



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 16th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. BRODODININGRAT (Indonesia)

later: Mr. BIRIDO (Sudan)

CONTENTS

AGENDA ITEM 84: DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (continued)

- (a) INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR THE THIRD UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT DECADE
- (b) REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF STATES
- (d) SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT
- (f) ENVIRONMENT
- (g) HUMAN SETTLEMENTS
- (h) INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF SHELTER FOR THE HOMELESS
- (i) EFFECTIVE MOBILIZATION AND INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT
- (k) NEW INTERNATIONAL HUMAN ORDER: MORAL ASPECTS OF DEVELOPMENT
- (l) LONG-TERM TRENDS IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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

AGENDA ITEM 84: DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (continued)
(A/40/3, 109, 173, 184, 185, 202, 203, 220, 235, 276, 303, 305, 321, 327, 330, 340, 342, 347, 366, 374, 384, 401, 407, 458, 459, 476, 477, 489, 495, 525, 534, 544, 545, 582, 640, 672, 708, 762; A/C.2/40/2 and 5; A/C.2/40/L.7)

- (a) INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR THE THIRD UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT DECADE (A/40/48)
- (b) REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF STATES (A/40/52, 334)
- (d) SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT (A/40/37; A/C.2/40/4)
- (f) ENVIRONMENT (A/40/25, 644, 650; A/C.2/40/L.11)
- (g) HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (A/40/8, 373, 689)
- (h) INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF SHELTER FOR THE HOMELESS (A/40/8, 406 and Corr.1)
- (i) EFFECTIVE MOBILIZATION AND INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT (A/40/703 and Corr.1; A/CONF.116/4)
- (k) NEW INTERNATIONAL HUMAN ORDER: MORAL ASPECTS OF DEVELOPMENT (A/40/591)
- (l) LONG-TERM TRENDS IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (A/40/519; A/C.2/40/L.10)

1. Mr. VENTO (Italy) said that, since the representative of Luxembourg had set forth the position of the States members of the European Economic Community concerning the review of the International Development Strategy, he would confine his statement to a few essential points.

2. The agreed conclusions resulting from the review of the Strategy and certain other recent international initiatives marked significant progress towards re-establishing the multilateral approach. Multilateralism played an essential role in economic growth and political stability by encouraging shared responsibilities, but it had to a large extent been frustrated during the economic recession of the early 1980s. The prospects of sustainable economic recovery during the second half of the decade justified reasonable optimism because it might lead to progress in solving common problems through a harmonization of national and international policies.

3. The balance between adjustment and growth had to be maintained and even reinforced. Adjustment would be more acceptable if it consisted in a trade-off leading more rapidly to growth. For that to happen financial policies had to be credible, within the possibilities of each country concerned and in keeping with the role which it could play in the world economy. In particular, interaction

(Mr. Vento, Italy)

between national and international policies required a co-ordinated and careful approach because it had decisive repercussions on the transfer of growth and on trade, capital flows, interest rates and exchange markets. Some encouraging signs could be noted in that regard, for example, the positive change in the status of UNIDO, the factual conclusions of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries and the initiatives taken to assist sub-Saharan Africa, but much still remained to be done.

4. It was even more important to recognize the magnitude of the debt problem and the need to find imaginative solutions based on additional financing and co-operation between IMF, the World Bank, Governments and the private sector. The objective of Governments should be to overcome indebtedness through growth, and the Strategy was an essential frame of reference in that regard.

5. His country's active participation in the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development and in the financing of the Interim Fund showed the importance which Italy attached to strengthening the scientific and technological capacities of developing countries and to the role which the United Nations had to play in that regard. His delegation welcomed the results achieved by the Intergovernmental Committee at its seventh session and appreciated the efforts which it was making to rationalize its work. It supported in particular the practice of identifying specific themes for the sessions of the Committee, and those which had been selected for the eighth session appeared particularly appropriate.

6. Italy was well aware of the difficulties involved in launching a viable financing system for science and technology for development. It supported the way in which the Interim Fund had carried out its functions and was ready to consider the various proposals relating to the Financing System, in particular those set forth in document A/C.2/40/4. It firmly hoped that a consensus could be reached at the present session of the General Assembly on making institutional and financial arrangements that would attract sufficient contributions while respecting the principles enunciated in the decisions in force.

7. Miss SHAHIN (Egypt) said that her delegation associated itself with the views expressed in the statement by the Chairman of the Group of 77 and would therefore confine its comments to agenda item 84 (a), (b), (d), (g) and (l).

8. Egypt considered that the consensus reached on the occasion of the review of the International Development Strategy was only a first step in the negotiating process. The consensus had to be consolidated and broadened because controversial issues still remained. For example, ways had to be sought to widen the area of agreement on the assessment of the development situation and the prospects ahead. The objective of balanced growth and sustained recovery required an equitable adjustment process. There was also the need to hold a conference on money and finance for development and to promote a political dialogue on the debt problem, with the debtor countries, creditor countries, multilateral institutions and international private banks participating in a spirit of shared responsibility.

(Miss Shahin, Egypt)

9. The review of the implementation of the Charter did not give rise to the same optimism. Some developed countries were losing all interest in the question. However, the Charter was a fundamental instrument for economic relations and it reflected a reality universally agreed upon, namely global interdependence. Egypt hoped that the commemoration of the fortieth anniversary of the Organization would encourage countries to devote greater attention to the provisions of the Charter and to the solutions which it suggested for remedying the imbalances and inequities of the international economic system.

10. It was discouraging to see that the arrangements for the Financing System for Science and Technology for Development had not yet come into effect, particularly owing to hesitation on the part of some donors. Nipping that initiative in the bud would prevent developing countries from enjoying a fair share in the progress of science and technology and thus retard their development. The report issued as document A/40/519 showed that an increase in the transfer of technology to those countries could in itself raise the GDP growth rates of the developing countries over the period 1985-1990 by 1.02 per cent above the baseline projection. That example clearly illustrated the importance of transferring technology and the role of the Financing System.

11. Her delegation was willing, with some reluctance, to consider the proposal in document A/C.2/40/4 for a provisional arrangement to rescue the Financing System, since it should not conflict with resolution 37/244 which provided a viable framework for long-term financial arrangements. It hoped that donors would make sufficient pledges at the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities in November 1985, but insisted that there was nevertheless a need to maintain the independence of the Financing System.

12. When considering the question of human settlements, it was also necessary to take into account the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories. Egypt was grateful to the Secretary-General for the action he had taken to implement General Assembly resolution 39/169. Moreover, it was sure that the Member States which regularly expressed their solidarity with the Palestinian people would not hesitate to offer it their assistance in implementing the proposals set forth in the report issued as document A/40/373. Her delegation would return in more detail to that matter during the consideration of item 12.

13. The report of the Secretary-General dealing with international co-operation in the fields of money, finance, debt, resource flows trade and development (A/40/708) was a useful follow-up to General Assembly resolution 39/218. It was essential to maintain the close interrelationship between those issues and to promote concerted action on all fronts. Neglect of other issues would lead to failure. Thus, to increase resource flows to developing countries without opening the markets for those countries' commodities would have only a short-term effect. In addition, all protectionist measures should be rolled back. On the other hand, developed countries should not seek reciprocity in their transactions with developing countries and should, on the contrary, respect the principle of differential and favourable treatment set forth by the GATT. Egypt welcomed the fact that a few

(Miss Shahin, Egypt)

countries had recently decided to regulate exchange rates, but that issue should be dealt with in large forums.

14. The report on long-term trends in economic development (A/40/519) contained much useful information. Her delegation also appreciated the special attention given to the critical situation in Africa. The mild recovery in 1984 would leave hardly a trace in the majority of developing countries and that was particularly true of Africa. That continent continued to face a desperate situation and the World Bank's most optimistic scenario did not anticipate any improvement in living standards for the next decade: it projected a real per capita GDP growth rate of minus 0.1 per cent for the period 1985-1995. The main reasons given for those bleak prospects were the problems linked to those countries' commodity exports and the inadequacy of capital inflows. Thus, with the best will in the world, the African countries would continue to face exogenous constraints. Egypt would have liked to see the reports A/40/519 and A/40/708 deal more thoroughly with the problem of debt servicing which was a handicap to long-term development.

15. In absolute terms, Africa's external debt was not large and did not directly threaten the functioning of the international financial system. However, a closer look revealed that it was a very heavy burden on the continent. In terms of the main debt indicators (debt/export and debt/GDP ratios and the percentage of debt service in total export earnings), Africa was the most heavily indebted region because it had to allocate more than 50 per cent of its export income to debt service. In addition, the problems of Africa's external debt were dealt with mainly by the Paris Club which applied short-term and piecemeal solutions. That mechanism was not very effective.

16. The African countries had long passed the limits of their endurance. Like other debtor countries, they had carried out severe adjustment programmes and had placed constraints on their development process in order to repay their debts. However, as those payments absorbed the major portion of their export earnings, they had little left for financing their imports and development programmes, in particular, for ensuring their food self-sufficiency. It was, however, encouraging to note that wider recognition was being given to the need to link adjustment programmes to the achievement of sustainable economic growth and, on the other hand, that IMF and the World Bank had adopted a more realistic approach at their recent Annual Meeting at Seoul. Those attitudes must be translated into concrete policies. To that end, ways and means must be explored so as to terminate the negative transfer of resources and accelerate the resumption of growth. Such solutions should provide: more efficient organization of relief and broader rescheduling arrangements with long-term grace periods; additional aid to relieve the debt problem and longer-term balance-of-payments financing on concessional terms; an efficient interest subsidy account to compensate for the high interest rates; and, what was very important, a write-off of the ODA debt for the poorest countries.

17. Mr. KUMAMARU (Japan) said that the results of the review of the implementation of the International Development Strategy marked progress in the North-South dialogue. The spirit of co-operation shown by the developing and developed countries was commendable, but the consensus on the Strategy was only a first step because the dialogue must be an ongoing process and differences remained on a number of issues. His delegation noted with satisfaction that the agreed conclusions referred to the close relationship between trade, money, financing and debt. Those conclusions established a broad basis for international co-operation for development in all relevant fields. The United Nations could play an important role in suggesting ways of addressing newly emerging issues.

18. Because it attached great importance to maintaining the environment and international co-operation in that field, the Government of Japan would continue to contribute to the Environment Fund whose activities should be strongly supported because its resources had declined recently in real terms. Japan welcomed the efforts of the Secretariat to concentrate its programmes in priority areas and hoped that those efforts would be intensified.

19. International long-term co-operation was no less important than that centred on short-term and medium-term problems. It was for that reason that the Japanese Government had supported the work of the World Commission on the Environment and Development which identified ways of creating a better environment for the twenty-first century.

20. International co-operation in the matter of human settlements could be made more effective if a better analysis was made of the specific needs of developing countries. The method employed in one region should not necessarily be copied in another. The United Nations Centre could play an important role in organizing exchanges of information on needs.

21. He emphasized the importance which Japan attached to the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless. Japan had contributed \$US500,000 to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation in 1984 and had announced an equivalent contribution for 1985. It had also established a national focal point for its preparations for the Year.

22. Mr. LAGO SILVA (Cuba) said that his delegation attached special importance to the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade which retained all its validity and currency. The changes that might have to be made in that connection were due to the fact that a number of measures which it contained were no longer sufficient to deal with the new situation that had developed since its adoption in 1980. The situation was characterized by a drop in commodity prices, the unprecedented rise in protectionism and increasingly unfavourable terms of trade for developing countries. The monetary and financial system had been marked by a substantial reduction in real terms of financial flows for development, an increase in the reverse transfer of resources, the instability of exchange rates due to the undervalued United States dollar and higher bank interest rates. The external debt of developing countries had assumed such alarming proportions that it had become one of the main problems of the third world

(Mr. Lago Silva, Cuba)

where it had often taken on a political dimension. The crisis, which affected all sectors and threatened the very survival of entire nations, required lasting and effective solutions, hence the absolute necessity for a strategy which defined objectives and means of action. Unfortunately the lack of political will had prevented the Strategy from being carried out.

23. With respect to the review and appraisal of the Strategy, his delegation, unlike some others, believed that the results of the review had not been positive and that theoretical acceptance by the major capitalist Powers of certain assumptions, unaccompanied by concrete measures on behalf of developing countries and conducive to solving the problems, was completely senseless. It would indeed be regrettable if promises never to be fulfilled were to raise false hopes in third-world countries and later prove to be a mere device used by the developed countries to attain tactical advantages.

24. Turning to the review of the implementation of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, he denounced the negative attitude of Western countries, whose leaders had decided not to participate in the review, for reasons highly cynical. It should be noted further that the document proposed by the Group of 77 for reaching a consensus had also been rejected. However, for Cuba, as for the great majority of third-world countries, that Charter was more valid than ever at a time when its principles were being constantly violated and the major capitalist developed countries were not honouring their obligations and shamelessly abusing their rights. Cuba, therefore, believed that the review must be an ongoing process.

25. Referring to the impact of environmental problems on the economic and social development of the most seriously affected countries, he said that the plundering of natural resources and the destruction of flora and fauna by the large capitalist firms, particularly in developing countries, caused damage that was in most cases irreparable. It should not be forgotten that the environment assumed different dimensions in developing countries as was demonstrated by desertification in Africa or the exhaustion of natural resources owing to over-exploitation by the large transnational corporations. Moreover, the current increase in pollution in many developing countries resulted primarily from the application of polluting technology and from mistaken notions of industrial deployment. In view of the situation UNEP's activities were increasing to keep pace with the growing complexity of the problems encountered in that area; they must become more effective and aim at dealing with the true causes of the problems.

26. Turning to science and technology for development he said that tremendous efforts had been made to implement the measures set forth in the Vienna Programme. The work of the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development, the establishment of a financing system pursuant to General Assembly resolution 34/218 and the activities of the Advisory Committee on Science and Technology for Development all testified to the importance which the international community assigned to the need to increase the scientific and technical capabilities of the developing countries. It should, however, be noted, that the

(Mr. Lago Silva, Cuba)

shortage of funds afflicting the financing system was due to the fact that the developed donor countries did not want to pay the contributions which would guarantee the long-term operation of the system. They were thus demonstrating their opposition to that type of multilateral co-operation and their determination to continue monopolizing scientific and technical advances for purely commercial ends.

27. Mr. HAYFORD (Ghana), after stating that his delegation fully endorsed the statement made by the representative of Egypt on behalf of the Group of 77 during the general debate, said that the International Development Strategy was particularly important in so far as it was perhaps the only current text which expressed a consensus of developing and developed countries on development and the measures necessary to promote it. However, many of the goals set and measures outlined in it had been honoured more in the breach than in the observance. At the half-way point prospects were not very encouraging. Against that background the adoption by consensus of conclusions in the review and appraisal exercise was a remarkable achievement. But the developed countries would have to show the same political will with regard to the provision of resources and the implementation of policy measures in order for the Strategy to be a success. It was to be hoped that the Committee would build upon the positive outcome of the review and appraisal exercise.

28. With regard to the implementation of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, he said that the principles remained valid and, if adhered to, they would contribute to the establishment of more equitable international economic relations. The era of political decolonization was nearing its end and should be followed by a process of economic decolonization. It was regrettable that some countries had not participated in the review exercise.

29. Turning to the question of science and technology for development, he recalled that the Vienna Programme had not produced the hoped-for results largely because the funds had been lacking and that the establishment of a long-term financing system endowed with adequate resources would make an important contribution to accelerating the scientific and technical development of the developing countries. He welcomed the progress made by the Intergovernmental Committee in focusing on a few specific themes and providing guidance for international co-operation in strengthening the capabilities of the developing countries. He welcomed, in particular, the selection as substantive themes for the eighth and ninth sessions of the Intergovernmental Committee, of technology applied to agricultural development and related development areas and the application of science and technology to the study, prevention, monitoring and combating of drought, desertification and other natural disasters.

30. With regard to the environment, he noted with approval that there was an increasing understanding of the environmental dimensions of the economic and social crisis in Africa. He also noted with approval that at its most recent session, the Governing Council of UNEP had devoted special attention to identifying means for the international community to anticipate and head off environmental degradation and that consensus had been achieved on the main themes for discussion.

(Mr. Hayford, Ghana)

31. The "outreach" strategy aimed at bringing environmental perspectives to a wider audience, the identification of emerging issues and the attention given to the threat to tropical forests were all positive features of UNEP's work. It was also gratifying to observe that UNEP was attempting to look into the underlying causes of the famine in Africa. The international institutions and the developed countries should avoid over-simplified explanations in that regard. The crisis in Africa was structural and complex in nature. To deal with the situation the international community must offer its support and the developing countries must make a considerable effort themselves hence the undoubted utility of the forthcoming meeting of African Ministers of the Environment. In addition, the possibilities for North-South and East-West co-operation should be more fully explored. Ghana welcomed the various decisions on environmental matters taken by the UNEP Governing Council, particularly its decision to study environmentally sound ways of preserving fresh water resources.

32. Turning to the recent Nairobi Conference, he said that the effective mobilization and integration of women in development was of the utmost importance and he urged the international community to redouble its efforts to ensure that the recommendations of the Conference were implemented. Ghana for its part was doing so and it would like to see the United Nations continue to intensify its activities to help the developing countries increase the advancement and integration of women in the development process. The report on long-term trends in economic development submitted to the Committee provided a useful basis for the Committee's work and the analysis contained in it was pertinent and timely.

33. Mr. Birido (Sudan) assumed the chair.

34. Mr. RESHETNYAK (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) reaffirmed the position his delegation had set forth regarding the review and appraisal of the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade on 24 September 1985, at the closing meeting of the Committee on the Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the Strategy, namely, that the report which had been adopted by consensus contained a number of deficiencies. His delegation had nevertheless joined in the consensus, believing that the document could play a positive role in view of the fact that international economic negotiations had reached a difficult point.

35. At the thirty-ninth session of the General Assembly his delegation had emphasized the importance of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, for the normalization and restructuring of international economic relations. Currently the forces which had opposed the Charter from the beginning were automatically rejecting its progressive principles and recommendations and openly violating them in practice. His delegation and those of the other socialist countries would like to see the consideration of the Ad Hoc Committee's report lead to adoption of the final document, on the basis of the draft proposed by the Group of 77 and the draft decision of the socialist countries.

(Mr. Reshetnyak, Ukrainian SSR)

36. International co-operation in the area of science and technology for development was a natural consequence of the interdependence of the world economy. For that reason his delegation supported the development, both bilaterally and within the framework of the United Nations, of co-operation based on equity and mutual advantage and was endeavouring to participate actively in such co-operation. The scientific, technical and industrial means acquired over the years by the Soviet State enabled it to engage in fruitful exchanges with the capitalist and the developing countries and to undertake joint research with other socialist countries.

37. Within the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development, the Ukrainian SSR was striving for a broadening of economic, commercial, scientific and technical relations on a basis of equality, mutual advantage and respect for sovereignty, all of which were basic conditions for the success of the Vienna Programme of Action. As for the report of the Committee on its seventh session, his delegation considered that there was a need yet further to increase that body's effectiveness and to improve its working methods, strengthen its co-ordinating role and focus its work on questions of interest to all Member States. It welcomed the Committee's decision to examine substantive scientific and technological themes. Consideration of the establishment of a global information network for science and technology for development was certainly in keeping with the recommendations of the Vienna Programme of Action, but such an undertaking should not entail an increase in the regular United Nations budget and use should be made of information systems already in place.

38. On the question of the environment, after recalling a number of important meetings that bore witness to the desire of the international community to find ways and means of protecting and improving the environment, he said that ecological questions were increasingly being treated in a wider context encompassing peace-keeping, disarmament and development. A total halt to nuclear testing, the banning of other types of weapons of mass destruction and the prevention of the militarization of space were a pre-condition for any solution to world ecological problems. Note should be taken, in that regard, of the moratorium on nuclear explosions and other initiatives proposed by the Soviet Union. By uniting their efforts for the peaceful use of outer space, States could solve many world problems including, in particular, ecological problems.

39. UNEP, which had achieved a number of positive results over the past year, should strengthen its co-ordinating and catalysing role in the development of international co-operation for environmental protection and the rational use of natural resources. With regard to the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond, which was to be published in 1987, he said that the decisions taken by the Intergovernmental Inter-sessional Preparatory Committee at its second session were a good basis for the implementation of General Assembly resolution 39/161. The Ukrainian SSR was prepared to participate actively in that study.

40. On the question of human settlements, he recalled that the conclusions of the eighth session of the Commission on Human Settlements contained an appeal on behalf

(Mr. Reshetnyak, Ukrainian SSR)

of the struggle for peace, a halt to the arms race and the use of the resources thus released for development purposes. Provision had also been made for increased assistance to victims of apartheid, and the criminal dealings of Israel in the occupied Arab territories had been condemned.

41. The Ukrainian SSR attached great importance to enhancing the co-ordinating role of the Commission on Human Settlements. It was also convinced of the correctness of the remarks made with regard to Habitat at the Commission's last session, to the effect that there was a need to improve the work of the Centre in the field of information, to redirect certain research activities and to give greater emphasis to concrete studies. In view of the technical co-operation needed by the developing countries, the Centre did not take sufficient account of the useful experience of the socialist countries. The socialist experience demonstrated that it was possible, within the framework of a planned economy, to solve the difficult problems of housing construction and to guarantee to all the right to shelter. The Ukrainian SSR made considerable efforts for the better planning and development of its human settlements, managed its urbanization process in a planned manner, concentrated the resources necessary for the development of community infrastructures in the hands of local authorities and would, by the year 2000, guarantee every family an apartment or a house.

42. With regard to the preparations for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, he stressed that the situation of housing, infrastructure and the related social services in the developing countries could not be radically improved as long as those countries remained in a situation of inequality vis-à-vis the developed market-economy countries. Obviously, disarmament and assured international security would also make it possible to release considerable resources for solving the problems of the homeless.

43. Mr. LE HUU HUNG (Viet Nam) said that, in the general debate in the Ad Hoc Committee to Review the Implementation of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, all participants had acknowledged the importance of the Charter, constituting as it did a dynamic instrument enabling the international community to embark on a process of constructive and positive dialogue with a view to finding just and comprehensive solutions to the structural imbalances and inequities that characterized international economic relations. The Charter reflected the aspirations of the great majority of States that were endeavouring to establish a new international economic order based on justice and equality. At a time when strong economic and political pressures were being exerted, the fact that a large number of countries had attended the session of the Ad Hoc Committee evinced the good will of participants and their dedication to multilateral co-operation. It was for Governments to implement the provisions of the Charter, but multilateral co-operation might make it possible to expedite the process.

44. A number of the developed capitalist countries had voted against the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States and had openly boycotted the work of the Ad Hoc Committee. Such behaviour stood in total contradiction to the statements they had made in the course of the recent general debate in the Second Committee.

(Mr. Le Huu Hung, Viet Nam)

It was time for those impeding the implementation of the Charter to recognize the interests of all States, and particularly those of the developing countries, since such a negative attitude was obsolete and was hindering the establishment of the new international economic order. In its dedication to multilateral co-operation, his delegation hoped that the Committee would adopt the report of the Ad Hoc Committee and thereby help prove that there was a convergence of views on how international economic problems should be handled, increase confidence not only in economic discussions but also in international economic relations and open the way to action-oriented negotiations.

45. With regard to the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, his delegation, given the deadlock in multilateral negotiations on international economic development, welcomed the fact that the Committee on the Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the Strategy had finally adopted agreed conclusions. His delegation subscribed to a number of those conclusions with regard to particular points. The Strategy remained an important and valid document and its successful implementation would contribute to the establishment of a new international economic order. The targets set forth in the Strategy had not been met and in many cases, economic conditions had become even worse. There was a need for reform and strengthening of the framework of principles and rules governing trade, monetary and financial relations. As for the monetary system, surveillance should concentrate on those countries that had a large impact on the world economy and those countries should share responsibility for solving the debt problem. Each country had the sovereign right to implement appropriate policies for social development within the framework of its development plans and priorities.

46. On the other hand, his delegation considered that, in certain respects, the conclusions were not a true reflection of international economic reality. The current economic crisis was structural in nature and, in order to resolve it, the provisions of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States should be implemented. Moreover, in order to establish the new international economic order, global negotiations in two phases should be launched. The crisis was, in addition, essentially due to the attitude of countries that were attempting to preserve colonialism, neo-colonialism and imperialism by imposing economic policies that were harmful to the economies of the developing countries, by devoting to armaments significant resources that could be allocated to economic and social development, by having recourse to coercive measures against the developing countries, by evading their responsibilities and by impeding the implementation of a number of instruments adopted by the Second Committee. Not enough concrete measures had been taken to achieve the goals of the Strategy, measures such as the convening of an international conference on money and finance for development that had recently been requested by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the non-aligned countries and of the States members of the Group of 77.

47. In his report on the socio-economic perspective of the world economy to the year 2000 (A/40/519), the Secretary-General had drawn attention to a number of pressing problems facing the world economy. He had also outlined various

(Mr. Le Huu Hung, Viet Nam)

scenarios. However, under any scenario, developing countries could not achieve stable economic development without a radical restructuring of the present international economic system, which served the interests of developed capitalist countries at the expense of the developing countries. In addition, his delegation considered that, in his reports, the Secretary-General should have made reference to the effects of coercive measures against socialist and developing countries, the threat posed by the escalation of nuclear weapons and the acceleration of the arms race not only to economic development but also to the very existence of mankind, the contribution of public sectors to social and economic development and the economic and social effects of the activities of transnational corporations which operated without any effective code of conduct. Nevertheless, the report as a whole was useful and positive. For that reason, his delegation supported the resolution entitled "Long-term trends in economic development", contained in Economic and Social Council Decision 1985/178.

48. His delegation also attached great importance to the other issues considered under the first cluster of sub-items of agenda item 84. His country had shown its concern for those issues incorporating them into national policies and legislation and by its strong support for the programmes of the non-aligned countries and the United Nations in those fields.

49. Mr. HADID (Algeria) said that his delegation fully endorsed the analysis and proposals submitted on behalf of the Group of 77 by the representative of Yugoslavia concerning the issues arising from the first cluster of sub-items.

50. The outcome of the review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy had been positive, but the consensus achieved would be meaningless unless it became the starting-point for more detailed study and for tangible measures in the main areas identified.

51. His delegation reaffirmed the importance and the validity of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States. The report of the Ad Hoc Committee to review its implementation bore witness to the constructive attitude taken by the participants. It was to be hoped that its conclusions would be received in a positive spirit by all members of the Second Committee. In addition, the Secretariat also continued to collect and analyse information on the implementation of the Charter by the international community and the United Nations system.

52. In the area of science and technology, which were of crucial importance for development, he had noted with satisfaction the advanced stage of preparation reached in relation to the two substantive themes which the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development would consider in 1986, and hoped that the preparatory work for the 1987 substantive themes - the phenomenon of drought and desertification and new technologies - would be conscientiously performed. His delegation would welcome any supplementary information on that subject. Greater emphasis should moreover be placed on the need to encourage national and regional activities in connection with the work of the Centre for Science and Technology for Development, in accordance with the relevant resolutions

(Mr. Hadid, Algeria)

of the Intergovernmental Committee. That was a fundamental aspect of the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action, which placed great emphasis on increasing the endogenous scientific and technological capacity of developing countries. His delegation shared the concern expressed by many others about the lack of progress in implementing General Assembly resolution 37/244 on long term arrangements for the United Nations Financing System for Science and Technology for Development, which had, after all, been adopted by consensus. The resolution constituted the most appropriate framework for strengthening the role of the United Nations in the field of scientific and technological development in developing countries. His delegation was, nevertheless, prepared to give careful attention to the measures designed to maintain the existing interim system, provided that they would effectively mobilize resources and considerably increase Governments' political and financial support for the System.

53. On the subject of drought and desertification, the Algerian delegation attached great importance to full implementation of General Assembly resolution 39/208. Within the context of that resolution, UNEP should give fresh impetus to the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, and the international community as a whole should give more consistent support to the United Nations Trust Fund for Sudano-Sahelian Activities.

54. Mr. AL-HADDAD (Democratic Yemen) noted that, in adopting the International Development Strategy, the international community's intention had been to accelerate the economic and social development of developing countries and to bridge the gap separating them from the industrialized countries. The Strategy reflected not only a deep commitment to multilateral co-operation but also the important role assigned to the United Nations as the negotiating body on international economic problems. However, the present economic situation in developing countries clearly demonstrated how far the situation had deviated from the principles drawn up for the implementation of the Strategy. The solutions applied to the international economic crisis, for example, did not by any means reflect a spirit of justice and equity or the principles of mutual confidence and collective responsibility of all members of the international community. The Secretary-General, in his report on the work of the Organization (A/40/1), had rightly stressed that "this kind of shortsighted economic nationalism ... brought the world economy to a collapse in the 1930s. This was why, along with the foundation of the United Nations, a great effort was made to set up a system of specialized organizations in the areas of money, finance and trade." His delegation hoped that the work of the Committee on the Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the International Development Strategy, together with the agreed conclusions it had reached, would encourage the international community to reaffirm its commitment to the aims and objectives of the Strategy and to draw up effective recommendations for their realization. The Ministerial Declaration issued after the ninth annual meeting of the Group of 77 had been worded along the same lines, inviting developed countries to take swift and resolute action to draw up policies which would achieve the aims and objectives of the Strategy.

(Mr. Al-Haddad, Democratic Yemen)

55. His delegation reaffirmed the historic importance of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States. The Charter contained guiding principles of international economic co-operation for development and was an indispensable instrument for the democratization of international economic relations and the large-scale development of mutual and constructive co-operation among all members of the international community. It also constituted a code of conduct for States in the economic field and was thus an instrument for restructuring international economic relations and a way of establishing a new international economic order. However, a number of industrialized countries still rejected that international instrument on pretexts which were less than objective. His delegation could only regret those countries' refusal to participate in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee to review the implementation of the Charter. It supported the conclusions contained in annex I of the Ad Hoc Committee's report, and was convinced that the aims and principles of the Charter were still valid and could be of use in the search for equitable solutions to the disarray in international economic relations and the international monetary and financial system.

56. His delegation had taken note of the Secretary-General's report on science and technology for development (A/C.2/40/4) and the report of the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development (A/40/37). The prodigious advance now taking place in science and technology made it essential to establish international co-operation which would allow developing countries and their peoples to benefit from those advances. In that field too, however, deadlock prevailed: the Vienna Programme of Action was by no means being implemented as it should be, and the mid-decade review of its implementation had not yielded the expected results. The deadlock was due to the reluctance of affluent countries to finance long-term arrangements for the United Nations Financing System for Science and Technology for Development. Without the necessary funds, the System could not perform the tasks entrusted to it, or even maintain the current interim arrangements; the industrialized countries should, therefore, prove their good will by complying with the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 37/244.

57. In recent years, many countries had been the scene of ecological disasters which had caused loss of human life and had produced serious economic and social repercussions in the affected countries. The international community should support all the efforts undertaken at national and regional levels and within United Nations programmes in order to deal with the consequences of those disasters. The recommendations contained in the report of the UNEP Governing Council on the work of its thirteenth session also deserved support.

58. The Commission on Human Settlements was exerting commendable efforts to improve the living conditions of populations, in particular, the most disadvantaged among them. International assistance in that field was all the more essential since the current economic crisis severely affected the least developed countries. His delegation joined in the appeal by the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to the wealthy nations to increase their aid in that field.

(Mr. Al-Haddad, Democratic Yemen)

59. The global survey on the role of women in development had shown the functional link between the three objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace. Notwithstanding some progress made during the Decade, Governments and the United Nations still must accomplish a great deal to ensure the full participation and integration of women in development. As the Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs had underscored, improvements in the status of women continued to progress too slowly, and the international community must adopt more effective measures to accelerate such improvements, in accordance with the conclusions of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Results of the United Nations Decade for Women. His delegation endorsed the conclusions in the preliminary statement of the Assistant Secretary-General calling on the international community to accord greater importance to the full participation of women in development and to the impact which their participation could have on the world economy.

60. Mr. SCHNELLE (Federal Republic of Germany) said that his delegation associated itself with the statement in which the delegation of Luxembourg, speaking on behalf of the member countries of the European Economic Community, had reaffirmed the commitment of those countries to co-operate in the very important area of environmental protection.

61. His delegation welcomed the work accomplished thus far by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the co-operation with industry representatives and non-governmental organizations. The Executive Director of UNEP, referring to the lessons to be learned from the serious crisis in sub-Saharan Africa, had rightly pointed out that it was necessary to look beyond the immediate cause, namely, the drought, and tackle the underlying cause of most natural disasters: environmental mismanagement. That was a difficult undertaking which deserved the full support of the international community.

62. However, the United Nations was not alone in endeavouring to create an increasing awareness of the need to protect the environment. In its annual report for 1985, the World Bank had for the first time addressed environmental concerns and the connection between economic development and environmental degradation. The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) had warned against indiscriminate deforestation and had provided \$800 million for reforestation programmes.

63. The participants in the Bonn economic summit had also examined environmental policies. They had recognized that economic progress and the preservation of the natural environment were necessary and mutually supportive goals, and had proposed the following ways of solving environmental problems: harnessing the mechanisms of governmental vigilance, broader application of the principle that the polluter must pay, and utilization of science and technology to reconcile environmental protection and economic growth.

64. Inasmuch as the fight against desertification was a crucial area of international co-operation in the field of the environment, it was appropriate to

(Mr. Schnelle, Federal Republic of Germany)

address the problem in the context of agenda item 84. His delegation supported all efforts aimed at coping with that serious threat to the environment. It had, for example, participated in the Ministerial Conference for a joint policy to combat desertification held in July 1984 at the initiative of the Senegalese Government. The seriousness of the problem was attributable not only to changes in climate and exceptional shortages of rainfall but also, in large measure, to the misuse of resources which resulted in the general depletion and even the irreversible destruction of ecosystems. Available land was not sufficient to meet the needs of a steadily growing population because inadequate use was made of regenerating practices such as reforestation and soil conservation. Accordingly, the problem of desertification could be solved only if the people immediately concerned tackled the real causes. However, they could accomplish that task only with the support of their own Government and the international community. In that context, he welcomed the fact that the countries concerned had decided to embark on a strategy reaching beyond national boundaries. Those countries should be encouraged to give strategies and plans to combat resource degradation highest priority within their national development policies. In addition, the creation of awareness and participation at the grass-roots level was of particular importance.

65. With regard to atmospheric pollution, his country, in co-operation with the European Economic Community (EEC), had organized a ministerial conference which had facilitated the conclusion in July 1985 of an agreement signed by 21 States on the reduction of sulphur emissions or their transboundary fluxes in the EEC region. That co-operation should now concentrate on the elaboration of a similar international instrument for the reduction of nitrogen oxide emissions, which were equally dangerous to ecosystems.

66. In order to promote the introduction of clean technologies in developing countries, his Government, in co-operation with UNEP, had convened an international symposium on the subject focusing on ways of reducing pollution, inter alia, from waste water and solid waste, and from the pulp and paper, textile and other industries of particular interest to developing countries. It should be noted in that regard that his country had decided that environmental impact studies should be carried out for all economic co-operation projects under consideration. Similar measures could usefully be taken in a multinational framework. Lastly, he mentioned the convening in October 1985 of the first conference of the Parties to the Bonn Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, which had been adopted at the conclusion of the diplomatic conference held in 1979 at the initiative of his Government.

67. His delegation also associated itself with the remarks of the delegation of Luxembourg, particularly with regard to the role of women in development and the importance of science and technology for development. As the Foreign Minister of his country had stated during the current session, North and South must co-operate to make use of the opportunities offered by new technologies and at the same time see to it that the dangers involved were avoided.

(Mr. Schnelle, Federal Republic of Germany)

68. On the subject of long-term trends in economic development, the Assistant Secretary-General for Development Research and Policy Analysis had rightly stressed that more countries were currently giving attention to the micro-aspects of economic life, the need for functioning markets, for appropriate incentives, the encouragement of initiatives, relevant educational training, affordable health services, and legal systems and systems of values that were conducive to social stability. Those factors were indeed indispensable prerequisites for a dynamic society. To achieve that goal and to increase stability, the developing countries must, like the industrialized countries, adapt to changes in demand and supply, new technologies and new competitive conditions. The countries of the third world intended to act on their own and were rightly proud of their own efforts and performance. Nevertheless, private-sector co-operation with foreign countries was, and remained, the most appropriate channel for the transfer of technology to the third world. Such co-operation would effectively complement traditional development aid, even in those countries that were setting out on their economic development. The Secretary-General should have given more attention to that aspect in his report (A/40/519).

69. The Federal Republic of Germany believed that it was essential to the development process to promote exports, encourage competition and private initiative, and pursue a market-oriented pricing policy. In his delegation's view, the contribution of the industrialized countries to the development of the third world was bringing forth positive results, and there was no reason for general pessimism with regard to economic development.

70. Mr. ADEYEMI (Nigeria) noted with profound regret that the implementation of the International Development Strategy had fallen far short of the level that countries had had a right to expect. So far, most of the economic and social objectives of the Third United Nations Development Decade which the Strategy had been intended to promote were still unattained. It was the more deplorable in that, if Member States and concerned organizations had given sincere support to the idea of sustained growth of the developing countries, and had shown the political will necessary to achieve the Strategy's targets, it would undoubtedly have helped to strengthen multilateral co-operation for development.

71. Nevertheless, it was encouraging to note that, after many months of difficult negotiations, the Committee on the Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the International Development Strategy had, at its final session, succeeded in producing positive results. The Committee's review had helped to create a more propitious climate for frank and action-oriented discussions. Furthermore, the agreed conclusions that had emerged from the exercise should be utilized to provide concrete results on the important issues before the Second Committee. His delegation would work diligently in a co-operative effort to ensure that goal.

72. The principles and objectives contained in the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States continued to be valid, and were directly relevant to the establishment of the New International Economic Order. The Charter contained economic, social, legal and other principles for the conduct of States on which

(Mr. Adeyemi, Nigeria)

long-term solutions to the problems of international economic co-operation could be based. It was, therefore, a matter of serious concern that the Charter, 10 years after its adoption, had still not been duly implemented. His delegation called on all Member States to promote the principles of the Charter and integrate them fully into their policies and national development strategies. It found it gravely disappointing that some Member States should have adopted a negative posture and boycotted the work of the Ad Hoc Committee to review the implementation of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, thus rejecting the process of dialogue. None the less, it was important to note that the agreed conclusions of the Ad Hoc Committee, as set out in document A/40/52, were extremely valuable, besides showing that there was a desire to keep the objectives of the Charter at the centre of international relations.

73. Similarly, as the mid-term review had clearly shown, there had been little progress in implementing the Vienna Programme of Action, which had been devised to promote the development of endogenous capacities in the technological and scientific fields in the developing countries. The absence of progress was a reflection of the growing unwillingness of the donor countries to fund the Programme and to establish the long-term financing system. There was an urgent need to establish the system on the basis of the arrangements spelled out in General Assembly resolution 37/244. In that connection, his delegation wished to point out that some of the recommendations in the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.2/40/4), particularly those referring to the closer linkage of the proposed system with UNDP, were totally alien to the system originally envisaged in the Vienna Programme of Action.

74. His delegation welcomed the decisions to strengthen the role and effectiveness of the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development by adopting a biennial cycle of meetings after 1987. In addition, it regarded the two themes chosen for the Committee's ninth session (A/40/37, para. 120) as relevant and timely issues that demanded the Committee's attention. That thematic approach would help the Committee to rationalize its work better and make it more relevant to the special concerns of the developing countries, particularly those in Africa, in the area of science and technology for development.

75. With respect to the issue of human settlements, he said that the Government of Nigeria continued to accord priority to that critical sector of economic and social development and had taken steps to incorporate human settlements policies fully in its overall national development strategy. It had also given total support to the designation of 1987 as the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless with the aim of arresting the chronic deterioration in the shelter and living conditions of the majority of the poor in urban and rural settlements, especially in the developing countries, and of seeking real improvements in those conditions by the year 2000.

76. Lastly, regarding long-term trends in economic development, he said that for most developing countries, particularly those of Africa south of the Sahara, the prospects for economic development appeared very gloomy. The international

(Mr. Adeyemi, Nigeria)

community should take urgent action to redress the structural imbalances inherent in prevailing international economic relations, and the major industrialized countries, which had the greatest impact on the global economy, should show the political will needed to ensure sustained growth and genuine development in the developing countries. Since the global economy was continuously subject to all sorts of pressures, such as the debt crisis, protectionism, deteriorating terms of trade and declining official development assistance, it was totally unrealistic to envision durable growth in the developed countries if the developing countries were allowed to go under. Member States must embark on a genuine political dialogue so as to map out a durable strategy for development and international economic co-operation and must act immediately to reverse the current negative trends.

77. Mr. SOMVORACHIT (Lao People's Democratic Republic) said that the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States and the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade constituted the most appropriate legal and political framework for promoting fairer, more balanced and mutually advantageous international co-operation on behalf of economic and social development. Their implementation depended, however, on the goodwill of Member States. In that connection, his delegation associated itself with the statement delivered by the delegation of Yugoslavia on behalf of the Group of 77. The current impasse was the outcome of the attitude adopted by a number of market-economy developed countries which had not only shown a lack of political will but had made every effort to prevent the putting into effect of the various action programmes. He need only recall that certain Western countries had boycotted and attempted to sabotage the work of the Ad Hoc Committee set up to review the implementation of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States.

78. His delegation was pleased that the session of the Committee on the Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade had taken place with the participation of all interested States and that a broad consensus had emerged during the preparation of its report. Unfortunately, however, the report contained no formal commitment on the part of the Western developed countries, nor any specific measure for the immediate or future implementation of the Strategy.

79. His delegation thought that a just and lasting settlement of the problem of international economic relations, which continued to deteriorate, would not only satisfy the legitimate interests of the developing countries but was also in the medium- and long-term interests of the Western developed countries. His delegation joined the representatives of other developing countries in making an urgent appeal to the Western countries to reconsider their position and co-operate in good faith with all other countries in implementing the general policies already adopted.

80. Mr. KAMALUDDIN (Afghanistan) said that the General Assembly had proclaimed the International Development Strategy in 1980 in an effort to bridge the gap between developed and developing countries and to contribute to the democratization of international economic relations and the consolidation of the economic independence

(Mr. Kamaluddin, Afghanistan)

of the developing countries through increased financial resource flows, a substantial increase in official development assistance, and greater access for developing countries to technology on conditions compatible with their socio-economic objectives and circumstances. However, it was regrettable that, owing to sinister policies applied by some capitalist countries, the objectives of the International Development Strategy remained largely unfulfilled despite the efforts made by the developing countries. The situation had become obvious during the debates in the Committee on the Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the International Development Strategy, when several capitalist countries, especially the United States, had done their utmost to weaken the proposed measures, which would certainly have helped to restructure the international economic system on a just and equitable basis, whereas the Group of 77 had adopted an extremely flexible and constructive position in the difficult negotiations on the draft agreed conclusions. In that connection, it was profoundly regrettable that the conclusions had not fully reflected the urgent need to solve important issues and that it had failed to mention the launching of global negotiations on international economic co-operation for development, the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, coercive measures as a means of exerting political and economic pressure, and the proposal for an international conference on monetary and financial questions. His delegation reaffirmed the validity of the objectives of the Strategy and, in that connection, urged the developed countries to fulfil their commitment to devote 0.7 per cent of GNP to official development assistance.

81. Afghanistan attached capital importance to the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States; the principles it embodied should be recognized by all countries in their economic relations. Those principles remained valid and directly relevant to the efforts of the international community to establish the new international economic order and bring about comprehensive and just solutions to the structural imbalances and inequities of the international economic and financial system through constructive and positive negotiations in an atmosphere of mutual trust. Unfortunately, 10 years after its adoption, the Charter remained largely unimplemented, owing to ill will on the part of the capitalist countries, particularly the United States, which had gone so far as to boycott the session of the Ad Hoc Committee to Review the Implementation of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States held in March 1985. His delegation strongly condemned such an irresponsible policy. The capitalist countries must follow the example of the Group of 77, which had demonstrated its flexible and constructive approach, as reflected in the conclusions of the Ad Hoc Committee.

82. Although the protection of the environment was of crucial importance to mankind, the environment had considerably deteriorated over the past decade. It was therefore urgent to plan ecologically balanced and rational development, to pool information on resource conservation technology, and to consider the necessary preventive and remedial measures. In that connection, his delegation welcomed the preparations undertaken by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme relating to the preparation of a study on the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond.

(Mr. Kamaluddin, Afghanistan)

83. Human settlement policies were not separable from socio-economic goals and a solution to problems in that area must be regarded as an integral part of the development process of every country and the world as a whole. Decent housing for all would, moreover, help to promote economic and social development and to improve the quality of life of people in developing countries, particularly the least developed among them. In that connection, his delegation supported the resolution on the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless. The United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) should expand its activities in that area and be provided with increased funding for that purpose.

84. Mr. JOSSE (Nepal), referring to environmental concerns, which were of great importance to his country, said that, contrary to appearances, the Himalayan ecosystem was fragile and depended on a fine balance of many environmental factors. It was a vital ecosystem, not only because it separated the densely populated plains of South Asia from the arid steppes of Central Asia, but also because it was the source of major river systems which supported millions of people, and because it was a major factor in shaping the climate and, hence, the way of life of peoples of diverse cultures and races on either side of the Great Himalayan Divide. Unfortunately, owing to mounting population pressure, deforestation and soil erosion, the ecology of the Himalayan foothills had been subject to severe strain. In Nepal, floods and landslides had become endemic, climatic changes had occurred and signs of desertification had appeared. Hills had become denuded of forest cover, and agricultural prospects were being jeopardized. But such woes were not limited to Nepal. As ecosystems transcended political boundaries, the deforestation of the Himalayan foothills in Nepal had affected neighbouring countries, as demonstrated by flooding and silting of rivers. A bold and imaginative effort was called for to end the situation, with the assistance of UNEP and other international agencies and interested Governments. Such an endeavour would supplement those already under way with bilateral or multilateral assistance in association with the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development based in Kathmandu.

85. Nepal was indebted to UNEP for its pioneering work in the field of the environment and for having increased international awareness of issues such as desertification and the need to save tropical forests. Nevertheless, his delegation wished to stress that, despite its repeated appeals and the inter-agency consultations organized by UNEP to protect the Himalayan foothills, no comprehensive plan of action had yet been adopted. Further, the UNEP Governing Council having decided, at its eleventh session, to designate 1988 the Year of the Trees for Asia and the Pacific, his delegation hoped that UNEP and other interested bodies would take suitable measures to integrate activities to be carried out in connection with the Year with other programmes designed to redress the environmental situation in the Himalayan foothills.

86. In addition, given UNEP's financial difficulties, his delegation appealed to the more affluent members of the international community to be more forthcoming with funds for the Programme, and whole-heartedly endorsed the plan to issue United Nations stamps for the conservation of resources, the income from sales to be used to fund specific conservation projects.

(Mr. Josse, Nepal)

87. Finally, given the close relationship between people, resources, the environment and development, Nepal welcomed the emphasis placed by the UNEP Governing Council on outreach activities, and the decision to identify emerging environmental issues from a long-term point of view in accordance with decision 13/4. In conclusion, his delegation proposed that UNEP and other interested agencies and Governments should commit themselves, as a matter of priority, to two targets with reference to the Himalayan ecosystem: (1) a scheme to restore the forest cover of the foothills by the end of 1988, and, (2) a comprehensive study on the interrelation between people, resources, the environment and the development of the Himalayan ecosystem, which could provide valuable guidance for future plans and programmes relating to the environment of an ecologically very important region of the world.

The meeting rose at 6.20 p.m.