

1600th meeting

Monday, 7 October 1974, at 3.05 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Jihad KARAM (Iraq).

A/C.2/SR.1600

AGENDA ITEM 44

United Nations Institute for Training and Research: report of the Executive Director (*continued*) (A/9614, A/C.2/L.1344 and 1345)

1. Mr. SANGMA (India) said that training and research were the most important fields of UNITAR activity. His delegation had taken note of the various training programmes mentioned in the report of the Executive Director (A/9614), including courses for diplomatic personnel, documentation, seminars and fellowship programmes organized by UNITAR. It welcomed the decision of UNITAR to expand its programme of training to cover more topics relating to the United Nations and issues of interest to the international community.

2. His delegation was happy to note that during the previous year UNITAR had devoted more attention to research on issues of current concern to the international community. For example, the studies that UNITAR had undertaken on disputes with regard to ocean resources and to environmental matters would also be very useful, and it was to be hoped that they would be available before the forthcoming session of the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea in 1975. It was also encouraging to note that during the period under consideration UNITAR had increased the number of studies published and that they were being issued in Russian and Spanish as well as in English and French.

3. Since the resources of UNITAR were limited it was essential that the Institute should not duplicate the research work of other United Nations bodies. Once the United Nations University was established and its Rector appointed, UNITAR should aim at formulating a co-ordinated programme in the field of research and training so as to avoid overlapping and duplication. UNITAR should take up only those studies which might be of primary concern to the international community, and those studies should be more responsive to the needs of developing countries. Lastly, in order to improve the quality of research, it should include more prominent internationalists and aim at better collaboration with the academic world.

4. Mr. KJELDGAARD-OLESEN (Denmark) said that ever since UNITAR was established his country had taken an interest in the work of that organization and had supported it by sponsoring the annual draft resolution. However, the most visible expression of that support had not been verbal but financial, and his Government had contributed annually to the General Fund. Subject to Parliamentary approval it intended to increase that contribution for the period 1975/76.

5. There were two sides to UNITAR activities, namely, research and study, and training. The research and study

that UNITAR planned to undertake in the coming years were of great interest, but at the same time they seemed to be rather ambitious in view of the Institute's financial limitations. The purpose of UNITAR, as stated in article 1 of its Statute, could be achieved only if its research activity was concentrated in fields which had a direct impact on the work of the United Nations. While some projects, such as the Project on the Future (A/9614, chap. II, sect. A), deserved special attention and support, there should be a constant awareness of the need to contain UNITAR research activities within set limits. It had to be borne in mind also that some projects, for which direct co-operation with other parts of the United Nations system was unnecessary, could often be carried out as normal university research. As to training, his Government considered that high priority should be given to the training of international staff. It was evident from the report of the Executive Director (*ibid.*, chap. III, sect. B) that UNITAR had been trying to make a new start in that very vital area. His delegation urged it to work out, in close co-operation with UNDP, the details of a new realistic interagency training programme which, through the input of multidisciplinary approaches involving the contributions and philosophies of several agencies, could be of great value.

6. It was especially in the promotion of all aspects of development that the two main areas of UNITAR activity could be of great importance to the work of the United Nations, by pointing out failures in policy formulation and describing more efficient ways of achieving the desired results.

7. Against that background, his delegation hoped that draft resolution A/C.2/L.1344 could be adopted unanimously. He was surprised that his delegation, as a sponsor of the draft resolution, had been neither consulted about nor informed of the amendment submitted by the delegation of Yugoslavia (A/C.2/L.1345). He would need some time to study it.

8. Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the subjects dealt with by UNITAR were very complex and that it therefore had to be very exacting in its choice of them. He wished to comment first of all on the desire of UNITAR to expand its training activities. Under the Statute of UNITAR the Institute's training function was a highly important one, and the Institute's decision to re-establish the training department—which had been closed down with effect from 1 January 1972, when the administration had changed over to the unsuccessful idea of establishing a United Nations staff college—must obviously be regarded as a positive development.

9. With regard to research, he had a few remarks to make on the Project on the Future. His delegation supported the Project in principle in view of its significance and its likely

potential use. The Institute of World Economy and International Relations of the USSR Academy of Sciences had given its consent for UNITAR to hold the Conference on the Future in Moscow. The Conference had been organized jointly by UNITAR and the Institute in June 1974 and had been financed entirely from the Soviet contribution to UNITAR.

10. His delegation was concerned at the diffuse nature of UNITAR efforts. Excessive planning and overlapping with research carried out by other United Nations bodies was still characteristic of the Institute, with its limited financial capacities. For example, there was no point in duplicating the work on the study of the pacific settlement of disputes being carried out by the United Nations Political Affairs Department. His delegation had spoken of that before, but it was unfortunately obliged to repeat what it had said. The Institute should concentrate on study of the most urgent problems, such as hastening the attainment of political and economic independence by the developing countries, the experience of the progressive socio-economic changes which had taken place in various countries, and the struggle against neo-colonialist exploitation of the natural and labour resources of the developing countries by foreign monopoly capital.

11. His delegation supported the desire of UNITAR to expand the circle of authors and specialists invited to work with the Institute. In 1974, UNITAR had for the first time in its entire history published a research paper prepared by Soviet authors, *Soviet Experience in Transfer of Technology to Industrially Less Developed Countries*.¹ His delegation felt that that trend should be maintained and consolidated in the future: UNITAR should attract specialists more widely from the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries to carry out research work and participate in its seminars. In that connexion, his delegation noted that in UNITAR the principle of geographical representation had not yet been applied to the required degree; that also had a definite effect on the Institute's work as a whole, and it was the task of the Executive Director to remedy that situation.

12. Mr. FLEMING (Argentina) said that it should be borne in mind that UNITAR dealt with matters which did not concern the Second Committee exclusively, but that the Committee was the body which reviewed its activities and adopted resolutions concerning it. UNITAR was required to promote United Nations activities in general; the right course was to emphasize economic and social tasks. The Project on the Future was of particular interest. It was essential to counteract current influences on the future and to help in producing a clear identification of those influences. In that connexion, two fundamental characteristics of the contemporary era should be borne in mind, namely, the growing presence of the developing countries in the world economic order and the need for the developed countries to readjust their economic and financial structures. UNITAR had an important task to perform in that sphere. It was not that his delegation was dissatisfied with what had been achieved so far, as much commendable work had been done. However, what needed to be

emphasized was that UNITAR should pay greater attention to the sector he had mentioned.

13. In that connexion, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and other bodies engaged in related activities were still afflicted by the so-called "sectoral approach". The proper approach should be interdisciplinary, not sectoral. UNITAR should be prepared to impart an additional dimension to the activities of the United Nations so that the optimum approach could be adopted to problems.

14. His delegation considered the studies mentioned in paragraph 46 of the report of the Executive Director of particular interest. However, UNITAR should also study the implementation of resolutions adopted by the United Nations. The publications of UNITAR were also very important. In that connexion, UNITAR had prepared other studies on the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary policy and co-ordination organs which could be very valuable to member countries, particularly in view of the seventh special session of the General Assembly in 1975. He hoped that budgetary considerations would not prevent UNITAR from publishing and distributing those documents.

15. The Manual on International Procurement, the publication of which in Spanish was mentioned in the publications programme of UNITAR (A/9614, annex II), could be very useful if it took into account the most recent trends in co-operation between the developing countries. Lastly, he said that the Board of Trustees of UNITAR should include more members from developing countries.

16. Mr. PULI (Ghana) referred to the visit to his country by the Executive Director of UNITAR, during which useful discussions with Ghanaian authorities had taken place; one result of those discussions was the renewal of Ghana's contributions to the Institute. His country would continue to contribute to the Institute to the extent that its means permitted and hoped that other countries would do the same.

17. His delegation was keenly interested in the Project on the Future and looked forward to receiving the report and essays which the Executive Director had announced would be issued. Another welcome development was the completion of the study prepared for the fifty-seventh session of the Economic and Social Council,² entitled "Towards Greater Order, Coherence and Co-ordination in the United Nations System"; his delegation had for some time been emphasizing the need to achieve some coherence and increase co-operation within the United Nations system. He hoped that the distribution of the document would not be limited to the members of the Economic and Social Council, but that other countries would also be able to benefit from the information it contained.

18. He wished to place on record his delegation's appreciation for the training programmes for staff of permanent missions. In that connexion, his delegation believed that the three-day courses currently offered should be extended. Lastly, he pointed out that his delegation was a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1344.

¹ A. N. Bykov with A. V. Letenko and M. P. Strepetova, UNITAR (RR/15 (1973)).

² E/5491.

19. Mr. GATES (New Zealand) said that the training activities for mission personnel provided by UNITAR were a helpful service. The study entitled "Towards Greater Order, Coherence and Co-ordination in the United Nations System" was of great interest in view of the need to make the United Nations system more responsive to new developments in the international situation. Although UNITAR could not instruct the international community on what was wrong with the system, it could serve as a catalyst for the thinking of Governments and the specialized agencies, by helping them to select objectives more effectively, establish priorities and facilitate adaptation to the approaching new international order.

20. It was particularly necessary for the Institute to concentrate its activities, especially its research efforts, in order to avoid duplicating the efforts of other bodies and units. In that connexion, he was pleased to note that the Executive Director was in continuing contact with the United Nations University; the relationship between them could prove very fruitful, particularly in regard to research.

21. His delegation fully supported draft resolution A/C.2/L.1344, and it agreed with the spirit of the amendment submitted by the representative of Yugoslavia (A/C.2/L.1345). His country recognized the need for a new international economic order and, consequently, for a new economic relationship between the developed and the developing countries. UNITAR would have its part to play in that process, an important event of which had been the sixth special session of the General Assembly. However, not everyone agreed that the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order (General Assembly resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI)) should be the basis of the new economic order. His Government could accept without much difficulty the purposes and objectives which had been established; however, it would naturally adopt a specific point of view when the specific proposals of the Programme of Action were made effective in the sectoral bodies concerned. For all those reasons, his delegation proposed a minor amendment to the text of the amendment A/C.2/L.1345, to wit, that the words "to the requirements for the implementation" should be replaced by "to the spirit".

22. Mr. AL-EBRAHIM (Kuwait) said that although it was quite natural for UNITAR to use the services of experienced persons, it should also recruit some young people, who could contribute the enthusiasm and creativity of the younger generation.

23. His delegation welcomed the initial steps taken by the Executive Director concerning the publication of documents in Arabic.

24. With regard to the report of the Executive Director, his delegation had always taken the view that training was more suited to the needs of the developing countries. Purely academic research was less useful to those countries; the research work of UNITAR, although of high quality, should be more action-oriented.

25. His delegation had taken note of the Executive Director's statement at the preceding meeting that studies were being prepared on the close connexion between the

problems of energy, food, resources and population and the co-ordination of the activities of the United Nations system. In paragraph 65 of the report mention was made of a study entitled "The energy crisis: its effect on industrial and developing countries and medium and long-term measures to assure energy supplies". His delegation hoped that the study had been conducted within the framework of UNCTAD on the basis of its numerous recommendations, and hoped that its author had also taken into consideration the findings of the sixth special session.

26. Mr. CURTIN (Australia) said that his delegation was pleased to note the continuing emphasis on the need to keep the role of UNITAR under study in order to ensure that the Institute kept pace with the changing United Nations institutional structure. He agreed with preceding speakers who had stated that the Committee should keep in closer touch with the activities of the Institute. For example, there was a need for more information concerning the Project on the Future, to which the Board of Trustees had accorded high priority.

27. He reaffirmed that his Government planned to continue to lend support to UNITAR.

28. Mr. OULD ROUIS (Algeria) said that the research and training activities of UNITAR were very important; however, since its resources were very limited, care must be taken to ensure that it did not duplicate the activities of other organizations. The work of UNITAR should be reoriented with a view to the implementation of the Declaration and the Programme of Action adopted at the sixth special session, since development was the highest priority of the developing countries. UNITAR should prepare a study on the real causes of the economic crisis, such as the activities of transnational enterprises and the increase in the prices of products which the developing countries had to import. Furthermore, at the twenty-eighth session it had been requested that studies on co-operation for development should be encouraged, and he hoped that everything possible would be done to that end. He expressed his satisfaction that the publication of studies in Arabic had begun.

29. Mr. MAHGOUB (Sudan) said that his delegation had supported and would continue to support the bolstering of the financial resources of UNITAR in order to enable it to carry out its increasingly important functions. It was the function of UNITAR to emphasize the indispensability of the United Nations as the sole competent organ capable of meeting the challenge of the global crisis. Accordingly, the complexity of the tasks and issues confronting the United Nations system demanded a reappraisal of the activities and orientation of the Institute.

30. The most urgent problem which was currently facing the world and should command the full attention of the United Nations was the rapidly widening gap between the rich and the poor, the result of an inequitable international economic order. The new awareness generated by the sixth special session of the General Assembly should be the main inspiration of UNITAR activities for a long time to come. The administrative, financial and intellectual resources of the Institute should be specifically geared to creating an international public opinion conducive to the implementa-

tion of the principles enunciated in the Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order. That document should be the focal point of UNITAR activities, whether in the field of research or training or in the Project on the Future.

31. In that respect, his delegation fully endorsed the plea by the representative of Brazil at the preceding meeting for a new orientation of UNITAR which made the economic development of the developing countries the main focus of its activities. His delegation also supported the request of the representative of Iraq for the reproduction of UNITAR publications in Arabic, and the call for the equitable representation of developing countries on the Board of Trustees.

32. Although his delegation fully supported draft resolution A/C.2/L.1344, it felt that the amendment introduced by the representative of Yugoslavia improved the original text and contributed to a better understanding of the new reorientation of the activities of UNITAR; accordingly, his delegation supported the draft resolution as amended.

33. The CHAIRMAN pointed out that the amendment submitted by Yugoslavia and 14 other countries (A/C.2/L.1345) proposed the addition of a new paragraph and not the replacement of the existing paragraph 3, which would become operative paragraph 4.

34. Inasmuch as an amendment had been submitted to the draft resolution, he suggested that consideration of the draft resolution and the amendments to it should be postponed until later in the week with a view to producing an agreed text.

35. If there were no objections he would take it that the Committee agreed with that suggestion.

It was so agreed.

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Operational activities for development (A/9603, chap. VI, sect. B; E/5466, E/5543/Rev.1):

- (a) United Nations Development Programme (DP/69);
- (b) United Nations Capital Development Fund (E/5557 and Corr.1);
- (c) Technical co-operation activities undertaken by the Secretary-General;
- (d) United Nations Volunteers programme (E/5498 and Corr.1);
- (e) United Nations Fund for Population Activities;
- (f) United Nations Children's Fund (E/5528);
- (g) World Food Programme

36. Mr. PETERSON (Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme), introducing the report of the Governing Council of UNDP on its seventeenth (E/5466) and eighteenth (E/5543/Rev.1) sessions, said that the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly was meeting at a time of great uncertainty in the world economy, as mankind was now facing a global economic crisis of unknown dimensions. Although in the past year material hardships such as inflation and shortages of food and raw

materials had spread to even the most advanced economies, the developing countries were suffering the most, since the price they had to pay for such basic necessities as food and fuel meant an ever-increasing outlay, which seriously impeded their future development. For the poorest countries, it was a question of survival and the situation was all the more serious in the light of the fact that during the first biennial over-all review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy, the Committee for Development Planning had concluded that the Strategy remained much more a wish than a policy.³

37. Clearly, there were no instant solutions for those unprecedented problems, but at least there was a structure of international co-operation and the United Nations had a history of anticipating long-term problems, which was reflected in the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order adopted by the General Assembly at its sixth special session.

38. UNDP had carefully examined its own role in the context of the Special Programme launched by General Assembly resolution 3202 (S-VI); through the *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Special Programme, UNDP was following closely the developments regarding the emergency operation and the Special Fund and the resident representatives were consulting Governments on the reorientation of their development efforts, taking into account the energy situation, and on the kind of assistance UNDP could provide in those new circumstances. For example, a team of energy experts had been sent to consult with Governments in Central America on possible intercountry co-operation efforts to conserve and produce energy; another mission would study the potential of the sun and wind as energy sources, and similar missions were planned for other regions and countries.

39. UNDP had supported several projects designed to tap hydroelectric, geothermal and other sources of energy, and had devoted more than a quarter of its resources to increasing food production, particularly in the least developed countries.

40. Among other examples of technical co-operation representative of the type of ongoing and long-term efforts which had characterized the work of UNDP, he mentioned the Consultative Group on Agricultural Research, co-sponsored and partly financed by UNDP, which was currently supporting research and training in eight institutes that operated throughout the developing world and had developed new cereal strains and production techniques. UNDP was also financing engineering studies for a trans-Saharan highway that would link four African countries, provide a route to the Sahel and give access to untapped natural resources. In collaboration with UNFPA, UNDP was supporting the work of the Latin American Demographic Centre in training professional cadres and applying demographic principles to economic and social problems.

41. Both development and technical co-operation were processes of change, and accordingly UNDP maintained

³ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 5, para. 30.

close contact with Governments, so that they could inform it of their needs, problems and priorities, and at the same time looked to the United Nations system for policy guidance. He believed that one key task of UNDP was to fuse those two basic policy flows, so that the resident representatives could be fully cognizant of the latest development trends. It was important that that "transmission belt" should function well because, since the advent of country programming, the UNDP field offices had moved towards a position of development leadership in the countries they served. Through country programming, UNDP could harmonize general world development problems in the context of each country's particular needs; that tactical approach at the country level combined with the strategies mapped out by the international community, through the United Nations system, helped to guarantee that UNDP assistance was concentrated on the most vital areas.

42. Country programmes were flexible instruments, reviewed and revised periodically, which provided essential support for the basic long-term function of UNDP—the effective delivery of technical and pre-investment assistance; it should be remembered that, very often, the formulation of a country programme involved a considerable number of national and international institutions; for example, one of the first country programmes adopted had involved the participation not only of the various ministries of the country concerned, but also of representatives of specialized agencies, the World Bank, a regional bank, other regional organizations and 17 bilateral agencies. In that particular country, UNDP had operated a field programme for 24 years and had collaborated with the Government on a wide range of development programmes; the Resident Representative had conducted systematic annual reviews of UNDP technical co-operation efforts, which were at the centre of that country's external assistance matrix.

43. As the start of the second programming cycle approached, UNDP expected that each new country programme would build on the experience gained in the earlier ones; the quality of the field staff had been considerably strengthened, procedures had been refined, and the final phase of decentralization of UNDP activities to the field was being undertaken. In order to achieve such decentralization, guidelines had been evolved in recent months which placed the resident representatives and the field offices at the centre of UNDP operations, while Headquarters had been given a clearly defined supportive role. The guidelines gave the resident representatives authority for all aspects of the Programme's operations at the country level. At the same time, the executing agencies had also been urged to adhere to those principles of decentralization and delegation of functions, so that the decision-making process was also carried out as far as possible at the country level.

44. It was further intended that the regional bureaux should have a more substantive role in terms of policy guidance and a more supportive role in terms of administration, instead of undertaking the review and revision of field work in which they had been engaged so far. In addition, the regional bureaux should ensure that UNDP field offices were supplied with the human, financial and administrative resources and the information and guidance required to carry out their functions effectively.

45. In that decentralization process, he was concerned that the results of UNDP field efforts should be properly utilized and that the growing demand for the kind of expertise required for a truly unified approach to development should be met.

46. In that connexion, account must be taken of the important opportunities provided by regional projects and programmes, which required greater institutional co-ordination and, besides being sources of new ideas, were trend-setters and led the way towards approaches of great benefit to individual countries. Because of their importance, new divisions had recently been established within each regional bureau to help to formulate, monitor and promote those kinds of projects; their success would very much depend on the initiative and commitment shown by the Governments involved, which unfortunately had not so far attached due importance to regional projects and programmes.

47. Developing a more unified, integrated and interdependent approach to technical co-operation through decentralization and a greater delegation of responsibility to the country level might seem a contradiction in terms; it was therefore necessary to strike an effective balance, as the Secretary-General had put it so well in 1973 in the introduction to his report on the work of the Organization.⁴

48. It was evident that new forms of technical co-operation existed which in part reflected the growing needs of the new economic order. The initiative of strengthening technical co-operation among developing countries was one example. UNDP was undertaking a study to explore other co-operation possibilities, and expected to make it available for the General Assembly's special session on development. The changes which had swept over the world economy clearly required new international responses; however, it should be taken into account that those efforts might be seriously impaired by the impact of inflation on the country programming process, a problem which might reduce the effectiveness of those programmes at a time when developing countries needed UNDP technical co-operation more than ever before. In those circumstances, it was necessary to reconsider the targeted rates of growth in voluntary contributions to UNDP, so that the Programme could be implemented, in real terms, at the rate foreseen when the first development cycle had been fashioned and so that such growth would continue into the next cycle.

49. Given the current rate of inflation, it was essential, in order to be able to sustain and broaden the continuity and effectiveness of UNDP efforts, to assess the real dimensions of that problem and to reconsider the adequacy of future UNDP resources. In that connexion, UNDP trusted that all agreed that the richer countries should bear the main burden of providing adequate resources for UNDP to cope with world-wide inflation; in order to achieve the aims of both programming cycles, the traditional donors and others must join in a reappraisal of the structure of UNDP resources. That matter would be discussed by the Governing Council of UNDP at its nineteenth session, to be held in January 1975, and he hoped that Governments would turn

⁴ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 1A*, sect. X.

their attention to that issue; for UNDP efforts to establish new and effective criteria to be followed in calculating indicative planning figures for the next programming cycle must not be threatened by the impact of inflation.

50. In order to overcome the uncertainties now confronting the world, it was necessary to make the most of the mechanisms of global co-operation and help to meet the needs of developing countries, a prerequisite for solving world problems. UNDP therefore looked to the Governments of the States Members of the United Nations for new ideas, commitment and adequate resources to do the job.

51. Mr. LABOUISSSE (Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund) said it was a sad fact that in any situation of stress, when resources available were insufficient, it was the children and the services intended to benefit them which suffered first and most. That happened in cases of natural disasters, and it was beginning to happen now on almost a global scale, when so many countries were facing severe disruption in their budgets and their balance of payments and, consequently, in their capacity to carry out development plans. Many countries had been acutely affected by inflation, by food and fuel shortages and by a series of abnormalities in the weather pattern, some of them truly catastrophic.

52. The response to the new situation, as the General Assembly had so eloquently pointed out in the resolutions adopted at its sixth special session, required a massive increase in external aid for the most seriously affected countries. UNICEF could play only a small part in helping to meet the total requirements for assistance to children in developing countries. But its role could be a vital one: it could bring the essential needs of children to world attention and could channel the assistance which was desperately required by the children and which UNICEF alone could provide.

53. Society must come to realize the profound depths of the poverty and suffering which were increasingly a part of the life of millions upon millions of the world's children, and must understand that many practical measures could be taken to help to alleviate those conditions at a reasonable cost. That, essentially, was the message he wished to give the Second Committee.

54. By a fortunate coincidence, the UNICEF Executive Board had held its annual session immediately after the sixth special session of the General Assembly. In considering the needs of children, the Board had been acutely aware that the situation of children in many developing countries, and especially the poorer ones, had been extremely precarious even before the crisis. The appalling conditions of subhuman poverty which continued to exist under so-called "normal" conditions showed that it was no solution simply to say that there must be a "tightening of belts", since there was no margin for doing that.

55. In view of that situation, the UNICEF Executive Board had taken an unusual step in issuing its "Declaration of an emergency for children in developing countries as a result of the current economic crisis" (see E/5528, para. 6). At that same session, the UNICEF Board had approved a record level of commitments to continue ongoing programmes of assistance and to initiate new ones.

56. Pursuant to the Declaration adopted by the Board, the following action had been taken: the Secretary-General and his special representative for the emergency operation had been informed; he (Mr. Labouisse) had made a statement to the *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Special Programme when it was considering the Special Fund; the Economic and Social Council had been informed at its fifty-seventh session and had endorsed the Board's decision. UNICEF field staff concerned with the most seriously affected countries were helping in the preparation of evaluations of the increasing needs of children in those countries and exploring measures for maintaining and expanding basic services, especially in the health and nutrition fields. During the summer, a number of senior staff members had reviewed the situation with various ministries of the Governments of a few countries adversely affected by the crisis.

57. Meanwhile, UNICEF had vigorously continued its assistance to ongoing programmes in more than 100 countries and had started some new ones. He was deeply convinced that, in the circumstances, UNICEF was putting the resources available to the best possible use, although he also felt that it could and should be doing much more during the current crisis, if it had the necessary funds.

58. In the course of its work, UNICEF had been receiving information from African and Asian countries indicating the increasing lack of financial resources and food in those countries. The situation was fast deteriorating, and the question was what UNICEF and others could do for the welfare of a whole generation of children in the poorer countries of the world.

59. First, there was need for a much greater global awareness of the different dangers threatening children today. UNICEF would continue to release relevant information to all concerned, but it needed help. One means of furthering those efforts would be for the General Assembly to show its support for the Declaration adopted by the Executive Board and its appeal for funds.

60. Secondly, it was very important for Governments of developing countries not only to include their needs for children's services in their essential import requirements, but also to make available budgetary provision for such services. Without doubt, adversely affected countries would have to reconsider some of their priorities, including those for imports.

61. Thirdly, it would be equally important that contributing Governments should take steps to help the most adversely affected countries to meet the internal costs of sustaining social services and covering the needs of their children. Otherwise, there was grave danger that those needs would go unmet. He strongly believed that the pressing requirement was not merely for concessionary loans to meet essential needs, but also for funds to help the poorer countries to meet the internal costs of essential services.

62. Fourthly, it was important that programmes benefiting children and their mothers should receive an appropriate share of the Special Fund's resources. The Fund could and should include additional financing not only for UNICEF assistance programmes, but also for those of other

organizations within the United Nations system participating in such activities.

63. Fifthly, there was need for UNICEF to increase its help to Governments in maintaining and expanding their basic services for children. Those services covered such essential fields as child nutrition, clean water programmes, child health, family planning, primary education and the general education of women in child care. They represented the basic areas of UNICEF activity and its major contribution to the survival of the young, as well as to the development of countries. The details of those programmes were set forth in the Board's report which was before the Committee (E/5528).

64. Sixthly, there were additional initiatives which could be taken, including help to Governments in the monitoring of the nutritional status of their children; the local production of protein foods; assistance in the provision of storage facilities to prevent loss and deterioration of foods between harvests; augmenting efforts to educate parents and others at the village level in nutrition for children; and, finally, supplementary feeding programmes where they were needed and practicable.

65. Those were only a few of the specific actions that were possible and desirable. They stemmed from the knowledge, constantly confirmed by experience, that much malnutrition could be prevented if families were taught how to feed their children with foods that were available or could be grown locally. What had been lacking was the means to wage that campaign on an adequate scale. UNICEF would advocate the above line of approach at the forthcoming World Food Conference, to be held in Rome in November, and hoped that it would receive widespread support.

66. UNICEF had been greatly heartened by the endorsement of that general approach to development assistance at the World Population Conference, held at Bucharest in August, especially in resolution XIV on rural populations. That resolution, in part, recommended that all nations should give a higher priority to the expansion of their basic services, including health, nutrition, local food production and adequate potable water, as well as to the training of local personnel.

67. In its programmes of assistance, UNICEF worked closely with the relevant specialized agencies, as well as with UNDP. That not only ensured that assistance provided by several sources was complementary, but also enabled UNICEF to benefit from the technical advice of sister agencies. While part of UNICEF funds were employed to assist Governments in the design of programmes for their children, the bulk of its assistance was spent on what the programmes needed for implementation, as well as on helping Governments to meet the initial costs of operations of some programmes. That system of co-ordinated assistance operated exceedingly well, and the Assembly had often expressed its approval of it. Since in 1975 the Assembly would be considering the structure of the United Nations as a whole, he placed particular importance on that form of interagency co-operation.

68. However, more important than those technical aspects was the nature of the assistance itself. For many years, the

regular UNICEF programmes had aimed to provide what the developing countries needed for their children. Now the needs were greater and even more urgent. UNICEF aid, by its very nature, could be expanded rapidly, but that depended upon the necessary funds becoming available.

69. It was a fortunate fact that most of the normal UNICEF assistance happened to be of immediate utility in times of crisis and formed the essential base for longer-term progress in conditions of life for children. On many occasions, during dramatic emergencies and after the period of recuperation, basic services for children and mothers had grown in a year or two to an extent that would have taken many years at the pre-disaster rate of growth. That was, at least, an element of hope.

70. In the light of that experience, it was possible to hope that, after many vicissitudes, the current emergency would ultimately bring about the same sort of escalation in resources and a corresponding acceleration in the rate of improvement of services for children and mothers on a global scale.

71. Currently, UNICEF did not know whether the enormous funds needed to maintain essential imports and to make possible adequate progress in development plans during the rest of the decade would be forthcoming. It was, of course, to be hoped that those funds would be available. There was, however, the disturbing paradox that, while Governments were thinking in terms of thousands of millions of dollars for new assistance activities, it was possible that they might be forgetting essential, immediate and already operational programmes which required only millions of dollars. The UNICEF assistance programmes fell within the latter category.

72. More specifically, UNICEF was currently trying to reach an income target for 1975 of \$100 million for basic long-term programmes. An increase of \$16 million in the annual level of contributions over and above those estimated for 1974 would be required for that purpose. UNICEF was also seeking about \$40 million in order to carry out relief and rehabilitation operations in the Indo-china peninsula, the Sudano-Sahelian region of Africa, Ethiopia, Pakistan and Bangladesh. Those were ongoing activities which had already begun, largely as a result of special contributions, but needed such additional support to be continued and expanded. Moreover, a substantial amount, which could not yet be determined with any degree of precision but which would certainly total several tens of millions of dollars, would be needed in order to help respond to the new assistance needs of children in countries adversely affected by the current crisis.

73. In accordance with the decision adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-eighth session (resolution 3124 (XXVIII)), a special pledging conference for voluntary contributions to UNICEF would be held on 7 November 1974. That conference had originally been proposed as a means of stimulating contributions for the basic income target of \$100 million for long-term programmes. It should nevertheless be seen as an occasion for announcing special contributions for relief and rehabilitation activities and as an opportunity to help UNICEF respond to new requirements for children's programmes stemming from the current economic crisis.

74. He therefore appealed to all Governments in a position to do so to consider, as a matter of urgency, the serious problems which were affecting the world's children and were described in detail in the report of the Board, and urged them to respond as generously as possible to that appeal for funds.

75. Mr. SALAS (Executive Director of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities) said that, in the year which had passed since his last report to the Committee, UNFPA resources and the volume of project activity had increased considerably, with growing emphasis on country programming. The field staff had been strengthened and the Fund's capacity to establish, implement and monitor assistance programmes had been expanded. The principle that recipient countries should themselves administer Fund-supported projects whenever possible had been put into practice.

76. UNFPA now had a total of 72 donor countries, 52 of which were developing countries. It had supported a total of nearly 1,000 projects in more than 90 countries and had concluded agreements or financed large-scale programmes in a number of countries. Through its basic programme and the special activities for World Population Year, UNFPA had assisted Governments and organizations in focusing their attention on population matters. UNFPA had supplied about one half of the total cost of the World Population Conference.

77. The decisions of that Conference had substantially corroborated the Fund's approach to population assistance. In particular, UNFPA whole-heartedly welcomed the emphasis placed by representatives on population programmes as an integral part of over-all economic and social development.

78. An essential corollary of the Conference was that Governments should be in a position to prepare demographic goals as part of their economic and social programmes. To that end, the Fund had been trying to promote better understanding of the interrelation between economic and social factors and demographic factors. In that connexion, he pointed out that the Fund had supported activities for the collection of demographic and other types of statistics, as well as research projects designed to clarify the relationships between them. Moreover, the Fund was prepared to provide assistance to the demographic sections of multipurpose development projects.

79. The regional consultations organized by the United Nations and the Fund were reviewing the results and recommendations of the World Population Conference. In early 1975, it should be possible to consider the conclusions of those discussions and their operational implications for organizations within and outside the United Nations system.

80. World Population Year had had an enormous impact on world awareness. Some 60 countries had established programmes and national population commissions and two regional organizations had been set up in Latin America and western Asia, to train journalists and broadcasters, on a permanent basis, to report on development issues and

spread knowledge of development. The secretariat of World Population Year had mounted world-wide information campaigns using all available media of communication. One of the immediate effects of World Population Year had been to stimulate demand for the Fund's assistance and the demand had been increasingly outrunning the supply.

81. The promotional work of the Fund, the good relations it enjoyed with member Governments and the generous support it had been given by donors, together with World Population Year activities, were already leading to a further sharp increase in the project requests being received by the Fund. At present, it was estimated that the Fund would need about \$500 million in order to meet the most urgent needs of the developing countries in the period 1974-1977. That figure was substantially higher than the previous estimate for that period and the Fund would therefore request increased approval authority for projects at the January session of the Governing Council of UNDP. The growing volume of demand for UNFPA resources was proof that member countries considered that, in the present times of inflation and food shortages, the multilateral approach was an appropriate one for development assistance.

82. Mr. PATEL (Deputy Director of the United Nations Capital Development Fund) said that, modest though it still was, the Capital Development Fund was effectively responding to the needs of low-income populations, thanks to new contributions and to the review of its policy guidelines carried out by the Governing Council.

83. In January 1974, the Fund had suggested to the Governing Council of UNDP that it would be preferable for it to bear its own administrative expenses instead of drawing on the already overburdened UNDP administrative budget. On the basis of the decision which the General Assembly might take in that regard, the Fund would submit a moderate budget to the next Governing Council so that its administrative expenses could be favourably compared with those of other multilateral sources of capital.

84. He described to the Committee the various amounts allocated to projects by the Fund and the convertible resources available to it and indicated that, if satisfactory data became available in time, the Fund's total resources would be fully committed in the first half of 1975. In most cases, full funding of projects would be necessary since they could not be left unfinished once their execution had begun.

85. Mr. GORDON (Co-ordinator of the United Nations Volunteers programme) said that the establishment of the United Nations Volunteers programme (UNV) had been very difficult and that growth had been slow even until the middle of 1974. UNV was making renewed efforts to eliminate bottlenecks in its own administration and was negotiating with several United Nations organizations and agencies in order to speed up procedures. At the same time, UNV was intensifying its efforts with regard to recruitment and appointments.

86. Those efforts were now beginning to bear fruit, as shown by figures, given in the report before the Committee (E/5498 and Corr.1), for placement, recruitment of volunteers and resignations, and by the figures for the over-all

size of the programme. UNV was dealing with that increase in activities with a staff which was the same size as it had been in 1973.

87. The programme continued to be adversely affected by a high withdrawal rate prior to acceptance because of slow clearance procedures in some of the recipient countries. Every effort was being made to encourage recipient Governments to expedite acceptance procedures, since young volunteers were not in a position to wait very long.

88. The proportion of volunteers from developing countries had been stable at about 40 per cent in the last few months, but a large number of nominations of candidates from those countries had recently been received and it was hoped that, by the end of 1975, their share would be raised to 50 per cent of the total assignments. Placements in the least developed countries now accounted for 36 per cent of the volunteers in the field, a 6 per cent increase compared to the January figure. That percentage would continue to increase.

89. By the end of 1974, several teams would be working in various developing countries. Despite the UNV intention of placing larger teams, it continued to place individual volunteers in many countries as new requests were received, since the only way in which the programme could achieve its desired size was by responding to all reasonable requests and building in each country on the success of the first few volunteers.

90. The efficiency of UNV was increasing, as shown by the requests from various countries. One of the main implications of the increased efficiency of the programme was of a financial nature. Although the annual cost of a volunteer was relatively low compared with other forms of technical assistance, a rapidly growing programme would require increased financial inputs. If UNV was to recruit an estimated number of approximately 150 volunteers from developing countries, a considerable increase in the Special Voluntary Fund would be necessary.

91. He reminded the Committee of a decision taken by the Governing Council of UNDP at its eighteenth session, which, in his opinion, was an important step in making UNV a true United Nations youth-oriented programme. The Governing Council had agreed to UNV involvement in youth and domestic volunteer programming. Since then, several Governments had approached UNV with requests for volunteer services, technical assistance or, in some cases, financing for youth projects.

92. The current programme, by opening opportunities for youth to serve with the United Nations, was a valuable contribution, but many new initiatives must be taken with regard to youth programming. Moreover, it was essential that the United Nations should encourage such action if youth was not to lose faith completely in the Organization. The Governing Council of UNDP had taken a major step, with the measure he had referred to, towards fulfilment of those hopes.

93. The CHAIRMAN informed the members of the Committee that the list of speakers on item 45 would be closed at noon on Tuesday, 8 October, and that the

deadline for submission of draft resolutions under the item would be noon on Wednesday, 9 October.

GENERAL DEBATE (*continued*)*

94. Mr. DIAS DE OLIVEIRA (Portugal) said that the revolution of 25 April 1974, led by the armed forces, had been an historical event whose importance transcended all boundaries, in the sense that its fundamental objectives were the democratization of Portuguese society and the decolonization of the Territories under Portuguese administration.

95. In accordance with the programme of the Armed Forces Movement and the Provisional Government, profound transformations were taking place in Portugal's economy and development, for which his country needed the international economic co-operation that up to the present had existed only partially, given Portugal's previous position of isolation.

96. His country was trying to transform a war economy into an economy of peace and, to that end, some specific changes had already been carried out or were envisaged, notably the nationalization of the issuing banks, fiscal reform, the establishment of the right to hold strikes and lock-outs, the institution of a minimum wage policy, the revision of the national development plan, the reform of some economic institutions and the preparation of industrial projects.

97. Portugal considered itself a developing country; as the Minister for Foreign Affairs had stated when he had addressed the General Assembly on 23 September 1974 (2239th plenary meeting), the economic objective of the present Government was the accelerated development of the country, and thus Portugal would welcome assistance and investments from all countries of the world.

98. Foreign trade was a major item of his country's economic activity. Imports represented about 30 per cent of the gross national product and exports about 25 per cent; currently, principally as a result of higher oil prices, imports constituted a much greater percentage of the gross national product and caused difficulties in the balance of payments; those problems must be solved not just through isolated national solutions but through international economic co-operation.

99. Seventy-five per cent of Portugal's foreign trade was with the Western countries, with other member nations of OECD and, principally, with the European Common Market, a body with which his country had a trade agreement and wished to develop closer ties of co-operation. But Portugal was also ready to maintain relations of economic co-operation with other developed countries and with all the developing countries; as an example of the initiatives that were being taken in that area, he mentioned that very recently a Portuguese trade mission had visited various socialist countries in Eastern Europe and that Portugal would co-operate closely with Guinea-Bissau and with other countries that emerged from the process of decolonization.

* Resumed from the 1598th meeting.

100. With respect to co-operation among the developing countries, he emphasized that the multilateralization of trade was of particular interest to his country in that it opened the possibility of negotiating special tariff concessions with other countries. Similarly, the multilateral negotiations within the framework of GATT between developed and developing countries might constitute an opportunity for opening the markets of industrialized countries to the products of the developing ones.

101. His country would support all the efforts to implement the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, for those instruments represented a step forward in the acceleration of progress in the developing countries and they recognized the concept of interdependence and the need for common efforts based on equality among States.

102. With regard to the emergency assistance to be provided under the Special Programme, his delegation had already stated that, although Portugal attached great importance to the matter, it was not yet able to announce a contribution to the emergency operation since a significant part of its resources had to be used for technical and financial assistance to independent Portuguese-speaking African States as well as to those that would soon attain their independence.

103. He drew attention to the large programme for 1974 and 1975 concerning financial and economic questions, which included in particular the sixth special session of the General Assembly, the World Population Conference, the World Food Conference, the Second General Conference of UNIDO, the mid-term review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy and the reform of the monetary system. His country had a particular interest in the special session of the General Assembly devoted to develop-

ment and international economic co-operation, to be held in 1975, for it would take place at the end of a period of re-evaluation that would necessitate the adoption of practical, integrated and global decisions. At the same time, he stressed that the Economic and Social Council would have to make a great effort to co-ordinate such a broad programme.

104. With regard to transnational corporations and the report entitled *The Impact of Multinational Corporations on Development and on International Relations*,⁵ his country favoured the adoption of a code of conduct that would both safeguard national interests and provide for equitable compensatory machinery. Moreover, the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States could safeguard collective economic security by establishing norms of conduct for all States.

105. In conclusion, his delegation wished to stress that it had full confidence in the United Nations, which it thought was the most appropriate forum for dealing with the major international problems; in view of the establishment of democratic freedoms in Portugal and the definition and implementation of a policy of decolonization, in accordance with the Charter and the relevant decisions of the United Nations, the progressive forces of Portugal desired that the international community should extend to Portugal all the benefits deriving from its status as a developing country and that it should recognize Portugal's right to full and active participation in all the specialized agencies and in other economic bodies of the United Nations system.

The meeting rose at 5.45 p.m.

⁵ E/5500/Rev.1 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.74.II.A.5).

1601st meeting

Tuesday, 8 October 1974, at 10.45 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Jihad KARAM (Iraq).

A/C.2/SR.1601

GENERAL DEBATE (*concluded*)

1. Mr. SHUKE (Albania) said that the increasing deterioration of the world economic situation underscored the urgency of finding solutions to economic and development problems. The state of the world economy and the development of international economic relations were inseparable from political developments in the different parts of the world, and were directly related to independence, national sovereignty, genuine peace and international co-operation.

2. The policy of aggression, plunder and exploitation pursued by the imperialist Powers, particularly the United States of America and the Soviet Union, their unbridled

arms race and the pressures they placed on freedom-loving peoples continued to generate tensions and create hotbeds of conflict, seriously impeding the development and well-being of countries—particularly smaller nations—and threatening their freedom and independence. The two super-Powers resorted to rivalry with one another in their quest to achieve world hegemony, divide and conquer markets and procure raw materials. The neo-colonialist policy which they pursued while competing for superiority in every field further worsened the international situation and led to the aggravation of major contradictions and the eruption of grave conflicts.

3. The two super-Powers claimed that they wished to improve the lives of all peoples. However, the discoveries of