, to create regional and global systems of economic consultations among States. At regional level, the proper forums would seem to be the economic commissions. Finally, there were a number of problems which could be solved by immediate and concerted action, namely: problems of hunger, energy, the environment and basic schooling for all. Those who had originally proposed the holding of global negotiations had understood the need to create, through such negotiations, far more secure conditions for the economic development of nations. If they were to be successful, such negotiations must establish a set of mechanisms embodying in one form or another at least part of Poland's concept of economic confidence-building measures. That was why his Government continued to advocate the early launching of such negotiations.

14. His Government noted with satisfaction that a number of members of the Second Committee supported the idea of economic confidence-building measures, and was encouraged that several delegations had, in the General Assembly expressed views which in some way echoed his delegations ideas.

15. With regard to certain subitems of agenda item 71, his delegation considered the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States to be uniquely important among all the documents adopted with the intention of promoting just co-operation among Member States. In times of difficulty, Member States all too often failed to observe that Charter, yet it was one of the main achievements of the past and must be used as a basis for overcoming the present crisis. The tenth anniversary of its adoption might provide a good opportunity for international action to that end.

16. With regard to industrialization, his Government supported fully the activities of the United Nations system aimed at promoting the broad industrialization of the developing countries. The role of UNIDO was particularly important in the current economic climate and he wished to recall in that regard the excellent co-operation between his country and the Organization in utilizing Poland's ever-growing contribution.

17. Poland endorsed the steps taken by UNIDO to adjust its programme of work to take full account of the Industrial Development Decade for Africa. It also noted with satisfaction the progress made so far in preparations for UNIDO IV and regarded as very useful the creation of an open-ended working group of the Industrial Development Board. Finally, it endorsed the provisional agenda for the Conference and hoped that the agreement reached on that subject would speed up the preparatory work for the Conference.

18. With regard to science and technology for development, his Government recognized the importance of the early establishment of a truly universal and voluntary United Nations Fund, the management of which would entail no unnecessary expenditures.

19. With regard to long-term trends in economic development, Poland noted with appreciation the preliminary draft of the overall socio-economic perspective of the world economy to the year 2000. Given the value of that instrument, all Member

/...

(Mr. Szeremeta, Poland)

States must consider the best ways of utilizing it. Work on it should if possible be finalized at the thirty-eighth session of the General Assembly, or at the fortieth session at the latest. The Secretary-General should also present the Committee, by the end of the 1980s, with the overall socio-economic perspective to the year 2010.

20. Mr. ARAPI (Albania) said that the general crisis which had both the capitalist and the revisionist worlds in its grip had devastating effects on the economy of the industrialized countries but even more so on the economy of the developing countries. That crisis was apparent in the drastic deceleration of production, the slowing down of economic growth, the bankruptcies of producer enterprises and galloping inflation and unemployment. As Enver Hoxha had pointed out at the Eighth Congress of the Albanian Communist Party, the crisis was disrupting internal social relations and relations among States and undermining the standard of living and rights of working people,

21. Various economic data bore witness to the drop in world production, the increase in unemployment and reduction in real income in capitalist countries, and the drop in industrial and grain production in the Soviet Union. The capitalist and revisionist countries were trying to shift the burden of their economic and financial crisis onto the backs of the developing countries. The latter for their part were far from achieving the objectives set forth in the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, as could be seen from the deterioration in their economic situation, their growing indebtedness and the persistence of illiteracy, hunger and chronic disease, as well as the increasing gap between them and the industrialized countries. Now more than ever, the peoples of the developing countries were confronted with the neo-colonialist policies of the super-Powers and other imperialist countries which were trying to subject them to their political and economic domination, plunder their resources and keep them as sources of raw materials and markets for the sale of their manufactured goods at high prices.

22. In that context, the activities of the multinational corporations, whose profits did not cease to grow despite the economic crisis, represented a serious threat to peoples and countries aspiring to independent economic development and an improvement in their standard of living. Those corporations wished to preserve and strengthen their control over production technology by preventing the underdeveloped countries from catching up in that area, and to establish full control over international trade in order to dictate their trade policy to the poor countries. Moreover, it should be borne in mind that the export of capital by the super-Powers and other imperialist countries, through credits, so-called aid, investment, and other neo-colonialist methods, was one of the main causes of the financial difficulties of many countries. Currently, the developing countries were obliged to pay an annual sum of \$75 billion in interest to their creditors.

23. Furthermore, the deepening of the economic and financial crisis aggravated world tensions and, consequently, the risk of war. It exacerbated the rivalries among the imperialist super-Powers and the military, economic and political

(Mr. Arapi, Albania)

alliances under their control, and even the friction within those alliances, since those super-Powers were making efforts to shift the burden of some of their difficulties onto their allies. Moreover, the United States and the Soviet Union were constantly raising their non-productive military expenditure and contributing - through the arms race in which they were engaging with each other, the armed conflicts they were provoking in various regions and the local arms races they were inciting in order to promote their hegemonistic and expansionist aims - to the deterioration in the economic situation in the world as a whole and in various countries in particular.

24. Furthermore, there was little reason to anticipate that there would be any improvement in the world economic situation; it seemed, rather, that the forecasts of the United Nations that by 1983 the world would be contending with the worst recession ever experienced were being borne out. The international conferences held since the preceding session of the General Assembly, such as the Cancun and Helsinki conferences, the Versailles summit meeting and the Toronto meeting, had not solved the serious economic problems that were of concern to the developing countries. On the contrary, the imperialist Powers had used those conferences to promote their neo-colonialist interests to the detriment of the developing countries' own interests. The numerous statements made on the new international economic order, solidarity with the developing countries, the general endeavour to combat inflation and unemployment and the adjustment of economic structures had also led nowhere.

25. In contrast, his country today had a sound economy based on socialist ownership of the means of production. It was developing smoothly without crises, unemployment, inflation or foreign debts. The new five-year plan for the period 1981-1985 was opening up even better prospects for Albania. Its goal was to achieve a rate of expansion in social production and national income more rapid than that of population growth. The chief feature of that plan was that his country would carry it out independently, without any foreign aid. Mention should also be made of the measures taken with a view to raising real per capita income through constant price cuts, which attested to the stability of his country's economy and the Albanian State's concern for its population's welfare.

26. Mr. KOENTARSO (Indonesia) said that his Government was preoccupied with problems relating to agricultural development and was endeavouring to ensure that the Indonesian population had an adequate food supply.

27. For that reason, high priority had been given to agricultural output in his country's national development plan and various measures were currently being taken to increase food production, to establish an adequate national food reserve and to raise the income of small farmers and marginal producers. At the sub-regional level, his country was participating actively in the efforts of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) to initiate and further develop a food security reserve scheme for the region.

(Mr. Koentarso, Indonesia)

28. At the global level, it was gratifying to note that the eradication of hunger and malnutrition, the adoption of measures to remedy structural imbalances in food production and the need to guarantee an adequate food supply continued to be central issues in international forums. However, whereas almost 10 years had elapsed since the adoption of the Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition, millions of people continued to be the victims of those scourges. Basically, that paradox could be explained only in terms of the persistence of structural imbalances in food production. His Government therefore believed that, while it was encouraging that the levels of global stocks had risen, that factor alone could not redress the deteriorating situation in many developing countries, particularly in Africa, where food output was lagging behind demand. That situation was further aggravated by the fact that many developing countries were obliged to import a rising volume of food. Since their export earnings had fallen because of the worsening world economic situation, those countries had a lower volume of resources available for importing the food and other goods they needed. In the long term, those problems could be solved only if the countries in question adopted national strategies to raise their food and agricultural output and, with the support of the international community, to strengthen their national and collective self-sufficiency. Such a policy had become one of the corner-stones of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, and the World Food Council had strongly recommended that it should be implemented. However, in the interim it was essential that an effective world food security net should be put in place. In that connection, it was reassuring to note that some progress had been made with regard to international arrangements for dealing with food emergencies, including attainment of the target of 500,000 tons for the International Emergency Food Reserve and the launching of the IMF financing facility. On the other hand, it was disappointing to see that there had still not been any breakthrough in the negotiations on the adoption of a new international wheat trade convention and the provision of an international grain reserve. In the absence of an agreement on the establishment of such an international reserve, the establishment of developing-country-owned reserves, which had been proposed by the World Food Council, was highly desirable, because it would reduce the risk of food emergencies. It was therefore essential that the negotiations on the adoption of a new wheat agreement should be resumed as a matter of urgency.

29. Industrial development was recognized as being a key element of the economic growth and social transformation of the developing countries. UNIDO therefore played an important role in that respect, and its conversion into a specialized agency reflected the desire of member States to strengthen its activities. Although 84 countries had already ratified that organization's Constitution, some major developed countries had not yet done so. Once they had done so, the international community would have more of an obligation to work towards achieving the objectives of UNIDO. The convening of the Fourth General Conference of UNIDO in the middle of 1984 would provide an excellent opportunity for preparing a long-term industrialization strategy aimed at attaining the Lima target.

30. With regard to the issue of science and technology for development, since the launching of the Vienna Programme of Action, adopted three years earlier by the



(Mr. Koentarso, Indonesia)

United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, little progress had been made with informal consultations, owing to the controversies that had developed over the nature of the financing system and to the grim international economic situation. Moreover, the Interim Fund, which had been established as a transitional facility in the absence of a long-term financing system, had achieved poor results and the resumed full session of the Intergovernmental Committee had led to equally disappointing results.

31. However, he wished to pay a tribute to the Intergovernmental Committee for its unrelenting efforts to refine the operational plan for implementing the Programme of Action. He expressed the hope that a final agreement would emerge with regard to a financing system and appealed to all the developed countries that were currently not in favour of establishing a financing system to reconsider their positions so that an agreement could finally be reached at the current session of the General Assembly.

32. Mr. RUSO (Finland), speaking on behalf of the five Nordic countries, said that they agreed with much of the analysis presented by the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation in his introductory statement. Given the prolonged and pervasive nature of the world economic crisis, all countries were called upon to participate in remedial action through a multi-disciplinary and multilateral approach. The Nordic countries regretted that the existing multilateral mechanisms for international economic co-operation had not been effectively utilized to that end and that multilateralism was viewed with mistrust as was demonstrated by the increasing resort to unilateral action or bilateral arrangements in the field of trade and the decreasing financial backing of multilateral development institutions. They also regretted that the efforts made within the United Nations to bring about integrated global negotiations to deal with some of the most pressing problems had not yet succeeded. Recalling that, at the informal meeting held in Oslo in early October, 40 representatives from developing countries, industrialized countries and from United Nations organizations had pointed out that it was more important than ever to reach agreement on the launching of global negotiations, he appealed to all parties to show the necessary political will to eliminate the remaining obstacles to the launching of such negotiations.

33. Reiterating the Nordic Government's support for an open multilateral trading system governed by internationally respected rules, he expressed the hope that, at the ministerial meeting of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), to be held in November, members of GATT would strengthen their resolve to resist protectionist pressures and, through the joint action of developed and developing countries, would further develop that open trading system which should be a source of economic development for the developing countries.

33a. The balance-of-payments problems faced by many developing countries not only affected the international financial system and world trade as a whole but also caused major set-backs to the development process of those countries, particularly the poorest of them. It would be too easy to wait for global economic recovery to

/...

(Mr. Ruso, Finland)

resolve the financial problems of the developing countries, which, in the present economic crisis, were hit twice when declining export earnings were accompanied by stagnating or diminishing aid efforts. The international community had a responsibility to safeguard the poorest countries from such double effects of the crisis, inter alia, by providing sufficient resources to the multilateral development institutions, which contributed to a more equitable distribution of financial and technical assistance. The Nordic countries had contributed, and would continue to contribute, substantial amounts to those institutions and believed that all donor countries should assume their responsibilities in financing those institutions.

34. The Nordic countries would do what they could to ensure the success of the sixth session of UNCTAD which would undertake an assessment of the world economic situation and its impact on global trade and development. They agreed with the view that the Conference should complement, rather than be a substitute for, the global negotiations. It should take decisions on a limited number of concrete issues within its competence.

35. The Nordic countries regretted that only limited progress had been made towards implementing the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade and that it seemed likely that the targets set by the Strategy would not be reached before the review and appraisal process nor even before the end of the Decade. However, that was not a reason to reject the Strategy, which was the expression of the aspirations of the developing countries and of the political commitment of the international community to fulfil those aspirations. In that context, the review and appraisal, which was an integral part of the Strategy, took on great importance and it was therefore necessary that the United Nations and Governments should prepare it carefully. At the Secretariat level, the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation was responsible for co-ordinating the efforts of the United Nations system to report what had been carried out by the various bodies and to assess what would be required to attain the objectives of the Strategy. In that context the Nordic countries would like to see the General Assembly establish, at the present session, the over-all framework for the review and appraisal exercise, in order to enable the Economic and Social Council to carry out its responsibility regarding the preparatory work for the exercise. With regard to item 71 (d) of the agenda, the Nordic countries continued to hold the view that industrialization was one of the most powerful forces of development and that UNIDO had an important role in promoting the industrialization of the developing countries. They had expressed a wish to see the transformation of UNIDO into a specialized agency completed as soon as possible. They were pleased to note that a sufficient number of States had now ratified the Constitution to permit progress towards the new status and they hoped that many countries, including all major donor countries, would participate in the consultations regarding the entry into force of the Constitution. They also felt that the timing of the first General Conference of the new UNIDO called for under the Constitution should be considered in close connection with the preparations for the Fourth General Conference of that organization.

(Mr. Ruso, Finland)

36. Turning to item 71 (e), he said that the Nordic countries regretted that the negotiations on the establishment of a Financing System for Science and Technology for Development had not produced the desired results and they shared the view of the Secretary-General that all Governments should try during the current session to reach agreement on that issue.

37. As to item 71 (f), the Nordic countries had noted with satisfaction that the over-all food supply had improved in the last two years. They had noted that the number of people who were hungry or malnourished was increasing none the less, that the food deficit continued to grow in many least-developed countries and that the food situation remained unstable for internal as well as external reasons. The main responsibility for increasing food production and securing adequate nutrition lay with the food deficit countries themselves. They must draw up and implement appropriate national food strategies which should be supported by technical and financial assistance from outside. The Nordic countries would support those endeavours through bilateral and multilateral aid programmes. They would also continue their substantial food aid through the World Food Programme, hoping that other donors would do likewise. Noting with regret that the negotiations aimed at a new International Wheat Agreement had failed he said that it was urgent to examine other solutions such as the FAO Plan of Action on World Food Security and the World Food Council proposal to build up grain reserves as part of their national food policies. Noting with satisfaction that the target of 500,000 tons of grain for the International Emergency Food Reserve had been reached for the first time, he expressed the hope that the agreement to hold joint pledging conferences for the World Food Programme and the International Emergency Food Reserve would ensure greater predictability and continuity of the latter's resources.

38. Finally, with regard to item 71 (k) he recalled that the Nordic countries had long been promoting the participation of women in development. In that connection they welcomed the decision of the Economic and Social Council aimed at including special financial components in all technical co-operation programmes of the United Nations system for the economic development of women. Noting with satisfaction that the Governing Council of UNDP had already started acting upon the matter, they hoped that UNDP would continue to emphasize the involvement of women in all its activities. Such measures, in addition to their immediate effects, would also be useful for the world survey on the role of women in development, which was to be submitted to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session.

39. Mr. COELHO (Portugal) said that the world was currently suffering from persistent inflation, fluctuating exchange rates, high interest rates, and increased unemployment and social tensions. For the first time since the 'fifties, there has been a decline in the per capita gross domestic product of the developing countries. The economic crisis affected all countries, regardless of their political, social or economic systems, but it had particularly serious repercussions for the poorest countries, where poverty, malnutrition and unemployment were already all too familiar. In an increasingly interdependent world, all members of the international community, without exception, whatever

/...

(Mr. Coelho, Portugal)

their socio-economic system or stage of development, must strive to bring about a world economic recovery and to revitalize international economic co-operation without delay.

40. In his estimation, the traditional distinction between the developed and developing countries did not reflect reality; what had to be done was to recognize the different levels of development in order to achieve a better organization of efforts and a more balanced distribution of available resources. His country, for example, was at an intermediate stage of economic and technological development. While being a donor country, to the extent of its capacities, it was simultaneously a recipient of assistance crucial to its development. It was therefore in a position to understand the needs of the developing countries while, at the same time, comprehending the difficulties of the developed countries, even the most advanced.

41. He said that his country was seriously preparing for its entry into the European Economic Community. That endeavour should contribute to its development and add a new dimension to the privileged relations that it maintained with many other areas of the world, particularly with Portuguese-speaking countries in Africa.

42. Referring to the problems of hunger and malnutrition which currently affected more than 450 million people world wide, he said that, despite an increase in world food production, the distribution of food products was uneven and certain regions were in dire straits. For that reason, he hoped that the results of the 1981 Cancún summit, the Rome meeting in April 1982, and the Ministerial Meeting of the World Food Council in June 1982, would soon be translated into concrete action to improve the situation.

43. He noted with satisfaction that UNIDO was on the verge of becoming a specialized agency of the United Nations system. He was confident that the preparations for the entry into force of the UNIDO constitution would soon be concluded, making a new juncture and an important step forward for the international community. His country attached great importance to the work of UNIDO in promoting co-operation for development in the industrial field. His Government would soon be able to deposit its own instrument of ratification. In that connection, the contribution which it made to the United Nations Industrial Development Fund should be seen as an expression of his Government's support to UNIDO. In his delegation's view, the Industrial Development Decade in Africa was one of that organization's most important programmes, because the industrial development of the African continent depended to a large extent on the active and effective co-operation of the international community. Although his country was not yet among the donors, it was gradually intensifying and diversifying its co-operation activities, which were mainly directed towards countries in Africa. Those activities responded to the priorities set by the recipient countries and made use of existing technology and qualified experts well versed in the conditions and problems of developing countries.

(Mr. Coelho, Portugal)

44. Referring to the decision taken by the Industrial Development Board at its sixteenth session to strengthen the System of Consultations, he expressed the view that that was an excellent tool for handling questions of industrialization, one which facilitated a realistic approach to the problems of the various industrial sectors. His country, which had already hosted one of those consultations, on pharmaceutical products, continued to be encouraged by the results achieved at recent meetings.

45. His delegation approved of the proposed draft agenda for the fourth General Conference of UNIDO, but none the less felt that the draft should remain open to any amendment that might prove necessary. It also welcomed the agreement reached in IMF on the need to revise and increase the quotas by April; that marked an important step towards the solution of the many problems of the world economy.

46. He stressed that his Government believed in the importance and utility of a realistic, action-oriented North-South dialogue. The international community was facing global problems that called for a global approach. His delegation believed that it was still possible to reach an agreement on launching global negotiations in a spirit of common interest and respect for existing forums. The results of the recent Versailles summit and the negotiations that were still taking place should make it possible to reach the long-awaited consensus and thereby pave the way for a process which, it was hoped, would constitute a new and constructive element of the North-South dialogue.

47. Mr. NGAIZA (United Republic of Tanzania) said that it was common knowledge that the world was undergoing a very serious economic crisis and that the international community had a duty to search for the means to solve it.

48. One of the most crucial problems was that of food. Studies made by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) showed that, if current trends continued, by the year 2000 there would be 600 to 650 million underfed people compared with 450 to 500 million at the present time. Africa was the region where the number of hungry people would increase most significantly (by 60 per cent) by the end of the century.

49. In his report on the food and agriculture situation in Africa, the Secretary-General had pointed out that while there had been rapid population growth and urbanization, the food and agricultural situation had deteriorated drastically, hence, food consumption per capita had fallen below the minimum nutritional requirements.

50. Concerted action was needed from the world community to combat hunger. It was encouraging to learn that there were already some national, regional and international initiatives but, unfortunately, they had not received adequate financial support. His delegation appreciated the FAO contribution to the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action in various fields such as food self-sufficiency, post-harvest losses and food processing, agronomic research and imports for increased food output, transport infrastructure for self-sufficiency, food trade and marketing organizations, manpower development and training project

/...

(Mr. Ngaiza, United Republic  
of Tanzania)

analysis, and forestry. His country, which had shared in some of those projects, was a beneficiary of the Lagos Plan of Action. However, the results had been limited by natural disasters, high energy prices, and the increased cost of imported machinery, equipment, pesticides, fertilizers and technology, coupled with the slowdown of agricultural trade, in particular the fall in international prices for agricultural exports. For countries with food problems, the situation had been further aggravated by a decrease in external financing of the food sector. The lack of adequate external assistance was critical, as the Secretary-General had made clear in his report. In view of that predicament, his delegation wished to appeal to the international community, especially those members with the greatest capacity, to increase the level of external aid to agriculture in the developing countries.

#### ORGANIZATION OF WORK

51. The CHAIRMAN suggested that, as requested by the representative of the Philippines, sub-item (p) (New international human order: moral aspects of development) of agenda item 71 should be taken up in the course of consideration of the second part of that item, under sub-item (j) on human settlements.

52. He further proposed that the deadline for submission of draft proposals on agenda item 73 (Training and research) should be extended to Friday, 22 October at 6 p.m.

53. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 12.30 p.m.