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President: Mr. DRISS (Tunisia)

AGENDA ITEM 8

Operational activities for development

- (a) United Nations Development Programme (E/4954 and Corr.1, E/5043, E/L.1439)
- (b) United Nations Capital Development Fund (E/4954, chap. VIII; E/5043, chap. IX)
- (c) Technical co-operation activities undertaken by the Secretary-General (E/4954, chap. VII, E/5043, chap. VIII)
- (d) United Nations Volunteers programme (E/5028, E/C.2/740)

1. The PRESIDENT announced that the International Student Movement for the United Nations, a non-governmental organization in category II, had submitted a statement (E/C.2/740) on agenda item 8 (d).

2. He had also received a letter from the Friends World Committee for Consultation, a non-governmental organization in category II, enclosing a cheque for \$3,000 as a token of its support for the objectives of the United Nations Volunteers programme. He was most grateful to that organization and would pass its contribution to the Secretary-General.

3. In view of the importance and scope of the item under consideration, he suggested that delegations and observers should deal with sub-items (a), (b), (c) and (d) of agenda item 8 at the same time and limit their statements to fifteen minutes.

It was so agreed.

4. Mr. NARASIMHAN (Deputy Administrator, United Nations Development Programme), speaking on behalf of the Administrator, conveyed the Administrator's regret at not being able to attend the fifty-first session of the Economic and Social Council.

5. It was now increasingly accepted that technical assistance and pre-investment activities had a vital role to play

in the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade, that the United Nations, its specialized agencies, in particular IBRD, the regional development banks and the regional economic commissions had significant contributions to make in that field, and that those contributions, if properly integrated in the United Nations development system, could be crucial. The multiplier effect, spin-off and follow-up of that development assistance could be far greater than the aggregate of the regional inputs. The system could not function properly unless its development activities were progressively articulated and rationalized, both at the country level and at the secretariat level. The United Nations was well on the way towards establishing a coherent and effective development system.

6. The role of UNDP in strengthening that system was constantly reviewed by its Administration and Governing Council. As one of its contributions to the system, it had entrusted 99 per cent of the projects it had helped to finance to the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, OTC, the specialized agencies, in particular IBRD, and IAEA and the regional development banks for execution.

7. Technical and pre-investment assistance furnished from UNDP resources had grown rapidly from \$46.7 million in 1961 to \$234.7 million in 1970. The number of projects under the UNDP (Special Fund) programme had now reached 1,430 with a total value of \$3,360 million, of which \$1,380 million had been provided by UNDP and the rest by the developing countries themselves. That rapid growth called for increasing harmonization and integration of the United Nations development system's activities. If its technical and pre-investment field work were properly financed, the system could double its present scale of assistance. Following a thorough review of its administrative capacity to carry out a greatly enlarged programme of development activities, UNDP had been restructured to meet its growing responsibilities. Its day-to-day operational assistance had continued and improved, and in 1970 had exceeded the 1969 level by 15 per cent in money terms.

8. The restructuring recommended by the Administration, and largely approved by the Governing Council at its eleventh session (see E/4954, paras. 50-52), had so far included the establishment of six new bureaux at UNDP headquarters. Four of them were responsible for programming and monetary projects and programme implementation in the four regions of the developing world and would enable UNDP to maintain constant contact with developing countries and adapt its work to the needs and priorities of each country and region. The fifth bureau was responsible for programme co-ordination, technical advisory services and over-all financial management. Long-range

policy-planning and programme evaluation were the concern of the sixth new bureau, which would try to maintain, and if possible improve, the quality of UNDP assistance and study new areas of development in which developing countries could benefit from such assistance. A panel of development experts would advise the Administrator and his policy-planners in that work, drawing on experience and information available within and outside the United Nations system. The Governing Council had recently streamlined some of its own methods of work. The IACB, which provided regular contact between the heads of the specialized agencies and United Nations organizations, would continue, with an enhanced role in policy matters, to advise the Administrator on his conduct of the programme and would enable UNDP to co-operate more closely with the agencies and ACC and its sub-committees.

9. Country programming was being introduced as rapidly as possible; twenty country programmes would be ready for consideration by the Governing Council in January 1972. The Government of the country concerned was required to present a programme of development objectives with a list of priority projects through which they could be attained and a realistic assessment of needs and resources. The purpose was to focus attention on critical areas and to mobilize domestic resources and international support. The function of UNDP was to give the Government any assistance it required in the preparation of the programme and to ensure that the UNDP inputs to implement it were so selected as to achieve maximum results. There was no conflict in that respect between the Government's sovereignty and the Administrator's responsibility to the Governing Council. To be effective the projects had to be properly integrated with the country's over-all development efforts and co-ordinated with any assistance it received from other sources. The investment follow-up total of \$4,500 million showed that UNDP-assisted projects had achieved significant results after their completion as UNDP undertakings. The common denominator of all UNDP efforts was the national interest of the developing country concerned.

10. The new system of setting indicative planning figures for each country for periods of three to five years provided a financial framework designed to ensure that the assistance would enable the developing country to plan the external component of its development effort and would contribute to the attainment of the country's priority development goals. In regard to over-all progress, UNDP was in transition towards the new arrangements provided for in the consensus adopted by the Governing Council at its tenth session.¹ The criteria for establishing indicative planning figures had still to be considered and the draft omnibus statute for the Programme, requested by the General Assembly in resolution 2688 (XXV), would have to be adopted.

11. Responsibility for custody of UNDP funds had not yet been transferred to UNDP and a similar situation obtained in regard to the Administrator's authority to approve projects on an interim basis in countries which

needed more time to complete their country programmes. A proposal for enlarging the Governing Council was under consideration. In accordance with resolutions adopted by the Economic and Social Council in recent years, the resident representatives had been given a more prominent role in project selection and performance monitoring and in the evaluation of results and approaches. Under a recent agreement between UNDP and FAO, the latter's Senior Agricultural Advisers would work in the offices of UNDP resident representatives. The resident representatives had been called upon to play an important part in connexion with natural disasters in recent years. Their present designation would be retained, in accordance with the Council's recommendation.

12. Among the new functions entrusted to UNDP was the supervision of the United Nations Volunteers programme, which could prove to be an effective way of enlisting the energies and enthusiasms of youth in support of United Nations development activities and projects. The Administrator of UNDP was also responsible for managing the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, for which more contributions were urgently needed to meet the increasing requests for assistance in that field. The United Nations Capital Development Fund and certain country trust funds were also managed by UNDP. The Governing Council had considered the question of arrangement for special natural resources advisory services and had made a recommendation, which was reproduced in paragraph 259 of the report on its twelfth session (E/5043).

13. With some 3,500 projects in progress and 8,800 experts in 130 countries in 1970, UNDP was responding to requests for assistance in all the main areas covered by the International Development Strategy. Agricultural projects executed by FAO accounted for the largest share of UNDP project funds. They included many agricultural research projects in developing countries and two global projects, concerned respectively with spreading the technology of the "green revolution" and with studying its social and economic effects. Other fields in which UNDP was increasingly active included export promotion and the administration of trade preferences, the promotion of new industries in developing countries through the Special Industrial Services, regional co-operation, nuclear technology, satellites and mass communications and the use of computers in management. Recent UNDP experience in many projects had revealed the need for a close link between development planning and environmental problems.

14. The United Nations development system's mid-Decade objective of high quality technical and pre-investment assistance involving international resources of some \$500 million seemed attainable in view of the way in which governments of developing countries were accepting the new form of partnership inherent in country programming and the extent to which the executing agencies were improving the effectiveness of their assistance machinery. In 1971 UNDP assistance furnished was expected to be almost 13 per cent greater than in 1970. As had been pointed out, however, aid levels were stationary or declining. Although UNDP had been authorized by its Governing Council to base its planning for the next five

¹ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 6A* (E/4884/Rev.1), para. 94.

years on the assumption that pledges would rise by at least 9.6 per cent annually, pledges for 1971 had shown an increase of only 6.1 per cent over those for 1970. With capability and project expenditure increasing rapidly, it was ironic that contributions were not meeting even minimal expectations. The contributions for 1972 would have important effects of a long-range character and a sharp over-all increase of 20 per cent or more would move UNDP towards the desired annual goal of \$500 million in pledges by the middle of the Decade. Such an increase would signify a welcome vote of confidence in the determined efforts to enlarge the system's capacity and to make UNDP assistance more effective everywhere. In helping to work for prosperity, UNDP was directly assisting the United Nations in its vital task of building for peace.

15. Mr. HOO (Commissioner for Technical Co-operation) said that chapter VII of the report on the UNDP Governing Council's eleventh session and chapter VIII of the report on its twelfth session dealt with United Nations technical co-operation activities. During the Second Development Decade, country projects under the regular programme of technical co-operation would consist increasingly of larger pilot and demonstration projects in fewer countries, with special emphasis on the least-developed countries if they requested such assistance. The large majority of developing countries would receive direct benefits from a regular programme, primarily through its regional and inter-regional projects.

16. The substantial increase in the financial value of assistance given to developing countries by the United Nations in 1970 had, as in previous years, been due mainly to the increasing number of UNDP (Special Fund) projects for which the United Nations was the executing agency. At the end of May there had been 242 such projects representing a total cost of \$484 million, consisting of \$244 million in Governing Council earmarkings and \$240 million in government counterpart contributions. Ten additional projects costing over \$19 million had been approved by the Governing Council at its twelfth session for execution by the United Nations. Virtually the entire amount appropriated under Part V of the United Nations budget for the regular programmes of technical co-operation had been committed in 1970. The total resources available to the United Nations for technical co-operation activities had made it possible for 2,218 experts from 97 countries to provide advisory assistance in 119 developing countries and territories, and for 2,344 persons from 119 countries and territories to study in 94 host countries.

17. The major fields of United Nations technical co-operation activities remained natural resources and transport, development planning, public administration, housing, building and planning, and statistics. Progress was being made with the implementation of the new guidelines established in 1969 by the UNDP Governing Council for the regular programme in regard to fields of activity, types of assistance and countries to be assisted. The regular programme resources were being used for assistance in areas least favoured in other programmes, such as social development, public administration, the formulation and imple-

mentation of development plans, public finance, trade promotion and schemes for fostering co-operation among developing countries at sub-regional, regional and inter-regional levels. Efforts were also being concentrated on a selected group of countries at earlier stages of development with inadequately developed infrastructures. Emphasis was placed on assistance to the least developed among the developing countries to increase their capacity for benefiting from external financial and technical assistance. To reduce the geographical spread of the regular programme, the number of countries receiving assistance had been limited to eighty-three in 1970 and would fall to about thirty-five by 1972, all of which would be in the least developed category.

18. The re-orientation of the regular programme in accordance with the guidelines would continue in 1971, 1972 and subsequent years. Pilot and demonstration projects would claim an increasing share of the programme's resources and special consideration would be given to complex and comprehensive projects of an inter-disciplinary nature for regional development. Projects under the regular programme would form part of country programmes in the countries concerned, with emphasis on innovation and catalytic importance. As indicated in the report of the Committee for Development Planning on its seventh session (E/4990), the main problem of the least developed countries was the absence of national development plans, well-formulated projects and administrative machinery to implement them. The Committee had suggested that the United Nations could assist those countries effectively by providing international teams of experts to help strengthen national institutions concerned with plan formulation and implementation (*ibid.*, para. 75). The importance of such assistance was emphasized in the International Development Strategy. The projects being planned in close collaboration with governments and UNDP resident representatives for inclusion in the regular programme for 1972 onwards were intended to assist the least developed countries in those crucial areas.

19. Steps had been taken to bring about better co-ordination of efforts among all the substantive divisions of the Secretariat concerned, to improve the information system and to cope with the additional responsibilities involved in the new country programming approach. United Nations personnel concerned with technical co-operation activities were encouraged to view those activities in terms of the problems of each country over a period of time and in the context of its development objectives rather than as single, separate operations. Steps were being taken to ensure the prompt, efficient and economical execution of projects, so that they would have the maximum impact on the recipient countries' economic and social development.

20. The special natural resources advisory services, described in a joint report by the Secretary-General and the Administrator,² were designed to meet more effectively the increasing demand by developing countries for brief missions of not more than two or three weeks to provide urgently needed advice. By regarding all United Nations

² DP/L.191.

experts in the field and at Headquarters as being available at short notice for such brief urgent missions, provided that the Governments of the countries in which they were permanently stationed agreed to release them, the United Nations could avoid the long delays often involved in outside recruitment. Such services would entail no additional salary cost, but only minor additional expenditure for travel and *per diem*, estimated initially at \$60,000 a year, which could be met from existing resources. Most short-term requests could be covered in that way. A number of countries had already expressed willingness to place natural resources experts at the disposal of the United Nations for brief missions at no salary cost. When considering the scheme, the Governing Council had requested the Economic and Social Council to postpone its consideration of the subject until its fifty-second session, pending the submission of a comprehensive report by the Secretary-General and the Administrator of UNDP on the special natural resources advisory services and similar systems of short-term expert assignments in other areas of activity. The Secretary-General now needed to know whether, in the light of that request, he should continue to introduce those services in accordance with Council resolution 1572 B (L) and at the same time prepare, with the Administrator of UNDP, the comprehensive report requested by the Governing Council (see E/5043, para. 259 (a)), or whether he should suspend his efforts to establish the services.

21. Mr. SANTA CRUZ (Observer for Chile), President of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme, said that although the Deputy Administrator of UNDP had given a full picture of the Programme's activities, it might be useful if he drew attention to certain aspects of the work of the Governing Council. The Council had worked efficiently to re-structure UNDP and to make good the deficiencies that were inevitable in periods of transition.

22. The main concern of the Governing Council at its eleventh and twelfth sessions had been to complete the re-structuring of UNDP, in accordance with the consensus reached at the tenth session and later endorsed by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. The Council had decided that reorganization must necessarily include decentralization. That had meant strengthening the authority of the resident representatives, who were authorized to approve low-cost projects, and establishing Regional Bureaux for Africa, Asia and the Far East, Latin America, Europe, the Mediterranean and the Middle East. The officials in charge of those regional bureaux would be provided with adequate technical, financial and investment services, including the services of high-level consultants. They would carry out, on behalf of the Administrator, the appraisal of country programmes and the formulation, appraisal, implementation and follow-up of projects. He wished to emphasize that point, for it was sometimes not easy for institutions to adapt themselves to changes in practices which had been followed for years. The Governing Council's decision meant that the regional bureaux would assume almost all the responsibilities which had hitherto been borne by the operational services.

23. The decision to decentralize had been taken with due regard to ensuring that UNDP should not become four separate programmes with different objectives. To that end a co-ordination office would be set up under the direction of an Assistant Administrator. A Planning Bureau, also headed by an Assistant Administrator, had been established to carry out long-term planning, programme analysis, research and over-all evaluation of the Programme, and to suggest new directions for it. In order to ensure that those two offices would function parallel to the operational services but would not be part of them, the Governing Council had included in its decision a paragraph to the effect that their establishment should not interfere with the direct line of authority from the Administrator to the regional bureaux. The new structure of the Administration, both at headquarters and in the field, reflected the Council's desire to improve the planning and execution of assistance to developing countries.

24. Various decisions taken by the Governing Council at its eleventh and twelfth sessions confirmed the clear intent of the consensus that the Programme should be a joint undertaking of all members of the United Nations family. It had been decided at the eleventh session that the regional bureaux should maintain close consultation with regional and subregional organizations in the United Nations system, in particular with the regional economic commissions, which had now become a focal point of development activities. At the twelfth session the Governing Council had agreed to make full use of the IACB in order to develop maximum coherence and co-ordination in the operational activities of the United Nations system, to increase the efficiency and capacity of the system and to advise on the means by which UNDP could most effectively play its part in the Second Development Decade. In addition, the Council had endorsed the arrangements made with FAO for the assignment of Senior Agricultural Advisers/FAO Country Representatives to selected UNDP field offices. It had thus solved a problem that had for many years been a source of concern to both UNDP and FAO, since FAO carried out approximately 40 per cent of UNDP projects and the agricultural sector was still of priority importance in most developing countries. At its twelfth session the Governing Council had also considered how it could improve its own organization and methods of work, in line with the changes that had been made in the UNDP Administration. It had set up a Finance and Budgetary Committee to undertake, in co-operation with the Administration, an in-depth analysis of the budget estimates for administrative and programme support services, as well as other matters related to the financial management of the total Programme.

25. Although the question of the capacity of the Programme had received considerable attention, a number of matters had yet to be considered. The draft omnibus statute referred to in General Assembly resolution 2688 (XXV) had not yet been studied, nor had a decision been taken on the proposal submitted at the Governing Council's twelfth session by the delegations of Indonesia and the Philippines (see E/5043, paras. 120-124 and annex V) that the number of members of the Governing Council should

be increased to forty-five. The Governing Council had not been able to take a decision on the question of personnel for development assistance, on information questions or on the criteria to be followed in calculating indicative planning figures.

26. Although the various organizations of the United Nations system had improved their operational structures considerably, they had not all complied fully with the recommendation of the Economic and Social Council at its forty-ninth session that they should adapt their structures to the operational activities financed by UNDP.³

27. It was essential that all organizations of the United Nations system should participate at all stages of the planning and implementation of projects. He feared, however, that unless those organizations carried out a restructuring exercise on the scale of that carried out by UNDP, there would be many bottlenecks in the execution of projects.

28. The Deputy Administrator had said that the restructuring of UNDP had been designed to increase its capacity to carry out projects, the cost of which was likely to rise, by the mid-Decade, to \$500 million a year, or double the present figure. Although it was assumed that resources would increase at the rate of 9.6 per cent per year, the pledges for 1971 had risen by only 6.1 per cent over those of 1970.

29. The decision of the Governing Council at its eleventh session to re-structure the Programme had been inspired by the desire to give UNDP the capacity to use far greater resources. The Council had noted that the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Administrator of the Programme had set a target of resources equivalent to \$350 million for 1970 and double that figure for 1975, and that a growth rate of 9.6 per cent per annum would mean that eight to ten years would be required to double current resources, possibly resulting in the levelling off of the Programme. It had noted with regret that the rate of increase in resources in 1970 had been lower than in 1969 and had urged Governments to increase substantially their financial contribution to the Programme (see E/4954, para. 71). Since then the rate of increase had again fallen, from 8.4 per cent to 6.1 per cent. It was easy to understand the frustration of the developing countries as they witnessed that downward trend.

30. Technical assistance for development had been one of the most positive achievements of the post-war period, and one which had done much to increase friendship among the peoples of the world. Such an all-important instrument of co-operation must not be weakened, but must be vigorously defended and strengthened. It must be enabled to produce all that its increased potential was capable of producing. The resources needed represented only a tiny proportion of the GNP of the countries of the world. If the trend to which he had referred was not reversed, it would mean that international co-operation for development was nearing its end and it would then be pointless to continue to discuss

how to appraise the progress of the International Development Strategy. He hoped that the Economic and Social Council would reflect on that situation.

31. Mr. SADRY (Co-ordinator, United Nations Volunteers) said that the Secretary-General's report (E/5028) gave an account of the progress accomplished during the short period since the establishment of the programme. Considerable efforts had been made to start on that new project, in accordance with the wishes expressed by the majority of Member States that the voluntary work of young people of all nations should be associated with national development.

32. In resolution 2659 (XXV), the General Assembly had decided that the United Nations Volunteers programme should be established with effect from 1 January 1971. The administrative budget, however, had not been approved by the Governing Council of UNDP until the end of January and the Co-ordinator had not been appointed until 1 February 1971. Up to four weeks previously, the staff of the programme had comprised only the Co-ordinator and a principal officer. It had, moreover, been obvious that the budget that had been approved was not sufficient to meet the needs of the programme. Fortunately, the necessary posts had now been filled and the staff looked forward to embarking on the second phase of the programme, namely, the sending of Volunteers into the field.

33. A considerable effort had been necessary in order to convince those both within the United Nations and outside it who did not think that the United Nations system was equipped to further the programme's objectives. Although there had been initial difficulties, it had finally been possible to find solutions acceptable to all concerned and to secure the support of those most directly interested in the success of the programme.

34. In order to widen the field of human input in international development assistance, it was essential to gain the confidence of both national and international organizations. The programme had encountered a number of difficulties in that area: there had been the administrative delays that seemed inescapable in any multilateral programme, the insufficiency of resources, and the need to find common ground in order to determine the exact nature of the services to be rendered by the Volunteers.

35. In accordance with the recommendation of the Secretary-General, United Nations Volunteers were to operate within the framework of United Nations assistance projects. The specialized agencies should therefore co-ordinate the work of volunteers supplied by bilateral aid arrangements with those of the United Nations. That was important, not only in order to comply with resolution 2659 (XXV) but in order to ensure that the Governing Council retained proper control of the various United Nations programmes.

36. It was particularly important that the Volunteer programme should personify the hopes and ideals which inspired voluntary service and which had been the basis of the General Assembly resolution. The programme should therefore be universal in character, united in its objectives

³ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 1*, p. 17.

and ideals, and consistent in its procedures. It should contribute to the promotion of a world movement of co-operation and solidarity. It was essential that it should be fully international in character and clearly differentiated from other development programmes.

37. Experience had shown that, in view of the complexity of the programme it was not practical to wait for requests from Governments before taking the first steps. It would be useful to offer the services of the programme to interested Governments, so that they could identify the projects in which Volunteers would be most useful to them.

38. Some of the least developed countries felt that it would be difficult for them to pay the local costs of the Volunteers whose services they requested, and yet it was in those countries that the need for Volunteers was most acute. While it was the primary responsibility of the developing countries to mobilize all the resources of manpower available to them in the cause of their own development, it was nevertheless desirable that the United Nations should help them in every possible way so that the national organizations of volunteers could be established and developed. That would be fully in accordance with the spirit of the General Assembly resolution in facilitating the geographical distribution of Volunteers.

39. The United Nations Volunteers programme intended to become a truly international body clearly distinguished in character from existing volunteer agencies. Its most original feature lay in bringing together people from both the developing and the industrialized countries to work in the same cause. It was hoped in that way to enlarge the traditional forms of voluntary service by giving the younger generations of the developing countries that opportunity and at the same time opening up new avenues to those in the industrialized countries who wanted to perform voluntary service.

40. One of the fundamental aims of the programme was to increase the number of volunteers available for development work. Governments would be able to use the programme as a way of meeting their needs for more trained workers and, through the programme, to encourage their own young people to play a larger part in the development effort in association with local organizations and along the lines of the national policy. Each Government would decide for itself whether it required the services of the Volunteers, what would be their tasks and what would be their relations with the local staff.

41. He expressed mmmmm m m m m m m mm had contributed to the Special Voluntary Fund. Those contributions would be particularly welcomed by young people throughout the world as an effective token of the interest of States Members of the United Nations in the programme's ideals and objectives. He was grateful to the authorities of Member States with whom he had had constructive discussions in recent months and to the Secretary-General for the support he had given him in carrying out his duties. He was convinced that in the coming year the programme would enjoy great success and he hoped that the continued support of the Economic and Social Council and of the Governing Council of UNDP

would help it to overcome its difficulties and enable the aspirations for international solidarity to be realized.

42. Mr. ANSARI (Observer for Iran), speaking under rule 75 of the rules of procedure, expressed the satisfaction of his Government at the implementation of the United Nations Volunteers programme. The Secretary-General's report showed that the intent of General Assembly resolution 2659 (XXV) had been fully respected, and he was grateful to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Governing Council of UNDP for the efforts they had made.

43. Although the task of initiating the programme had been complex, successful arrangements had been made to set up offices in New York and Geneva and to co-operate with ISVS and CCIVS. Agreement had also been reached with recipient countries on the definition of the Volunteers' field of activities. For complete success, however, the programme would depend on the assistance of Governments with experience in the field of voluntary work.

44. The creation of a body of volunteer workers for the purpose of improving the living conditions of many thousands of people was of immense significance. Many young people and youth organizations had responded to the challenge that it presented. In his own country a programme had been launched ten years previously whereby young people of the age for military service devoted themselves to voluntary work in the field of health, agriculture and education. The results of that programme had been highly encouraging and he hoped that they would lead to the creation of multinational services working under the aegis of the United Nations. All countries, both developed and developing, should play their part in creating such groups of workers as an effective means of combating under-development.

45. The specialized agencies had a vital role to play in providing technical assistance to the developing countries. They should make full use of the services of the volunteers in providing that assistance.

46. His Government intended to give both moral and financial support to the United Nations Volunteers programme and to co-operate fully with it. He hoped that all other States members of the Council would do the same.

47. Mr. von SCHENCK (International Secretariat for Volunteer Service), speaking at the invitation of the President, said that his organization was an intergovernmental organization with fifty-four members, which strongly supported the denationalization of volunteer services and the establishment of the United Nations Volunteers programme. No one familiar with the problems involved could fail to be impressed by the progress so far achieved in that programme. ISVS had been glad of the opportunity to conclude an agreement with the United Nations Volunteers. Such co-operation could assist the development efforts of thousands of under-privileged communities throughout the world through the contribution of young people, and could further the activities of the United Nations at the level of the people themselves.

48. He did not altogether agree with the statement in paragraph 15 of the Secretary-General's report that the programme stood a "fair chance of success". In his view, the programme stood an excellent chance of success provided that no obstacles were placed in its path.

49. There were two major problems with regard to the financial arrangements for the programme. Firstly, the least developed countries were those with the greatest lack of qualified manpower and thus with the greatest need for volunteers. Steps should be taken to supplement the project budgets for those countries to enable them to receive more volunteers. Secondly, many resident representatives and receiving governments had been accustomed to using the services of volunteers under bilateral arrangements at almost no financial cost. Bilateral organizations could hardly be expected to offer their volunteers as United Nations Volunteers and continue to bear the full costs.

50. With regard to the administrative arrangements, if those arrangements were simply to be a copy of some form of bureaucratic machinery he would not place much hope in the success of the United Nations Volunteers programme. In that respect, he drew attention to the comments on the subject made by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and by himself at the Council's forty-ninth session.⁴

51. His organization would be glad to offer its co-operation to the United Nations in cases of natural disaster, in which it had had considerable experience. It had direct access to more than 50,000 volunteers who were trained to give assistance in such cases.

52. The United Nations Volunteers had an enormous potential, which he hoped would be exploited rationally and to the full as a means of developing human energy throughout the world.

53. Mr. OSANYA NYEQUE (Kenya), introducing draft resolution E/L.1439, said that its intention was to reaffirm the competence of the Economic and Social Council. Although it should not be necessary for the Council to declare its superiority over any of its subsidiary bodies, it was obliged to do so because of the decision taken by the UNDP Governing Council at its twelfth session. The draft resolution was not intended, as some had alleged, to turn one United Nations body against another.

54. As a background to the action proposed in the draft resolution, the Council, in resolution 1535 (XLIX) on development of natural resources, had established the Committee on Natural Resources because it was convinced that the activities of the United Nations in that field should be widened, accelerated and given more adequate inter-governmental leadership and guidance in the Second Development Decade. The Council had stipulated that one of the terms of reference of the Committee should be the establishment of guidelines for the provision, improvement and strengthening of advisory services to the Governments of Member States, to be made available, at their request, for the planning, development and utilization of their natural

resources within the framework of their over-all development plans.

55. The Secretary-General had submitted a proposal for the consideration of the Committee on Natural Resources for assisting developing countries through special natural resources advisory services.⁵ At its session in February 1971, the Committee on Natural Resources had recommended that the Council should approve the Secretary-General's proposal. At its fiftieth session, the Council had adopted resolution 1572 B (L), approving the establishment of the special natural resources advisory services, recommending, *inter alia*, that the United Nations Secretariat and UNDP should work out arrangements to ensure the harmonious functioning of such services, and requesting the Governing Council of UNDP to consider those arrangements at its twelfth session with a view to offering its comments to the Economic and Social Council at its fifty-first session. The Council had further requested the Secretary-General to report to the Committee on Natural Resources at its second session on the progress made in the establishment and operation of the Special Natural Resources Advisory Services.

56. In conformity with paragraph 2 of Council resolution 1572 B (L), the Secretary-General and the Administrator of UNDP had agreed on arrangements for establishing those services, as explained in their joint report.⁶ Far from indicating any difficulty likely to be encountered in implementing resolution 1572 B (L) it appeared from paragraph 5 of the joint report that the Secretary-General and the Administrator of the UNDP had thought that the arrangements would be advantageous. It was therefore surprising that the Governing Council had expressed its inability to carry out the relevant provision and had exceeded the terms of paragraph 3 of resolution 1572 B (L), which merely requested it to consider the arrangements with a view to offering comments to the Council. The Governing Council's decision would imply a virtual rejection of resolution 1572 B (L).

57. Draft resolution E/L.1439 would serve the dual purpose of urging the parties to whom the implementation of resolution 1572 B (L) had been assigned to proceed with its implementation and of welcoming the Governing Council's proposal for a joint study by the Secretary-General and the Administrator of UNDP. Paragraph 3 of the draft resolution suggested a means of carrying out the study without deferring action on resolution 1572 B (L), since delay would not be in the interest of the developing countries.

58. It had been suggested to him that the fourth and fifth preambular paragraphs of the draft resolution were controversial and offensive. That was not their intention, and the sponsors were prepared to re-word the paragraphs provided that the substance remained unchanged.

59. Mr. MOJSOV (Yugoslavia) said that the statement of the Deputy Administrator of UNDP, in conjunction with

⁴ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Forty-ninth Session*, 1715th meeting, paras. 1-2 and 56-66.

⁵ E/C.7/3.

⁶ DP/L.191.

the report of the Governing Council on its twelfth session, provided a sound basis for consideration of the item.

60. His delegation had learned with satisfaction that 216 projects, at a total value of over \$200 million, had been approved in 1971, bringing the total number of projects approved to date to 1,430, at a total value of nearly \$1,400 million. The volume of activity was nevertheless still modest in relation to the requirements of the developing countries and to the programme drawn up under the International Development Strategy.

61. His delegation was pleased to note the four projects that were to be carried out by UNCTAD, and particularly the interregional project, related to the generalized system of preferences. He hoped to see more projects being carried out by that body as a sign that UNDP resources were being spent on projects to promote the more rapid economic development of the developing countries. His delegation shared the anxiety of others about the relatively small number of industrial projects and the low level of UNIDO participation in the programme.

62. The preparation of country programmes, the role of UNDP in promoting follow-up investment and the draft omnibus statute for the Programme, all of which had been considered by the Governing Council at its twelfth session, were important problems which deserved serious attention. Only twenty countries so far had expressed a desire to carry out the first country programming exercises during the period May-July 1971. The UNDP administration would be faced with a difficult task if it was to complete that work at the latest by June 1974.

63. The arguments of the representatives of Indonesia and the Philippines in support of their proposal at the twelfth session of the Governing Council that that body's membership should be increased to forty-five were quite convincing, but his delegation considered that, in deciding on the number and future composition of the Governing Council, the proposals for the possible enlargement of the Economic and Social Council should be taken into account.

64. With regard to the statement by the Commissioner for Technical Co-operation, his delegation did not consider that there was any dilemma in connexion with the establishment of the special natural resources advisory services, preparations for which should be continued, as called for in Council resolution 1572 B (L). The Secretary-General should be requested to submit to the Council at its fifty-second session a progress report on the establishment and operation of those services, together with the comments of the Committee on Natural Resources at its second session.

65. His delegation had observed with regret the lack of success in the work of the United Nations Capital Development Fund and shared the hope of the Administrator of UNDP that his report to the thirteenth session of the Governing Council and to the fifty-third session of the Economic and Social Council would show more positive results (see E/5043, para. 264).

66. With regard to the United Nations Volunteers programme, his Government had supported the idea from its inception and would continue to do so in the conviction

that the programme offered an opportunity to young people throughout the world to contribute to the efforts undertaken to accelerate the economic and social progress of the developing countries and to a better understanding among peoples.

67. The considerable progress made since the inception of the programme at the beginning of the year augured well for its success. His delegation hoped that volunteers from developing countries would have the same opportunity for recruitment as others so that they could be given training abroad which could be utilized on their return to their home countries.

68. The Economic and Social Council and the Governing Council of UNDP should bear in mind that a number of developing countries, and in particular the least developed among them, would have difficulty in meeting the local costs of the programme. It would be appropriate in such cases for the Administrator of UNDP to waive the local costs and possibly defray them from UNDP resources.

69. Mr. ZVEZDINE (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the new principle of long-term programming had already made it possible to devote to developing countries considerable Special Fund resources which had hitherto been frozen. The reorganization of UNDP could help substantially in furthering development.

70. Projects for training national personnel were particularly valuable, since without such staff the developing countries could not hope to solve their development problems and reach full economic independence. His Government had consistently supported efforts in that direction. The Soviet Union had helped or was helping to build 115 secondary or higher educational institutions in the developing countries. In the past ten years Soviet experts had trained about 150,000 skilled workers or technicians in those countries, while a further 30,000 had been trained in the USSR. It was also organizing twenty-five seminars, symposia and courses in 1971.

71. His Government would continue to assist developing countries with a view to overcoming the effects of colonialism and neo-colonialism and to accelerating the pace of economic development. His delegation was glad to note that UNDP was to put new projects in hand with a view to fostering the trade of the developing countries and increasing their exports, and hoped such work would be expanded.

72. There were certain shortcomings, however, in the UNDP Administration which prevented it from becoming a true instrument for co-operation in development and from making sufficient impact on the economic development of the developing countries. Insufficient attention was being paid to industrial development and UNIDO was seldom called upon to act as the executing agency for projects. Despite the fact that the Governing Council had drawn attention to the advisability of maintaining links with that body in connexion with industrial pilot projects, for example, in India and Mongolia, nothing had been done in that direction.

73. There was at present no clear-cut machinery for controlling the qualitative implementation of projects. The

question must be approached in the framework of measures specified in the consensus on the reorganization of UNDP's activities.

74. Despite repeated warnings by his delegation against any action to extend the participation of IBRD in UNDP projects, the Administration continued to use that body as an executing agency for projects outside its terms of reference. IBRD was a monopolistic and capitalist structure which caused great concern to many countries.

75. Action should also be taken to halt the inadmissible practice of assisting countries which were committing aggressive acts against the peoples in Indo-China and the Arab countries. Israel was being helped by UNDP assistance to produce electronic material which was directly linked to its military industry.

76. His delegation had repeatedly emphasized that international co-operation should be based on the constant exchange of science and technology among all countries. The absence from UNDP of such highly developed countries as the German Democratic Republic was prejudicial to such co-operation.

77. The role of governments at all stages of technical assistance activities had been given insufficient attention. They should have a leading part in the formulation of long-term programmes, in the selection of the executing agency and in determining the measures to be taken for carrying out the projects. He shared the concern expressed by some representatives at the apparent attempt to disregard important directives in the consensus. The USSR was opposed to any reconsideration of the consensus.

78. His delegation attached considerable importance to the work of the specialized agencies and OTC in the implementation of projects.

79. The Administrator should be fully accountable to the Governing Council. IACB should not intervene in the distribution of resources or in the drawing up of assistance policies, which were the prerogative of governments and of the Governing Council. The activities of IACB should be under the control of the Economic and Social Council.

80. His delegation had repeatedly expressed its support for the reorganization of United Nations assistance and for the strengthening of the Governing Council's role.

81. Any reorganization of UNDP should be carried out without incurring additional administrative costs. Reductions in staff and expenditure should be made in the United Nations bodies whose functions would no longer be appropriate for UNDP activities. Improvement of the UNDP machinery should be based on the principle of equitable geographical distribution.

82. The regular programme of technical co-operation, which was at present financed from the United Nations regular budget, should be transferred to UNDP and financed from voluntary contributions.

83. With regard to draft resolution E/L.1439, his delegation was not opposed to the idea of providing advisory services on natural resources, but considered that such assistance should be financed from the United Nations Capital Development Fund. It might be best to postpone consideration of that problem, as suggested by the Governing Council. Before expressing a final opinion, however, his delegation would like to be informed of the financial implications.

84. The PRESIDENT said that the Secretariat would take note of that request and would furnish the information at an appropriate time.

The meeting rose at 1.5 p.m.