

United Nations
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY

THIRTY-EIGHTH SESSION

Official Records*



SECOND COMMITTEE
33rd meeting
held on
Wednesday, 9 November 1983
at 3 p.m.
New York

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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 33rd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. DIETZE (German Democratic Republic)

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Distr. GENERAL
A/C.2/38/SR.33
11 November 1983

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

The meeting was called to order at 3.30 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 80: TRAINING AND RESEARCH (continued)

- (a) UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE FOR TRAINING AND RESEARCH (continued) (A/38/14)
- (b) UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY: REPORT OF THE COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY (continued) (A/38/31)
- (c) UNIFIED APPROACH TO DEVELOPMENT ANALYSIS AND PLANNING: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/38/62)

1. Mr. BIRIDO (Sudan) said that he supported the initiative taken by the new Executive Director to revitalize the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and to restore its effectiveness and administrative efficiency. He agreed with the Board of Trustees that UNITAR should design training programmes that would enhance the capacity of the developing countries to plan and manage their development effectively. It was encouraging to know that the findings of the questionnaire which the Executive Director had sent to all diplomatic missions were being used in the formulation of the new training programmes. His delegation had made several suggestions regarding such programmes.

2. He urged donor Governments to contribute generously to UNITAR and expressed the hope that the Secretary-General would provide appropriate recommendations on ways of funding UNITAR on a more predictable basis in response to General Assembly resolution 37/142. He agreed that if the voluntary contribution system was to be continued, it should be accompanied by a reserve fund so that the Institute could be self-financing in time of difficulty.

3. Mr. KORDS (German Democratic Republic), referring to the question of a unified approach to development analysis and planning, said that there was a close, though complex, relationship between economic and social development, and unified planning at the national level was an effective development tool. However, there was a need for continuous adjustment of planning and management mechanisms, and his delegation welcomed the decision to consider the question of a unified approach to development analysis and planning at regular intervals.

4. That question had been given a great deal of attention in the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, and in that connection it was clear that there was an international as well as a national aspect to the questions involved in a unified approach to development analysis and planning. Developments in the monetary field, fluctuations in energy and food supplies had shown that problems could not be resolved by automatic market trends. Those who proclaimed the sacredness of the free market mechanism were those who derived the greatest benefits from them. Accordingly, increasing importance should be attached to systematic co-operation geared to the economic and social interests of States. Discussion of the unified approach should aim at an exchange of experience, and that exchange should continue at the fortieth session of the

(Mr. Kords, German Democratic Republic)

General Assembly, taking into account the results of the review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy which would be held at the thirty-ninth session. The report of the Secretary-General should contain practical conclusions and suggestions on the application of the unified approach.

5. Mr. DE SILVA (Sri Lanka) welcomed the decision taken by UNITAR to give priority inter alia to issues concerning the progress of the developing regions in the context of a rapidly changing world economy. UNITAR studies should be geared to the needs of the developing countries, and although account had been taken of those needs in the past, co-operation between UNITAR and national development institutions could be strengthened further.

6. While the report of the Executive Director of UNITAR (A/38/14) was fairly comprehensive future reports should include information on proposed new projects, the allocation of resources among programmes and projects and the time-frame for the completion of various studies. In that connection, he pointed out that the study on population movements within the English-speaking Caribbean: implications for development planning, which had been started in 1981, would be useful to other regions also. He asked whether the second, more general study on the United Nations and regionalism had been undertaken as a result of the response of Asian States to the earlier study relating to Asian regionalism and the United Nations.

7. He was pleased to see that the United Nations University had started implementing its Medium-Term Perspective. The report of the Council of the United Nations University should also provide more information on its work programme, both present and planned, and on the financial implications of the various programmes. His delegation supported the University and had just announced its contribution to that body for the next six years.

8. Mr. McBARNETTE (Trinidad and Tobago) said that he saw great merit in the approach adopted by the Executive Director to revitalize UNITAR through a systematic assessment of the training needs of Member States, and he welcomed the establishment of two Advisory Panels on training and research respectively. He was gratified to see that the initiative of the former Executive Director to establish a working group to examine all aspects of training within the United Nations system so as to avoid duplication and overlap had been further developed.

9. Given the precarious financial situation of the Institute, he appealed to all States to contribute. He had heard no argument as yet to convince him that an assured core budget for salaries and related staff costs was contrary to the Statutes of the Institute or would impair its independence. Indeed, that independence might be seriously impaired if the Institute continued to depend on sporadic voluntary contributions. The proposal for a core budget should therefore be given serious consideration. The Institute could not indulge in additional staff cuts and at the same time implement a meaningful work programme. The Assembly must therefore decide whether the Institute could function viably within the confines of the budget it had been provided with over the last few years and continue to provide a high-quality service directly relevant to the needs of Member States.

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(Mr. McBarnette, Trinidad and Tobago)

10. He expressed the hope that the Institute's reformulated publications policy would not slow down publication activity, since the developing countries reaped substantial benefits from UNITAR's topical publications. He agreed with those who felt that the new Executive Director should be given an opportunity to find a way out of the difficult situation prior to altering the financial modality under which the Institute operated.

11. Mr. ØVREGARD (Norway), speaking on behalf of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Sweden and his own country, said that he agreed with the Board of Trustees that continuity must be combined with innovation and that research on the United Nations system as such should have priority. More particularly, priority should be given to innovative programmes focusing on issues affecting the future of the United Nations system, on international peace and security and on development, especially those issues concerning the progress of the developing regions in the context of a changing world economy. The training programmes of the Institute were of great practical value and should be continued at their present level.

12. Responsible financial management was an essential prerequisite for the credibility of any organization. The 1982 budget had been balanced, but the Nordic countries were very concerned at the Executive Director's report on the present financial situation of the Institute. They supported the request contained in General Assembly resolution 37/142 that all possibilities be examined in order to place the financing of UNITAR on a more predictable, assured and continuous basis and also the Executive Director's appeal that each Member State should make a financial contribution commensurate with its means. As a first step, a realistic plan should be elaborated to lead UNITAR out of the present impasse.

13. The Nordic countries were also concerned at the high proportion of special purpose grants in relation to General Fund contributions, since it implied that a major part of UNITAR's work fell outside the priorities set by the Board of Trustees. Although the situation had improved somewhat in 1982, there was room for further improvement. Finally, he emphasized the Nordic countries' firm support for UNITAR, as demonstrated by the pledges they had made at the recent Pledging Conference.

14. Mr. ABDULLAH (Indonesia) said that the ability of UNITAR and the United Nations University to tackle political, social and economic problems was diminished by their declining financial resources. At UNITAR, the new Executive Director had launched efforts to revitalize the Institute; while it was still too early to assess the effects of those efforts, the approach, which had been endorsed by the Institute's Board of Trustees, constituted a promising response to the international community's changing needs. That approach had four major components: a rethinking of the Institute's programmes; closer co-operation with other United Nations organizations; improving the management of the Institute; and the mobilization of adequate financial resources.

15. With regard to the first component, he welcomed the measures taken to enhance the attractiveness of UNITAR to Member States, including the establishment by the

(Mr. Abdullah, Indonesia)

Executive Director of two Advisory Panels to assist in redesigning the Institute's programme. The high calibre of the Advisory Panels and the comprehensiveness of the consultations carried out among permanent missions to assess the training needs of Member States should ensure that the programme for 1984 and 1985 would be of high quality. However, a lack of adequate resources might thwart the attainment of programme objectives. Contributions from Member States were required in order to eliminate a deficit of \$900,000 before the revitalization of UNITAR could begin. To that end, he welcomed the establishment by the Board of Trustees of a Finance Committee to advise the Board and the Executive Director, and he urged that all sources of funding for the Institute should be explored. He also expressed support for the resolution adopted by the Board of Trustees which called for a minimal budget of \$3 million for 1984 and a continuation of funding through voluntary contributions.

16. The United Nations University also required adequate contributions to carry out its mandate effectively. He welcomed the steady progress made by the University in implementing its Medium-Term Perspective and commended the University for advancing the basic goals of the United Nations. He expressed his delegation's satisfaction at the progress made towards the establishment of a permanent headquarters at Tokyo and said that Indonesia was following with interest the University's increased emphasis on post-graduate training in the areas of research development, training and institution-building.

17. Mr. RAKOTONAIVO (Madagascar) said that his delegation appreciated the essential role which United Nations training and research organizations must play in providing Member States with an intellectual framework from which to approach major international problems, and it thus accorded special importance to the activities of UNITAR and the United Nations University. He commended the Executive Director of UNITAR for his efforts to revitalize the Institute, which had encountered serious problems in recent years. In particular, he hailed the constructive efforts which had been made to evaluate the needs of Member States and the establishment of Advisory Panels to assist in designing new programmes.

18. In the area of training, he welcomed plans to develop programmes to improve the planning and management capacity of developing countries. With regard to research, he expressed the hope that UNITAR and the United Nations University would continue to concentrate their efforts on the problems faced by developing countries with a view to ensuring economic and social development at both the national and international levels. In that connection, he welcomed the UNITAR studies on policy choices to facilitate the establishment of a new international economic order, the progressive development of the principles and norms of international law in that area and regional and interregional co-operation. His delegation was especially interested in the programmes on North-South trade and development and strategies for the future of Africa, which formed part of the Project on the Future, and in UNITAR activities to promote and develop such sources of energy as heavy crude and tar sands. His delegation was also interested in the activities of UNITAR and the United Nations University relating to the maintenance of international peace and security.

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(Mr. Rakotonaivo, Madagascar)

19. He welcomed the achievements of UNITAR and its new Executive Director to strengthen co-operation with other agencies both within and outside the United Nations system, and particularly with the United Nations University. Importance should be attached to the publication and dissemination of research studies carried out by United Nations bodies, and for such publications to be genuinely useful to Member States, they should be issued in the principal working languages of the United Nations.

20. With regard to the management of UNITAR, his delegation endorsed the measures outlined by the Executive Director to restore the administrative efficiency of the Institute, particularly the decisions to change the date of the sessions of the Board of Trustees and to revise programme costs. Having followed the trends in the Institute's budget over the preceding four years, his delegation agreed that the current operating level represented a limit which could be exceeded only at the risk of compromising programme effectiveness. Consequently, the Institute's \$900,000 deficit should be made up from extrabudgetary resources to be provided by the General Assembly. He also expressed support for the minimal budget of \$3 million for 1984; it was unfortunate that the contributions which had been announced at the recent Pledging Conference fell far short of that goal. Consultations should be held during the current session of the General Assembly with a view to finding a speedy solution to the resource problem. With regard to the long-term financing of the Institute, his delegation shared the view of the Executive Director that thorough consideration should be given to the development of a joint system which would combine voluntary contributions and a reserve fund.

21. Mr. VERCELES (Philippines) said that UNITAR was in a particularly difficult situation: while it had broadened the scope of its activities, it had yet to receive the support and resources required to carry out those activities. While UNITAR programme costs for 1983 were roughly equal to those of 1980, contributions for 1983 only reached the 1977 level. Less than one third of all Member States were currently contributing to UNITAR, and half of all Member States had never contributed to the Institute. He welcomed the pledges made to UNITAR by 34 countries at the recent Pledging Conference for Development Activities; while that number was small, it was to be hoped that it would grow in the future.

22. He was impressed by the four main activities which the new Executive Director intended to carry out in an effort to revitalize the Institute, and he urged that they should be given maximum support. He took note of the wide range of training and research activities carried out by UNITAR and commended the Institute's research activities for having explored new areas. He expressed particular appreciation for the study on the progressive development of the principles and norms of international law relating to the new international economic order, which had been proposed by his delegation. He urged UNITAR to continue its studies under the Project on the Future, as well as studies on regional co-operation for development.

23. His delegation was satisfied with the work of the United Nations University; its implementation of the Medium-Term Perspective was commendable. The

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(Mr. Verceles, Philippines)

University's concentration on peace and conflict resolution, development in a changing world and science and technology for human welfare should provide intellectual guidance in those vital fields. Like UNITAR, the University also suffered from financial constraints; its income was currently inadequate to implement even the Medium-Term Perspective. Improved co-ordination between the University and UNITAR and with other relevant institutions in the United Nations system would help avoid duplication of efforts and unnecessary expenditures.

24. Mr. AKAO (Japan), referring to the United Nations University, noted with satisfaction the progress which had been made in the implementation of the Medium-Term Perspective and commended efforts to make University research and training activities more coherent, responsive and interdisciplinary. The planning process initiated by the University in 1983 would facilitate greater collaboration between University staff and scholars; however, his delegation would have appreciated a more detailed description of the purpose and function of the newly established Planning and Evaluation Services unit. He also welcomed the progress made in the establishment of three research and training centres and in strengthening collaboration between the University and the United Nations, other international organizations and the international academic and scientific community.

25. His delegation had hoped for information concerning the implementation of the JIU recommendation that policy statements should be required in the area of University programming, since the key to rendering University activities more effective was the University's ability to focus its energy on a small number of clearly defined priority programmes. In that connection, he wished to emphasize the need for greater co-ordination of University programmes and activities with those of other relevant organizations and institutions in order to minimize duplication of work.

26. Greater financial support was required from Member States, not only to strengthen the University's financial base but to demonstrate world-wide support for the University as a global institution. Care should be taken to ensure that the establishment of the three research and training centres did not divert potential contributions from the University's Endowment Fund, which needed to be expanded substantially for the Medium-Term Perspective to be implemented. Care should also be exercised in determining the budget and programmes of the research and training centres, as well as their relationship to the University headquarters. The cost of incorporated institutions must be borne by the Government of the host country or from other sources external to the UNU budget.

27. Finally, his delegation was of the view that the General Assembly tended to forget about the University except when considering the report of its Council. Since the subjects which comprised the University's programme were closely related to those considered by the General Assembly, it might be advisable for the University to forge closer ties with United Nations delegations through such means as the dissemination of publications and the holding of discussion meetings. Governments might then be more inclined to increase their financial contributions. With regard to the co-operation extended to the University by Japan, a plot of land

(Mr. Akao, Japan)

had been made available to the University by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, and the Japanese Government was currently engaged in planning for the establishment of a permanent headquarters.

28. Turning to the subject of UNITAR, he expressed his delegation's appreciation to the Executive Director for his vigorous efforts to restore the effectiveness and administrative efficiency of the Institute. The efforts to raise contributions and to revitalize the Institute appeared to be bearing fruit, as evidenced by contributions made to UNITAR at the recent Pledging Conference. Nevertheless, the fact that research was being conducted by many other organizations within the United Nations system rendered close co-ordination imperative. Such co-ordination would enhance the effectiveness of the research activities of the entire system and would make it possible for UNITAR to utilize a larger portion of its budget for the training activities specifically assigned to it. In conclusion, he expressed his delegation's continuing support for the activities of UNITAR.

29. Mr. SEIF EL-NASR (Egypt) said that UNITAR was in the unique position of being able to promote scientific research applicable to both the immediate and long-term issues facing the United Nations. The policy and efficacy studies conducted by UNITAR deserved encouragement because they were addressed to the challenges facing the United Nations system, but what was even more desirable was an objective and critical analysis of that system with the aim of enhancing its effectiveness.

30. He noted with satisfaction that the Division of Research was making a study of ways of enhancing the role of the Security Council in the maintenance of international peace and security. Other interesting studies included those on credentials and representation issues at the United Nations, disaster relief, interpretation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the progress of the developing regions in the context of a changing world economy. He hoped, however, that the Division of Research would increasingly gear its studies to the needs of the developing countries.

31. UNITAR training programmes had reached more than 7,000 diplomats and other officials, and the UNITAR/EDI seminar on economic development and its international setting had been particularly valuable in bringing about an interaction of representatives of developed and developing countries on the major economic issues facing the world community.

32. He would like to see in-depth training programmes on disarmament and legal drafting, and further seminars for new delegates would be useful, as would seminars designed to keep serving United Nations delegates up-to-date. Further emphasis on designing training programmes to enhance the capacity of the developing countries to manage development would be useful.

33. However, what UNITAR needed at the present time more than ever was financial support, perhaps through immediate action in the General Assembly to seek a renewed commitment from donor countries. As a token of its trust in and commitment to UNITAR, Egypt had more than doubled its annual contribution.

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(Mr. Seif El-Nasr, Egypt)

34. It was encouraging to note that the United Nations University had moved beyond the planning and initiation period into the first year of programme work. He welcomed the trend whereby the University was concerning itself more deeply with development problems in general and the problems of the developing countries in particular, and in that connection research into the current structural disparities in the world economy would be welcome.

35. An exchange of views organized recently by the University had touched upon a very important aspect of development, namely the absence of any conceptual framework for linking the impact of the economic crisis on the third world with the questions of world economic restructuring, the need for structural reform in the South and the role of effective South-South co-operation. In that connection, he noted with interest the activities proposed for Africa and said that the preparation and implementation phases of the African projects should be carried out in close co-operation with existing national institutions in Africa.

36. While he acknowledged the need for new institutions, it was equally important that the University should maintain and extend its links with existing institutions as a means of building up an institutional capacity for development research in developing countries.

37. In general, he would welcome a more effective co-ordination of the research and training programmes of UNITAR, the United Nations University and other institutions within and outside the United Nations system in order to avoid duplication.

38. Mr. GÖTTELMANN (Federal Republic of Germany) said that his Government's support for UNITAR in the past and its decision to increase its contributions for 1984 and 1985 were adequate testimony to the importance with which its work was viewed. He appreciated the Executive Director's efforts to develop co-operation with other organizations inside and outside the United Nations. It was also very important that UNITAR should make every effort to improve its management and to streamline and rationalize its programmes. More effective programming and avoidance of duplication would not only reduce costs but also attract more voluntary contributions.

39. He noted with regret UNITAR's critical financial situation resulting from overexpenditure and overestimated income, but he could not agree that the deficit should be covered out of the regular United Nations budget; it was for UNITAR itself to try and keep its finances within reasonable bounds either by cutting expenditure or by finding new sources of income. That might be done by enlarging the Board of Trustees to include wealthy sponsors, attracting private donors on co-operating with national institutions of Member States. It was essential to establish a realistic long-term financing plan and to set clear long-term priorities, both in the training and in the research programmes, which would emphasize UNITAR's role in the development process. Noting that only one third of Member States were providing annual financial contributions to UNITAR, he suggested that countries that had not contributed in the past might give financial support commensurate with their expressions of appreciation of UNITAR's programmes and its value to the international community.

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(Mr. Göttelmann, Federal Republic of Germany)

40. His Government supported the activities of the United Nations University directed towards the solution of global problems. The University's research work for the benefit of the developing countries, focusing on the major problems of hunger, poverty, environment and human and social development, were of great importance. His Government had therefore committed itself to contributing DM 8 million to the Endowment Fund, of which DM 6 million had been disbursed. His Government would continue to give the University all possible moral and financial support in the future.

41. Miss FRANKINET (Belgium) said that her delegation continued to believe that the activities of UNITAR should be concentrated mainly on training and on research directed towards training. She appreciated the value of the efforts which were being made to avoid duplication and overlap with the research activities of the United Nations University, but continued vigilance was essential.

42. Her delegation welcomed any attempts to find a solution to the financial problems of UNITAR but had always considered that the United Nations regular budget could be used only to finance the expenses of the Organization, as provided for in Article 17 of the Charter. When UNITAR had been established, there had been some discussion of the possibility of linking it to various sources of finance such as foundations and individuals; however, the current trend seemed to be towards joint ventures with organizations both within and outside the United Nations system. The success of such arrangements was likely to vary according to the financial situation of the organization concerned. That was particularly so with regard to co-operation with UNDP. Her delegation appreciated the Director-General's efforts to submit a balanced budget but doubted whether the proposed loan arrangement would provide a solution to the problem.

43. Mr. HAYFORD (Ghana) said that he welcomed the efforts of the Executive Director of UNITAR to design a programme for 1984 and 1985 which would be more responsive to the concerns of Member States, and he expressed appreciation of the efforts being made to improve co-operation with other organizations within and outside the United Nations so as to reduce the financial burden on UNITAR. The Executive Director's intention to change the dates of meetings of the Board of Trustees so as to ensure that figures for actual expenditure and indications of likely contributions could be circulated before-hand should also be conducive to efficiency.

44. He noted with satisfaction from the report of the Council of the United Nations University that there had been an expansion of links with other institutional and research units. The University had held over 40 workshops, seminars and other meetings and it was a matter for satisfaction that most of those had taken place in developing countries. He was pleased to see that the Rector of the University had been authorized to negotiate the establishment of the University's first three research and training centres. He believed that research projects in such matters as development economics and natural resources were of particular importance for developing countries.

(Mr. Hayford, Ghana)

45. He endorsed the broad aims of the University's Medium-Term Perspective grouped around five central themes; of those, Ghana was particularly interested in the theme of hunger, poverty, resources and the environment, under which research was being conducted into energy systems and policy, and in particular into the provision of energy at reasonable cost to rural communities in developing countries.

46. He appreciated the aid given by the Government of Japan in connection with the University's permanent headquarters in Tokyo.

47. Mr. DOO KINGUE (Executive Director, United Nations Institute for Training and Research), responding to the comments made by the delegations, said that, while he appreciated their good wishes for success, he also required not only their financial but also their intellectual co-operation to enable UNITAR to meet the expectations of Member States. In that connection he attached great importance to the work done by the two Advisory Panels as well as to co-operation with all other institutions within and outside the United Nations system.

48. The suggestions made by the representative of Sri Lanka concerning the annual report would be taken into account in the next report, which would also contain detailed information about the important work being done in Asia.

49. In response to the concerns voiced by the representatives of Trinidad and Tobago, the Federal Republic of Germany and Belgium, he said that he was not opposed to, and in fact had not yet taken a position on, the core budget or any other budgetary solution envisaged by the General Assembly. His position was that UNITAR should be given some time to see if the system of voluntary contributions could be effective as a result of improved management, broader membership support and other measures. The membership of the Board of Trustees was being increased from 24 to 30 in order to ensure that Member States in a position to contribute to UNITAR were more directly involved in its work. He had also approached private firms and foundations, among them the Sony Corporation which had agreed to help to modernize UNITAR's equipment by providing word processors and micro-computers. He was endeavouring to attract as much support as possible from both the public and the private sectors and welcomed any suggestions along those lines.

50. With regard to the comment on publications made by the representative of Trinidad and Tobago, he said that the Institute's intent was not to limit the number of publications but rather to streamline the policy on publications and enhance their quality so that they might better reflect the image of the United Nations.

51. He assured the representative of Norway that research on the United Nations was accorded priority attention. As an example, he pointed out that, at a recent seminar of the World Federation of United Nations Associations, he had announced the launching in 1984, subject to the approval of the Board of Trustees, of a programme on the United Nations in the year 2000, which would call for an in-depth reflection on how the United Nations could be made more responsive to the expectations of Member States. The programme would cover such substantive areas as

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(Mr. Doo Kingue)

peace, collective security, human rights and development, as well as an assessment of the functioning of the United Nations bodies and the system as a whole. Another programme was being envisaged on the most effective means of eradicating world poverty through the United Nations system.

52. The representative of Norway had also pointed out that the 1982 budget had been balanced, but in that regard he drew attention to his report which indicated that the 1982 budget would have shown a deficit if there had not been an exceptional increase in miscellaneous income (A/38/14, para. 101). That "miracle" had concealed the crisis, which still existed and must be addressed.

53. There were two types of special purpose grants. An example of the first type was a grant made by a Government requesting help to solve a specific problem. The second type consisted of grants made by Governments to assist UNITAR in conducting research on problems of interest to the Institute but for which the necessary funds were not available. He agreed with the representative of Norway that special purpose grants should not be accepted for projects that were not a UNITAR priority. The selection of the Institute's activities should not be influenced by the grants.

54. Concerning the comment made by the representative of Madagascar on the importance of publishing studies in the major working languages of the United Nations, he agreed and added that what was needed was a well-organized, dynamic publications and information department to ensure the broad dissemination of publications. The Institute did not have the funds available for that purpose and would therefore have to count on special purpose grants.

55. In response to a question raised by the representative of Japan on the co-ordination of research, he said that the position of the Advisory Panel on Research was that basic research should be avoided and efforts made to use the findings of other institutions doing basic research of interest to UNITAR. One of his initiatives had been to assess the "state of the art" in respect of a given issue by bringing together specialists from throughout the world to discuss all aspects of the issue, including the status of related research.

56. With regard to the comment made by the representative of Egypt on training, the new organizational structure to be established in January 1984 would include two chiefs of training programmes, one for economic and social development and the other for multilateral diplomacy and international co-operation. They would both be specialists in training methods and should thus be able to meet the expectations of Member States.

57. Concerning the question of solving financial problems, raised by the representatives of the Federal Republic of Germany and Belgium, he stressed that he was simply requesting assistance to solve the problems that he had inherited from his predecessor. If he could receive help to solve those problems, then he would undertake to cope with any future problems on his own.

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58. Mr. FLEMING (United Nations University) said that he appreciated the constructive comments made by many delegations. Concerning the comment made by the representative of Japan on the recommendation of the Joint Inspection Unit that policy statements should be made in the area of programming and that resources should be allocated accordingly, he said that the University had accepted that recommendation. The policy statements on programmes were contained in the Medium-Term Perspective and the rationale for the programmes was given in the budget documents. According to the clearly-established policy statements and rationale, the five themes contained in the Medium-Term Perspective would be developed into nine programme areas comprising some 50 projects. The establishment of a Planning and Evaluation Services unit was also an important step in ensuring that resources would be allocated to priority tasks.

59. With regard to the dissemination of the results of the University's work, he pointed out that the University accepted the vital importance of the dissemination of knowledge, which was in fact one of the three tasks entrusted to it in its Charter. One response to that challenge had been the establishment, in 1981, of the Global Learning Division which concentrated to a large extent on that task.

60. In response to the comments made on the possibility that the establishment of the research and training centres might be a drain on the resources of the University, he referred to the statement made by the Rector of the University at the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly to the effect that the research and training centres would not be established until long-term funding had been assured and that guarantees were being built in so that the centres would not constitute a drain on the core resources of the University.

The meeting rose at 5.50 p.m.