



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 14th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. BIBIDO (Sudan)

later: Ms. ERIKSSON (Sweden)

later: Mr. BRODODININGRAT (Indonesia)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.25 p.m.

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1. Mr. TOLBA (Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme) said that the drought which had caused the famine in Africa showed that 10 years of effort had failed to stop the destruction of the vegetation cover, the soil and other components of Africa's food producing system. There had been warnings from UNEP and other United Nations agencies, but they had been heeded too late.

2. It was therefore vital for the world to learn the lessons of Africa's tragedy and it was to be hoped that the meeting of African Ministers of Environment to be held in Cairo in December would be a concrete step in that direction. The main concern now should be to weigh the social, economic, political, ethnic, linguistic, religious and other factors which should be taken into account if the action plans initiated were to be accepted and implemented by the people concerned. The

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international community had to be made to understand that underlying the food crisis was an environmental crisis and that Africa was only the most striking example of what was actually a world-wide environmental crisis.

3. The threats hanging over both poor and rich countries were scarcely less insidious: the build-up of carbon dioxide and trace gases in the atmosphere, the threat of depletion of the ozone layer, mismanagement of agricultural chemicals, the indiscriminate disposal of hazardous wastes, acid rain in the North and the danger of a nuclear war, with its disastrous consequences. The international community should therefore make a sustained effort to rehabilitate the environment or prevent its further degradation and begin a reconstruction effort in Africa equal to the post-war effort in Europe by dramatically increasing long-term development assistance and by making a major shift in the type of assistance provided.

4. Multinational corporations, commercial banks and other financial institutions were just as responsible for preserving the environment as Governments and they must be convinced of the benefits of introducing sustainable resource management into development planning. Three international meetings had led to substantial progress in that respect.

5. UNEP had also been instrumental in getting 23 countries and the European Community to adopt a Convention to protect the ozone layer. The protocol concerning a 30 per cent reduction of sulphur dioxide emission by the ECE countries, the agreement signed by the African nations bordering the Zambezi River to draw up a plan of action for managing the water resources of the drainage basin, the Regional Seas Programme and the Convention on the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution were also major international instruments adopted with major input from UNEP.

6. However, if UNEP was to take the effective action demanded by Governments, those Governments would have to make regular contributions of the funds it so desperately needed.

7. One of the vital, but mismanaged, resources of the earth was its forest cover. The 1981 UNEP/FAO survey had found that forest in tropical regions was vanishing at a yearly rate of more than 11 million hectares. The world had 20 years - perhaps even less - to stop that destruction and peoples and Governments must act now. The tropical forests, which sheltered more than 40 per cent of all terrestrial species, were virtually an economic mainstay and their destruction could exacerbate the projected change in the regional, and perhaps even the global, climate.

8. There was a repetition in tropical areas of the forest clearance which had been going on for centuries in Mediterranean and temperate Europe, except that in tropical forests, the stripping of the forest was more harmful than useful. Tropical forests must be used rationally, but conservation did not mean preservation. Good judgement should be exercised before clearing forests: in some cases, all forest products should be used; in others, depending on the needs, they

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might have to be protected. Furthermore, much greater care should be taken to ensure the survival of forest peoples, to respect their right to manage the forest and to benefit more from their knowledge of the forest environment.

9. The time appeared to be propitious for a major initiative aimed at improving the management of tropical forests. An international Tropical Timber Agreement and various other measures taken by international organizations and Governments demonstrated an awareness of the urgent problems relating to tropical forest management. UNEP would refine its work in that field and set realizable targets for slowing the rate of destruction. It would help improve North-South co-operation, promote South-South co-operation and information exchange, help raise additional funding for sound projects and support the field activities of various NGOs. Further, it would plan joint action with concerned United Nations agencies and establish common programmes with organizations such as the IUCN and the World Wildlife Fund and initiate a major media campaign designed to create public support.

10. UNEP considered that developing countries whose tropical forests were most at risk should be assisted as a first priority. The measures it planned were bound to pose difficult international problems because they would require that the principle of national sovereignty be reconciled with the legitimate concerns of the world as a whole. A frank analysis should also be made of the reasons why nothing much was being done despite the fact that the problem was widely acknowledged and the technical means for solving it were available.

11. Such issues could be resolved only at a high political level such as a non-technical conference on the future of tropical forests. The General Assembly might wish to consider convening such a conference and proclaiming the year 1990 as the United Nations Year of the Tropical Forest, when the work accomplished would be reviewed and a programme for the next decade charted.

12. He concluded by saying that to feed a world expected to number 6 billion people by the turn of the century, the ecosystem of the African continent would have to be rehabilitated and the tropical forests and other biological foundations of its economy protected in order to forestall a disaster which might be even more far-reaching than the drought.

13. Mr. SCHULLER (Luxembourg), speaking on behalf of the European Community, said that the member States of the Community were gratified at the adoption by consensus of the report on the review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, which reflected a sense of responsibility and a climate of confidence which augured well for the future. The successful outcome of the discussion of IDS was also due to a sense of compromise and realism which had impressed upon the participants the complementarity of the diverse approaches rather than their incompatibility. The adoption of the review report had also made it possible to reaffirm the commitments made five years ago.

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14. There were still, however, some divergences of view that States would have to work to reduce in the coming months. Some progress in that direction had already been made, as evidenced by the agreement reached on preparations for a new round of multilateral trade negotiations. In addition, five of the major industrialized countries had announced their intention to co-ordinate efforts towards stabilizing rates of exchange. A more thoroughgoing approach to solving the debt problem had also taken shape during the Annual Meeting of the Boards of the World Bank and IMF at Seoul. Lastly, it should be noted that the recommendations and conclusions of the mid-decade review of the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries had been adopted by consensus.

15. The European Economic Community had supported the establishment of long-term arrangements for the Financing System for Science and Technology for Development. Even though it believed that conditions for the effective functioning of the System did not yet exist, EEC was prepared to review interim measures so that its financial viability could be ensured by the broadest possible association of potential contributors.

16. The member States of the Community had also taken note with interest of the report and proposals which the intergovernmental working group set up by the General Assembly had made to the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development. They would review the findings reported by the Secretary-General after his consultations with Governments. They welcomed the fact that it had been possible to reach agreement on the adoption of a resolution on information systems for science and technology for development, and believed that the adoption of a biennial schedule of meetings was a decisive step towards the rationalization of work.

17. With regard to the environment, EEC had adopted the first Programme of Action on the Environment in 1973 and, in 1982, the Community guidelines on the potential risk of industrial accidents. In addition, the multiannual programme proposed by the Commission of the European Communities in July 1985 envisaged long-term basic ecological and environmental protection research on the climate and industrial pollution. The European Council, the Community's highest organ, had, moreover, designated the year 1997 as European Environment Year. Considering the ground covered, EEC regretted that it had not been possible to adopt a general resolution on that subject in 1984 and hoped that matters would take a different turn at the current session, especially because all countries were developing a growing awareness of ecological problems and because techniques were available to solve them. EEC would also follow with interest the work of the African Environmental Conference to be held in Cairo.

18. On the question of shelter for the homeless, national authorities must set priorities and develop specific programmes to deal with the current situation.

19. The member States of EEC were aware of the significance of the global study on the role of women in development and would take part in reviewing the decisions taken at the Nairobi Conference. With regard to the conclusions regarding the

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objectives of the Decade, the Community placed special emphasis on the activities that women must undertake to develop agriculture and on the need to improve the situation of women in rural areas.

20. Ms. Eriksson (Sweden) took the Chair.

21. Mr. STEBELSKI (Poland) observed that the work of the Committee on the Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade had resulted only in a tactical compromise among the parties concerned. The Committee had not delved into the real causes of the impasse in the economies of many countries, in particular the developing countries, nor had it done anything to brighten the dim prospects of the world economy. He hoped none the less that the consensus achieved at the Committee's resumed session represented a first step towards further dialogue and closer co-operation among the countries involved, but it categorically rejected a "new development consensus" founded on unequal relations as a basis for international economic co-operation. An effort should instead be made to replace the outdated rules governing international economic co-operation by principles which took due account of the potential, problems and experiences of developing and socialist countries. Poland fully supported the ideals and provisions of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States. Although some Western countries had boycotted the work of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole to Review the Implementation of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States in favour of a case-by-case approach and bilateral negotiating mechanisms, there was still time for everyone to join the majority in examining the obstacles in the way of implementing the Charter and seeking ways to overcome them. His delegation would itself spare no effort to contribute to the success of that endeavour.

22. International economic co-operation for development was a continuing process which could be assessed properly only from a long-term perspective. Poland was pleased with the interesting Secretariat report on the overall socio-economic perspective of the world economy to the year 2000, and believed the practice of submitting comprehensive reports every five years should be continued. The next updated version of the report on the overall perspective could focus on possible sectors, mechanisms and forms of international economic co-operation likely to facilitate structural adjustments. Further consideration should be given to the interrelationships between the debt, monetary and financial issues, and trade, in order to find ways of easing the debt burden of many countries, particularly the developing countries. The debt problem could also be considered in the updated report, in view of the converging views that only growth would provide a solution to the problem. If the idea of an international debt and development research centre, to be set up in Cracow, were put into effect by the end of the decade, the centre could help to devise different scenarios. The analysis of the overall socio-economic perspectives of the world economy should result in concrete strategies for the future centred on international economic co-operation and development, in relation particularly to a fourth United Nations development decade.

(Mr. Stebelski, Poland)

23. Concerning the work of the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology at its seventh session, the mid-decade review of the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action had set international scientific and technical co-operation in the broader context of topical global problems. The rapid increase in military applications of science and technology and the widening technological gap between developed and developing countries were especially disturbing.

24. His delegation was pleased to note that the substantive theme chosen for discussion by the Committee - information systems for science and technology for development - had helped the participants to focus on vital questions and reach a broad consensus on the conceptual framework and scope of the planned global information network. His delegation fully endorsed the concept of the gradual development of such a network, which would encompass the existing data bases within the United Nations system, national systems and regional networks. Multilateral efforts in that direction could be strengthened and supplemented by appropriate bilateral action.

25. With regard to the activities of the Commission on Human Settlements, Poland, once again a member of that body, planned to play a more active role in the preparations for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless.

26. With regard to environmental protection, Poland, in view of its limited resources, concentrated primarily on improving sanitary conditions and water supply, especially in the countryside, protecting drinking water from various types of pollution, and limiting emissions of harmful gases. It had also become a party to the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution and, since more than 50 per cent of its air pollution came from abroad, it was particularly interested in international co-operation to alleviate that problem. Improvement of the environment depended to a large extent on the availability of modern technology for waste treatment or reduction of waste production. The transfer of such technology towards economically and technically less advanced countries must be facilitated, in the interest of the global environment. As the crisis in Africa had shown, it was crucial to mobilize the necessary resources to avoid disasters of such scope.

27. Mr. GAJENTAAN (Netherlands) said, with regard to the review and appraisal of the implementation of the International Development Strategy, that he welcomed the fact that it had proved possible to reach agreement on a common analysis of the international development situation. The appraisal exercise had focused attention on the need to redouble efforts to implement the Strategy and had also given a new momentum to the process of convergence of the major issues of development and international economic co-operation. The conclusion of the exercise coincided with other important events such as the Annual Meeting of the Boards of IMF and the World Bank at Seoul, the meeting of GATT and the mid-term review of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries. It was hoped that those events would mark the start of renewed interaction between the outside world and the Second Committee and the Economic and Social Council.

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28. The review and appraisal had also made it possible to recognize the continuing need to ensure adequate resource flows for development in order to restore growth and stability in the world economy, as the Under-Secretary-General for International Economic and Social Affairs had pointed out. The Netherlands had always attached great importance to the targets for the transfer of resources for development as an expression of international solidarity. Furthermore, several weeks earlier, his Government had reaffirmed its intention to make available 1.5 per cent of the Netherlands net national income, or approximately \$US 1.5 billion, and had again called upon all developed countries to make additional efforts to reach the targets of the Strategy.

29. With regard to the environment, his delegation supported the efforts of UNEP to co-ordinate the various initiatives and activities under consideration within the United Nations system, including those undertaken by UNDP, the World Bank and FAO, and expressed satisfaction at the contribution made by UNEP in studying the basic causes of environmental problems.

30. The Netherlands attached particular importance to the role which UNEP could play with regard to the relationship between the environment and development problems. In that connection, his Government had recently decided to provide support for a workshop on environmental impact assessment to be attended by representatives of Governments and private business involved in planning and implementing development projects. That support was in accordance with his country's development co-operation policy, which aimed at enhancing the ecological quality of development projects. Furthermore, his delegation supported the decisions taken by the UNEP Governing Council at its thirteenth session, particularly sections A and B of resolution 13/30 on desertification, which, inter alia, requested the Executive Director to consider the inclusion of the member States of the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference in the list of countries eligible to receive assistance through the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office.

31. It was hoped that the Committee could reach agreement on a resolution which fully reflected the importance of environmental concerns. Furthermore, in view of the adoption of a biennial cycle for the UNEP Governing Council's programme of work, the General Assembly should extend the term of membership in the Governing Council to four years.

32. His delegation shared the concern of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) at the harmful effects of rigorous adjustment programmes on vulnerable groups in many countries. The Netherlands had always supported the activities of Habitat, including the preparations for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless and endorsed the recommendations and decisions of the Commission on Human Settlements at its eighth session. It was essential that Habitat, which played an important co-ordinating role, should remain a full member of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination. The report of the Secretary-General on the question (A/40/689) was not entirely satisfactory in that regard. It was hoped that a solution acceptable to all parties concerned could soon be found.



(Mr. Gajentaan, Netherlands)

33. His delegation commended the Secretariat on the World Survey on the Role of Women in Development, which contained a wealth of information. He wondered how the material collected would be used by the various components of the United Nations system and what follow-up action would be taken on the basis of the Survey. In that connection, the implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 1985/46, particularly paragraph 3, was of great importance. It was hoped that the Secretary-General would initiate, as expected, the process of formulating a system-wide medium-term plan for women and development in order to submit it to the Council at its second regular session in 1986. Such a plan was crucial for achieving greater harmonization of policies and drawing up coherent programmes.

34. Greater attention should be given to the role of women in informal sectors in developing countries. The Netherlands sought to take account of that aspect of employment of women in its development co-operation projects. He stressed the need to improve the collection of data on that question.

35. The World Survey had highlighted, in particular, the negative effects which current macro-economic policies might have on the position of women in development, a danger which was also recognized in the document on forward-looking strategies. Appropriate policies should therefore be formulated and implemented in order to ensure the full and equal participation of women in development. The integration of women into development would strengthen societies rather than weaken them and help create a better world.

36. Mr. BARNETT (Jamaica) said that the Committee should make a particular effort to analyse the medium- and long-term trends in the world economy in order to alert countries speedily when difficulties arose. Document A/40/519 was useful because it enabled the Committee to assume that role. That report indicated, inter alia, that the growth rate of developing countries had fallen by more than half compared to that of the 1960s. Indeed, the term "Third Development Decade" was in danger of becoming a misnomer. To prevent that from happening, steps must be taken, particularly within the Second Committee, to arrive at decisions which would make it possible to ensure a future at least consistent with the more optimistic scenarios presented in document A/40/519.

37. Jamaica attached particular importance to the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States and to the Third International Development Strategy. It supported all initiatives leading to a greater convergence of views on the basic questions related to development since they could give further impetus to multilateral co-operation. The agreed conclusions adopted during the review of the Strategy should be viewed in that context.

38. In order to ensure the viability of the world economy, it was necessary to recognize the fact that nations were interdependent and adapt to that situation. It was even more important to follow the guidelines of the Strategy in order to promote integrated development and fulfil the economic and social aspirations of Peoples in the long term. It was also in the best interest of States to co-operate in establishing norms and principles for reorganizing the world economy on a

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sounder and more equitable basis since history had showed that unpredictable behaviour and economic growth were incompatible. The Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States was a pioneer effort by States to establish norms in that regard.

39. The Jamaican Government had taken pleasure in hosting the eighth session of the Commission on Human Settlements and wished to express its gratitude to the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) for the help it had given Jamaica and other developing countries. In his view, a structured approach was essential in order to develop human settlements in the third world countries, given the long-term demographic constraints and the limited nature of the available natural and human resources. Jamaica's policy was based on that awareness. It must make it possible to provide the population with affordable housing by mobilizing the private sector and other sources of financing, by establishing viable communities at the local level, by making greater use of local building materials and by a transfer of technology geared to the needs of the least privileged categories. However, the implementation of that policy had been constrained by adjustment measures and financial limitations. In his country's view, those factors should not result in the neglect of development policies. The ultimate price would be much higher. Jamaica therefore joined the appeal of the Executive Director of the Centre for increased international co-operation in the development of human settlements and repeated its call for further mobilization of financial resources for housing. It also welcomed the Commission's report (A/40/8) and supported the decision to adopt a biennial cycle of meetings as of 1987.

40. International co-operation in the management and preservation of the environment also demanded immediate attention in order to avoid mortgaging the future. The drought and famine afflicting Africa well illustrated the need for emergency action. On the whole, an encouraging mobilization of the international community in the field of the environment could be observed.

41. The Latin American and Caribbean countries had stressed education and training in order to facilitate the management of the environment. They were currently implementing a specific programme in the area of training and his country thanked the United Nations Environment Programme for the help it had provided in that connection. It approved the decisions which had been adopted by the UNEP Governing Council at its thirteenth session, particularly those dealing with environmental perspectives to the year 2000 and beyond.

42. Science and technology played an essential role in the overall development process. Still, the mid-decade review of the Vienna Programme of Action had shown that most developing countries had made very little progress in strengthening their scientific and technological infrastructures because of the scarcity of financial and human resources. Only about 5 per cent of the world's research and development activity was currently taking place in developing countries. That was cause for grave concern, particularly since there was not always a consensus on the long-term financial arrangements for the financing system for science and technology for development. Jamaica reiterated its support of the work of the Centre for Science and Technology for Development and stressed the need to provide financing on a permanent and assured basis.

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43. Lastly, his Government welcomed the successful outcome of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women. It supported the strategies aimed not only at promoting the total integration of women in the development process but also at eliminating various discriminatory practices against them.

44. Mr. BRODODININGRAT (Indonesia) said that he subscribed to the statement made by the Chairman of the Group of 77, who had also spoken on his country's behalf. The prevailing economic situation was having a dampening effect on progress on economic questions. Hence the consensus on international co-operation for development was extremely fragile. Indonesia itself was convinced that that strategy retained all its validity and importance because it must make it possible to establish a political and economic environment more conducive to development, to narrow the gaps between developing and developed countries and to promote the establishment of a new international economic order. It also provided a framework for harnessing the energies of the entire United Nations system. The agreed conclusions which had been adopted during the consideration of the Strategy reflected a new spirit of conciliation and increased recognition of the need to establish a more genuine interdependence between nations and to provide new impetus to international co-operation. Indonesia hoped that the consensus would result in specific action and that it might be further expanded, thus facilitating the attainment of the Strategy's objectives.

45. The Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order and the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States set forth the basic principles which must govern international economic relations, such as equity, sovereign equality and interdependence of all States. Unfortunately, they had been largely ignored in practice, but the current crisis stressed even further the need for them.

46. The particularly striking gap between the developed countries and the developing ones in science and technology seemed to be widening even further. The awareness of that assessment had made it possible to adopt the Vienna Programme of Action, but the mid-decade review of the implementation of the Programme had been disappointing. In those circumstances, Indonesia supported all constructive initiatives which might promote its implementation. It noted with keen interest the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development and supported the activities of the Centre, which dealt with the same questions, particularly the publication of the Advanced Technological Alert System Bulletin. It regretted, on the other hand, the failure to implement General Assembly resolution 37/244 on the long-term financial and institutional arrangements for the Financing System and the fact that the Intergovernmental Working Group established under General Assembly decision 39/428 had failed to achieve tangible results. The prospect of a liquidation of the current financing system, if contributions were insufficient, was even more worrisome. The General Assembly should act as soon as possible to ensure implementation of resolution 37/244 and to rescue the System.

(Mr. Brotodiningrat, Indonesia)

47. Recent natural disasters, particularly in Africa, had highlighted the close link between development and environment. Ecosystems were extremely vulnerable and factors such as the population explosion, deforestation and desertification were a formidable threat. Such systems must therefore be managed cautiously. That was the purpose of Indonesia's five-year plans. In that connection, President Souharto had stressed the vital importance of solidarity, equity and popular participation in achieving the objective of sustained development adapted to the environment. That presumed greater participation at the national and local levels and increased co-operation between the United Nations, Governments and non-governmental organizations. UNEP in particular had a crucial role to play in the co-ordination of efforts. Unfortunately, its resources had decreased in recent years and Indonesia echoed the appeal of the Executive Director.

48. As the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) had noted, the economic crisis had eroded the consensus on the need for concerted national and international action in the field of human settlements. One quarter of the world's population lacked adequate shelter and basic services. Programmes to improve basic services, for example, sanitation in rural areas and low-cost housing projects in urban areas, commanded high priority in Indonesia's development efforts. At the international level, the report of the eighth session of the Commission on Human Settlements (A/40/8) contained resolutions that called for action.

49. The International Year of Shelter for the Homeless could encourage Governments to review their human settlements policies. It would come at a particularly opportune time, when urbanization was expanding rapidly in the developing countries, especially at lower income levels. Indonesia had already designated a national focal point and developed several demonstration projects. It was contributing to the preparations for the Year and had supported the corresponding draft resolution recommended by the Commission on Human Settlements. It was also in favour of increasing voluntary contributions.

50. The Indonesian Government recognized the crucial role of women in development, particularly in agriculture and many unremunerated sectors of the economy, and was sparing no effort to enhance their participation and responsibilities at every level of the development process.

51. The overall socio-economic perspective of the world economy to the year 2000 (A/40/519) contained a number of scenarios. Ambitious targets had often been set in the economic and social fields, but so far the results had been disappointing. The key question was whether those disturbing trends would persist or whether they could be turned around to create new possibilities for growth and development. The choice lay with each country individually and with the international community collectively.

52. Mr. Birido (Sudan) resumed the Chair.

53. Mr. FIELD (United Kingdom) said that he would confine himself to the environment and to long-term trends in economic development, since the representative of Luxembourg had already stated the general position of the European Economic Community.

54. The United Kingdom delegation had been particularly impressed by the statement of the Executive Director of UNEP. His warning about the "green belt" was most timely.

55. The United Kingdom noted with satisfaction that UNEP was playing a dynamic role in bringing about greater environmental awareness. He recalled in that connection the major conferences that had been held in 1985, the important role of the Global Environmental Monitoring System in collecting and evaluating data, and the work on the Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer. However, UNEP's limited resources did not allow it to respond to all the requests of Governments. Its tasks must therefore be defined precisely, as had been noted already on several occasions.

56. The UNEP Governing Council had taken a number of important decisions at its thirteenth session. First, the United Kingdom welcomed the establishment of the Committee of Permanent Representatives as part of the effort to reduce administrative expenses. Countries would be kept better informed in regard to UNEP's programmes in that way, and UNEP would be able to allocate more of its staff to substantive activities. Decision 13/15 authorized the Governing Council to give the Executive Director more precise direction. It should enable available resources to be more effectively used and a wiser choice made of the activities to be undertaken. In his delegation's view, decision 13/35 would help to reduce programme support costs and allow resources to be redeployed into programmes. Lastly, decision 13/36 on the Environment Fund was a step in the direction of greater realism, while at the same time preserving the idealism that should characterize UNEP's work. The thirteenth session of the Governing Council, therefore, could be said to have marked a notable step forward towards realistic and effective planning.

57. The United Kingdom also noted with satisfaction the non-political attitude adopted by UNEP. Its work should focus on practical issues and on assistance to the most affected countries.

58. The Secretary-General's report on long-term trends in economic development (A/40/519) contained much useful data but he wondered whether it was necessary to devote so much time to a study largely based on highly speculative assumptions. It was probable that the decade to come would offer it own surprises. The decisions to be taken on various pending issues, for example, the negotiations on multilateral trade or the debt problem, could have an enormous influence on the world economy in the years ahead. Moreover, the Secretariat, the World Bank, UNCTAD and other bodies had already published a mass of documentation proposing specific scenarios for the next five years. It would, perhaps, have been better to prepare a shorter report that could attract more readers and release Secretariat time.

(Mr. Field, United Kingdom)

59. He recalled that the United Kingdom was in favour of greater freedom of trade. The developing countries had to sell more. However, the trade question must be looked at as a whole. The Secretary-General's report did not contain a satisfactory analysis of the increase in manufactured imports from developing countries, the level of their market penetration, and the impact of structural adjustment on employment. Nevertheless, all those aspects had a bearing on protectionism.

60. On the question of development and resources, the two scenarios proposed in the report that offered the greatest increase in growth envisaged an increase in private investment and an increased transfer of technology to the developing countries. The latter objective was obviously closely linked to increased direct foreign investment. According to the report, the transfer of resources under those two scenarios would be 12 times greater than that obtained by meeting ODA targets by 1990. Private investment was not just debt and dividends. It was high time that the Secretariat attempted to quantify the impact of direct investment on technology transfer, training and downstream activities.

61. Lastly, it seemed unnecessary to devote so much space to disarmament in a document of that kind. The matter was dealt with in detail in other United Nations documents. A transfer of investment from weapons to other areas of activity, including development, would no doubt be beneficial, but the argument was not helped by making quite unrealistic assumptions about the terms on which it might take place. In the case in point, the fact that the socialist countries did not provide complete figures on official development assistance or on arms production and exports did not make the analysis easier. The Secretariat should try to obtain more specific figures, if necessary relying on statistics provided by the recipients.

62. Mr. WANG Baoliu (China) said that the Committee on the Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade had not long previously adopted agreed conclusions in which it pointed out that the world economic situation and international economic relations had deteriorated in the first half of the 1980s. The conclusions reaffirmed that the Strategy was still valid as a framework for economic co-operation for development and provided broad guidelines for further action in some key areas. The consensus reached on the document was indeed to be welcomed, and his delegation hoped that it would help to promote progress in the North-South dialogue and, in particular, in discussions during the current session.

63. Nevertheless, the mandate entrusted to that Committee by General Assembly resolution 38/152 had not been fully carried out. The Committee's work was not quite systematic, nor was it sufficient. The Committee had not carried out the adjustment, intensification or reformulation of the policy measures foreseen in the Strategy in the light of evolving needs and developments. The statement by the Chairman of the Committee, in which he had pointed out the causes of that situation and the differences among the parties concerned, merited serious attention.

(Mr. Wang Baoliu, China)

64. The world economic recovery after three years of crisis was uneven and unstable. Most of the developing countries had not benefited from it and their economies still faced grave difficulties. If such a situation persisted, their prospects of development would be very grim, there would be little hope of realizing the goals and objectives of the Strategy, and that in turn would have an adverse effect on the world economic and political situation. It was therefore imperative that the international community should take effective measures in the second half of the 1980s to help resume and accelerate the development of the developing countries. On the occasion of the mid-term review and appraisal of the Strategy, all the parties concerned should make continued efforts to reach agreement through meaningful and constructive dialogues, so that the negotiations in various areas identified by the Strategy could be successful.

65. The review of the implementation of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States was another important topic in the current North-South dialogue. Ten years after its adoption, and despite its importance, the Charter remained largely unimplemented. The establishment of an Ad Hoc Committee to review its implementation, by General Assembly resolution 39/163, had therefore been absolutely necessary.

66. At the meetings of that Committee held in March and April 1985, the representatives of many countries had exchanged views on the problems of implementing the Charter during the previous decade and on how to intensify its implementation. China supported the paper submitted by the Group of 77 which, in its view, expressed correct and reasonable positions. However, because of differences of view among participants, the Ad Hoc Committee had failed to reach agreement on the paper. His delegation hoped that, at the current session, the parties concerned would continue consultations on the proposed amendments in a spirit of co-operation and understanding so as to reach consensus on the paper.

67. Regrettably, most of the developed countries had not participated in the meetings at which the Ad Hoc Committee had reviewed implementation of the Charter. China had noted the reasons for their absence but also noted that they had indicated during the general debate in the Second Committee that they would take part in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee in a spirit of compromise and realism. His delegation hoped that they would reconsider their position on reviewing the implementation of the Charter in that same spirit. It was imperative to improve the climate for international economic co-operation, in the interests of all countries, and his delegation hoped that all parties would make concerted efforts to that end.

68. Science and technology played an important role in promoting economic and social development. Economic and social development should rely on science and technology, while science and technology should be oriented toward social and economic progress. That conclusion was a product of long years of experience.

69. The Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development had been adopted in 1979 and various related standing bodies had also been established, among them the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for

(Mr. Wang Baoliu, China)

Development, which had done a lot of work since then. The measures taken had made positive contributions to improving the capability of developing countries in science and technology, as well as to strengthening international co-operation in that field. However, those activities were currently encountering great difficulties. The problem of establishing a long-term financing system for science and technology had still not been properly solved. The enthusiasm shown at the Vienna Conference seemed to be waning. That phenomenon was inseparable from the passivity shown by some developed countries towards the Programme and to the refusal by some of them to implement commitments undertaken at the Conference.

70. At the current session, the General Assembly would review the problems related to the establishment of a long-term financing system for science and technology and contributions to that system. His delegation believed it imperative to recall the spirit of the Vienna Conference in order to inspire the necessary solutions. Economic interdependence in the modern world necessitated a search for common positions over a broad front. It was in the interest of the developed countries to help the developing countries to catch up in the fields of science, technology and the economy. His delegation was sure that the United Nations could maintain the momentum for sustained progress in science and technology so long as there was agreement on the basic guidelines.

71. His Government appreciated the efforts of the United Nations Environment Programme to draw the attention of Governments to the problem of the environment and so to protect mankind's present and future interests. The activities of World Environment Day were significant and should meet with a broad response.

72. His Government supported General Assembly resolution 37/221, which designated 1987 as the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless. The Chinese departments concerned had worked out programmes in connection with the Year.

73. His Government also welcomed the results of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women held recently in Nairobi. Women were an important force for the cause of world peace and development, especially in the third world. The relevant bodies in the United Nations system had registered achievements in that field and his Government hoped that they would make even greater efforts in the future.

74. Mr. VRAALSEN (Norway), speaking on behalf of the five Nordic countries, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden, noted that the Executive Director of UNEP had repeatedly underlined that the crisis in Africa was a crisis of environmental management. The Nordic countries saw it rather as a crisis of development and were therefore increasing their efforts to achieve long-term goals such as food self-sufficiency and rehabilitation of the environment. They were also interested in continuing their work with developing countries on the formulation of national environmental strategies, and thought that priority must be given to co-ordinating efforts to foster programmes and projects which genuinely promoted long-term, sustainable development in the countries concerned. More attention should also be given to helping developing countries to strengthen their institutional structures.



(Mr. Vraalsen, Norway)

75. In that connection, the Nordic countries welcomed the convening of an African ministerial conference on the environment later that year. They anticipated that the conclusions of that conference would inspire long-term strategies and plans of action based on increased co-operation among the partners in development, namely the recipient and donor countries and the competent international organizations. "Wait-and-see" attitudes must be changed and short-term efforts to alleviate hunger must be accompanied by long-term strategies for achieving stable environmental conditions. Only in such a way could the world avoid further deterioration of the natural-resource base on which all were dependent.

76. During the previous session the Executive Director of UNEP had paid particular attention to the problem of desertification. At the present session he had underlined the alarming situation of the tropical forests. Those twin problems were at the heart of the crisis and would have to be given priority attention.

77. The growing concern on the subject was reflected in the Executive Director's proposal to convene an international conference for the protection of tropical forests. Forestry problems would also be highlighted at a conference to be held in Paris in 1986 on the initiative of the President of the French Republic. In addition, there was a newly-established Tropical Timber Agreement to deal with the commercial exploitation of tropical forests.

78. With regard to the Secretary-General's preliminary report on countries stricken by desertification and drought (A/40/392), the Nordic countries felt that attention should be focused primarily on countries whose economies were adversely affected by those phenomena. Emphasis should be placed on the need to co-ordinate such activities. The training of both technical and administrative personnel and the elaboration of alternative methods were important factors. Actions to prevent desertification should to a greater extent be small-scale, decentralized and precisely defined. The active participation of those directly concerned was a prerequisite for success. The international community should give increased support for the work of UNEP in tackling those problems, including co-ordinating the follow-up of the 1977 Plan of Action to Combat Desertification.

79. The Nordic countries had been increasingly concerned by the environmental problems facing the countries of the Sudano-Sahelian region, and had channelled considerable funds through the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO). They noted with satisfaction the effective action taken by the countries concerned and the efficiency with which UNSO had mobilized funds. The Nordic countries wished to strengthen their collaboration with UNSO.

80. The Nordic countries shared the concern of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation that the proliferation of agenda items, resolutions and reports dealing with drought and desertification was likely to dissipate attention and efforts. They hoped that agreement could be reached on a unified and comprehensive approach to the matter.

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81. UNEP's clearing-house mechanism was also a valuable tool which should help to solve serious environmental problems in the developing countries. The Nordic countries were providing support for that mechanism and hoped that an increasing number of member countries would follow their example. They also noted with satisfaction the Executive Director's efforts to assist in improving the management of fresh-water resources, a field in which they were actively interested. They also believed that the role of non-governmental organizations in environmental protection should be given greater recognition by Governments and international organizations. They attached greater priority than ever to the possibilities offered by non-governmental organizations in enhancing public awareness and in implementing actual projects.

82. In June 1985, the World Commission on Environment and Development had met in Oslo. The Commission had focused on the relationships between the economy, trade, industry and agriculture on the one hand and the environment on the other. It engaged in active and open dialogue on those issues in different parts of the world. The international community looked forward to the report the Commission would submit to the General Assembly in 1987. The Nordic countries seriously hoped that the Commission's work would strengthen the role of UNEP within the United Nations system.

83. The adoption of the Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the progress made in preparing a protocol to the Convention had the strong support of the Nordic countries which also welcomed the continuation of the work of UNEP on the transport and treatment of hazardous wastes. Furthermore, the promising developments in the field of environmental monitoring had particularly interesting implications for natural-resource management in both developing and developed countries and should be actively encouraged.

84. UNEP, as the most recent session of its Governing Council had demonstrated, was functioning effectively despite its very limited resources. Every State should intensify its efforts to increase the financial resources available to UNEP. The Nordic countries were making an increasing number of financial and other commitments and would urge similar efforts from all countries in a position to contribute. The impact of UNEP could, furthermore, be strengthened by more active support from Governments within the governing bodies of the specialized agencies, which were implementing the various parts of the system-wide environment programme. They sincerely hoped that the current session of the General Assembly would reach agreement on a consensus resolution on international co-operation on the environment, an issue of too much importance to be made the subject of political controversy.

85. The General Assembly, at its thirty-ninth session, had once more requested the Commission on Human Settlements to consider the adoption of a biennial cycle of sessions. The Nordic countries welcomed the Commission's decision, at its eighth session, to take that action, which would make savings in the human and financial resources of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements that could be used for direct development work. The Commission had also taken steps to focus the work of

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its session better and direct it towards substantive deliberations. The Nordic countries had noted that the Commission had nevertheless decided to hold a special session in 1988 to provide a follow-up to the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless (1987). The session would be shorter than normal and devoted entirely to the review, assessment and follow-up of the Year. They trusted that the holding of biennial sessions could then proceed without further adjustment. They noted with satisfaction that activities for the Year had already started in the majority of Member States, and found that the response from Governments, intergovernmental agencies and national as well as international non-governmental organizations had been encouraging. The Nordic countries had supported the programme with cash contributions or by providing technical and financial assistance to preparatory activities at the international level. They remained concerned, however, by the gaps still found in the implementation of the plan of action for the Year and hoped that all Governments would give serious consideration to the issue, as envisaged in the draft resolution submitted by the Commission to the General Assembly. They reiterated the need to enhance the co-ordination of activities in the human-settlements field.

86. The Nordic countries noted with great satisfaction that the agenda for the Committee contained an item on the role of women in development. The most significant result from the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women had been the adoption by consensus of forward-looking strategies, which the Nordic countries believed would have a favourable impact on the living conditions of women all over the world. However, the Nairobi Conference had also demonstrated that the role of women in development had not yet been given the attention it deserved. Donor and recipient countries and development agencies had a shared responsibility to improve that situation when formulating and executing development projects and programmes by ensuring the integration of the concerns of women and their potential. In that context, the Nordic countries were working on statistical methods through which data on women in development could become an important tool in development planning. They commended the United Nations bodies and organizations involved in preparing document A/CONF.116/4, submitted to the General Assembly in compliance with resolution 39/172. They believed that to be a good example of how United Nations documents could contribute to the search for solutions to major economic and social problems.

87. Lastly, attention was drawn to resolution 1985/46 adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its spring session, calling upon the Secretary-General to formulate a system-wide medium-term plan for women in development. The Nordic countries looked forward to studying the plan when it was submitted to the Commission on the Status of Women, the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Economic and Social Council.

88. Mr. EL FORGANI (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) pointed out that, as the financial system created by the Bretton Woods agreements had shown itself to be incapable of responding to the needs of rapidly evolving societies, a crisis had resulted which had affected all the countries of the world but especially the young nations which

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were weaker and more affected by monetary fluctuations and the general instability of the world economy; the industrialized countries had exacerbated the situation by adopting palliatives for the sole purpose of protecting their own economies without regard to the consequences which such an approach might have for the rest of the world.

89. All the developing countries had been affected by the crisis, including even the petroleum exporting countries which, after showing a surplus of \$111 billion in 1980, had suffered deficits totalling \$16 billion in 1983. According to the banks of the Gulf countries, the external debt of the 20 Arab countries had amounted to \$105 billion in December 1984.

90. That situation had led to the international community's recognition of the need to strengthen the structure of the world economy. In 1980, the General Assembly, in its resolution 35/56, had adopted the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, in which it had invited the agencies of the United Nations system to provide the assistance needed to implement the Strategy. Governments for their part had undertaken both individually and collectively to respect their promise to establish a new international economic order. Since then, five years had elapsed and, with hardly any exceptions, nothing concrete had been done. Certain countries did not seem to understand the concept of international responsibility, and thousands of human beings were dying every day while waiting for the international community to adopt measures which would make it possible to eliminate famine and malnutrition. It was therefore more urgent than ever to give effect to General Assembly resolution 34/138 regarding the opening of global negotiations on international economic co-operation for development. Those negotiations, as required by the resolution, should address the major problems which existed in the fields of commodities, energy, trade, development and monetary matters and should be pursued in the General Assembly.

91. His delegation reiterated its support for General Assembly resolution 3281 (XXIX) containing the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States. The Vienna Programme of Action had specified measures designed to implement the Charter and to reduce the gap between developing and developed countries by facilitating the access of the latter to science and technology and creating research centres which would make it possible to enhance the scientific and technical capabilities of the developing countries. Unfortunately, virtually none of those measures had been implemented; on the contrary, the industrialized countries were pursuing a hegemonistic policy by blocking the transfer of science and technology to the developing countries and preventing students from those countries from participating in courses touching on strategic matters. Furthermore, when industry had been transferred as had happened in petroleum and chemical industries, the reason had been that demand for those products had been weak and because the measures which petroleum and chemical companies had been obliged to take to reduce pollution from their production had become increasingly heavy, and not that there had been a desire to contribute to the rationalization of world production.

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92. On the issue of the material remains of wars, he reminded the Committee that the mines left in his country by the belligerents during the First and Second World Wars represented a serious problem which was hindering the development of Libya. One third of the country's territory comprised an extremely dangerous mined area. Thousands of persons had already been killed. His Government had studied and demarcated those areas and had trained mine disposal specialists who were working in the field. In view of the extent and complexity of the problem, the intervention of the international community and particularly of those countries which had been responsible for the situation was needed.

93. Since the revolution, special importance had been devoted to the integration of Libyan women in development. Women in Libya participated at all levels of public life including the preparation of national plans and decision-making.

94. On the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations, whose Charter expressly urged Member States to ensure the maintenance of international peace and security and the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination and to the control of their natural resources, the Palestinian people were still bereft of a homeland; they continued to be the victims of the most heinous crimes and could not exercise their rights which were systematically flouted by the terrorist Zionist gang whose behaviour was clearly racist, imperialist and expansionist.

95. It was true that a good knowledge of long-term economic and scientific trends would facilitate the preparation of specific and effective plans for the harmonious development of all countries; nevertheless, plans for development and the restructuring of international relations, however perfect they might be, would remain a dead letter without the necessary political will.

96. Mr. MORENO-SALCEDO (Philippines) said that his country had involved itself in the consideration of the items on the Committee's agenda in the various committee and working groups; it therefore identified itself with many of the proposals transmitted to the Committee for decision. Such was the case with the report of the Committee on the Review and Appraisal of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, and his delegation had no hesitation in endorsing its recommendations, particularly bearing in mind that the report had been agreed to by consensus and thus represented a positive step towards the establishment of real co-operation in international economic relations.

97. It should not however be forgotten that no agreement had been reached on many issues of primary importance to developing countries. It would also be appropriate at the current point in time to begin thinking about what needed to be done at the conclusion of the Third Development Decade. The Philippines believed that it was imperative to set up a strategy for the Fourth Development Decade consistent with the lessons learned from the preceding decades.

98. On the issue of science and technology for development, the Philippines reiterated its continuing support for the Vienna Programme of Action and urged the implementation of its goals which were intended to enhance the equitable sharing of

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benefits from science and technology by all countries. Like other delegations, the Philippine delegation had been deeply disappointed over the failure to reach agreement on a long-term arrangement for science and technology for development. His delegation had hoped that, following the adoption of its organizational and administrative provisions, the long-term financing system would have been launched. Unfortunately, it had not been possible to raise the necessary contributions, apparently because of the temporary unfavourable international economic situation. He hoped that the initiative could be revived during better times. His delegation welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on the issue and, in particular, supported the suggestion that contributions could take the form of expertise or the provision of training opportunities.

99. His Government was a firm supporter of the activities of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the programme for shelter for the homeless. It continued to assign high priority to the human settlement approach to development; man must be afforded the opportunity to provide himself with all his basic needs if he was to be able to participate constructively in the development of his community. It had noted with satisfaction the results achieved during the eighth session of the Commission on Human Settlements and particularly its approval of the proposed utilization of resources for the implementation of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless. His Government also welcomed the inclusion in the agenda of the next session of the United Nations Commission on Human Settlements of an item on the small-scale production of building materials. The Philippines had had some experience in that area and would be happy to share it with the Commission at its next session. His delegation commended the Executive Director of the Centre for his good financial management, and also reiterated its support for the objectives and programme of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless. The Philippines had already embarked on measures at the national level to implement those objectives.

100. Turning to the issue of the mobilization and integration of women in development, he said that the proclamation of the United Nations Decade for Women had acted as a catalyst in improving the lot of women and in moving closer to the attainment of the goals which had been set. The survey of the role of women in development had confirmed that women had indeed made important contributions to the development efforts in their countries. It must however be recognized that much still remained to be done before women's potential could be utilized to the full; gaps still existed between legislation and practice and discrimination against women still continued. The Decade had laid the groundwork for increasing participation in development and the programmes adopted must be continued through the year 2000. His delegation wished to acknowledge the central role of the United Nations Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs in furthering the cause of women.

101. With respect to the item entitled "New international human order: moral aspects of development", his delegation, which had introduced the item, considered that the new international order should focus on the efforts of the international community to enhance the worth of the human being and redefine mankind's values and

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attitudes on the basis of spiritual and moral precepts. Development should not be centred exclusively on the material, but also on social, human and spiritual aspects. A new international human order would provide a moral basis for guiding international economic relations. It would harmonize the various principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations as well as in other charters, conventions and declarations in the field of economic and social relations, instruments which had established certain rights consistent with human dignity. His delegation took the opportunity to express its appreciation to those Governments which had submitted their comments on the proposal, in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 37/225 and 38/170. While there had been some negative views, no one had denied the intrinsic validity of the proposal. There had been references to a lack of "precision" or "clarity" in the proposal, and a possible duplication of agreements existing in the United Nations system. On the first point, it seemed that the need for a new international human order was very clear. What was perhaps less clear at present was the definition of such an order, which could not be precise at the current stage since it would relate to the totality of human experience and its complex and varying cultures, values and orientations. It was for that reason that his delegation had sought the participation of members of the international community, so as to begin the spadework for implementation of the proposal. On the second point, his delegation wished to clarify that it was not its intention to replace the International Development Strategy, the new international economic order, or other existing instruments with the new international human order. It simply thought that the new order would increase the chances of attaining the objectives of those instruments, in particular by strengthening political will.

102. His delegation had hoped that Governments would have had time, since the thirty-eighth session, to study the proposal in greater depth and to give their views so that the General Assembly could adopt substantive decisions at the current session. Unfortunately, that had not happened. Accordingly, his delegation would submit a procedural resolution to the Second Committee in order to keep the item on the agenda so that it could be considered again at the forty-second session. The Philippines also requested members of the Committee to give the proposal more thought so that its consideration at the forty-second session would be more fruitful.

103. Mr. Brotodiningrat (Indonesia) took the Chair.

104. Mr. KATAWALA (Mozambique) said that the international community was still far from accomplishing the goals established 40 years earlier, in particular, in Article 55 of the Charter. The international economic crisis had in fact aggravated the situation of the world in general and of the developing countries in particular, despite the establishment of the International Development Strategy and the quest for a new international economic order, which the developing countries resolutely supported.

105. The developed countries, far from demonstrating any will to change, imposed on the developing countries - which already suffered from natural disasters, poverty, hunger and disease - coercive measures which resulted in increased protectionism,

(Mr. Katawala, Mozambique)

Declining raw materials prices, increases in prices of manufactured goods, high interest rates and alarming indebtedness.

106. It was time they realized that the only way of resolving the crisis was to jointly seek concrete solutions, with a view to the equitable distribution of resources, through global negotiations, the establishment of a new international economic order, co-operation between developing countries, and the formulation of realistic national development plans. In that connection, it was essential for every country to respect internationally agreed to principles and commitments, in particular, the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States.

107. Science and technology remained the monopoly of the developed countries, which hid themselves of technologies which were outdated, as far as they were concerned, by systematically exporting them to developing countries, which, moreover, were sometimes barred from access to know-how. Implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development would enable developing countries to catch up with the developed countries by affording them access to science and technology.

108. Most of the environmental problems encountered by the developing countries, such as the pollution of their territorial waters by foreign oil tankers and air pollution due to industrial technology and imported, outdated means of transportation came from the developed countries. Given the complexity of the problem of the environment, the risks it entailed for mankind as a whole and the resources necessary for its regulation, international co-operation, in the context of the relevant General Assembly resolutions and decisions, was essential.

109. The problem of human settlements also gave serious cause for concern, given that one quarter of the world's population lived in unhealthy and insanitary conditions. Although Africa was one of the most affected continents, the Commission on Human Settlements, at its eighth session, had adopted no measures aimed at Africa in particular, as it had for Asia and Latin America. Mozambique therefore appealed to the international community to make good that omission.

110. With independence, Mozambican women had regained their place as equal partners of men in all sectors of society. His delegation believed that the integration of women in the development process was a very important means of promoting a new and more balanced social order, and welcomed the recommendations adopted at the Nairobi Conference.

111. Only the implementation of all the international agreements relating to development could, in turn, through a new international economic order, lead to a new international human order. Since long-term developments were involved, a realistic assessment of development trends up to the year 2000 should be made, taking account of the results achieved in each country and then consecutively at the subregional and regional levels.



112. Mr. EDWARD (Observer for the Holy See) recalled that Pope Paul VI, in his encyclical Populorum Progressio, had pointed out that there could be no genuine development of man without a simultaneous development of solidarity, namely, a sense of sharing; that the concept of brotherhood, both human and supernatural, imposed a triple obligation on more favoured nations: a duty of solidarity, a duty of social justice, and a duty of universal charity.

113. Unfortunately, the poorest countries had scarcely profited from the recent economic recovery. Labouring, it seemed irremediably, under the burden of their external debt and unable to obtain new loans, they compounded the problems which they had hoped to escape. The problems of indebtedness and of the new forms of dependence which it created could not be posed solely in economic and monetary terms, but had their social, political and human aspects to the extent that the costs were sometimes such as to bring countries to the brink of a catastrophe from which no one would gain.

114. To maintain morale and the dignity of their peoples, the developing countries themselves should promote their own development, set themselves realistic economic and social goals, and mobilize their natural and human resources. That would not prove possible, however, unless they could obtain access to technology and co-operate among themselves.

115. It was the duty of the Holy See to ensure that justice prevailed not only within each country, but also in relations among nations. Economic, social and cultural inequalities among peoples aroused tension and conflict. To declare war on misery and to struggle against injustice was to promote human and spiritual progress for all.

116. The ultimate aim of development was the continuing improvement of the well-being of all individuals, on the basis of equal participation and benefit. That was why it was necessary to strengthen the role of women in society, to find solutions to the problems of the young, such as unemployment, illiteracy and drug addiction, and to take account of those on the margin of society. That was why, in addition, decent standards of living should be provided for the homeless and those suffering from the effects of urbanization and industrialization. That was why, finally, the Holy See hoped that the international community would give priority to the scourges of hunger and malnutrition, which affected a vast area of the world, and Africa in particular.

The meeting rose at 7.10 p.m.