



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 37th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. BIRIDO (Sudan)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.55 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 85: OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT (continued) (A/40/3, 74, 672, 762)

- (a) OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/40/698 and Corr.1)
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1. Mrs. BETHEL-DALY (Bahamas) said her delegation welcomed the fact that cost-sharing and self-supporting contributions in 1984 had shown an increase over the 1982 and 1983 levels. It was to be hoped that the achievement of the United Nations system in helping the countries concerned achieve such a level of self-sufficiency would encourage donor countries to continue to contribute to the system so that more developing countries could attain that level.

2. Given the increasingly complex nature of development efforts, the role played by the United Nations in co-ordinating them was commendable. The trend towards increased collaboration between the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system and the World Bank and regional development banks in the area of technical co-operation ought to enhance the effectiveness of technical co-operation activities.

3. At the thirty-second session of the UNDP Governing Council, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Bahamas had expressed his country's despair at what it viewed as the Programme's abandonment during the fourth programming cycle of countries, like the Bahamas, having a per capita GNP of \$3,000 or above. According to the guidelines for the allocation of financial resources approved by the Governing Council at that time (Governing Council decision 85/16), countries in that category might continue to participate in development programmes, but would be subject to reimbursable IPFs. Such criteria could present a fundamentally inaccurate picture of developing countries' situation. The high per capita GNP attributed to the Bahamas was due largely to the presence of a small group of wealthy expatriate residents, many of whom worked in the highly remunerative banking and financial service sectors. While the country's major industry, tourism, provided much employment, a large share of the profits from that industry

(Mrs. Bethel-Daly, Bahamas)

accrued to foreign investors; furthermore, only a few of the many islands comprising the Bahamas benefited directly from tourism. In addition, the tremendous cost of fighting drug traffic in the Bahamas and blunting its impact on Bahamian society had taxed the country's limited economic resources tremendously. Those resources were also strained because of the need to provide basic services to more than 100 settlements widely dispersed among the Bahamian archipelago. Consequently, the Bahamas had appealed to the Governing Council to reconsider its classification.

4. The development assistance which the Bahamas had received from UNDP over the years had contributed significantly to the country's economic and social development, which meant that a reduction in that assistance would inevitably have a negative effect. Her country was thus forced to consider the extent to which it could afford to avail itself of the assistance offered under the fourth programming cycle. Nevertheless, the Bahamas intended to support UNDP to the best of its ability.

5. Miss FRANKINET (Belgium) said that the many discussions during the past year of the operational activities for development of the United Nations system had had two immediate results: the introduction by the Administrator of UNDP of a series of internal reforms and the establishment within the UNDP Governing Council of a working group of the whole in which members of the Governing Council should be able to engage in a dialogue on problems related to programming. With regard to the reforms introduced by the Administrator, her delegation believed that only by fostering a spirit of close co-operation aimed at improving co-ordination and evaluation could positive results be achieved. The UNDP administration at Headquarters had an important role to play by placing UNDP projects in an overall perspective with a view to defining a coherent framework for Programme activities.

6. The results of the recent Pledging Conference for Development Activities indicated that the fourth programming cycle would begin on a sound financial base. The fact that the bulk of the resources pledged would be used for the poorest among developing countries was to be welcomed, as was the emphasis placed by UNDP on grass-roots development projects and human resources development.

7. The subject of co-ordination had also been much discussed during the past year, and her delegation attached great importance in that connection to the role and responsibilities of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation as defined in General Assembly resolution 32/197. The recent discussion of programmes of special economic assistance had shown that duplication of efforts could easily occur within the system. Her delegation was also aware of the difficulty the resident co-ordinators occasionally experienced in carrying out their role because of reluctance on the part of certain agencies. Only a definitive reaffirmation of that role and strong support from the Director-General and Governments would enable the resident co-ordinators to carry out their task. It would be interesting to know the conclusions drawn by the Director-General from his in-depth study of the difficulties they encountered.

8. Governments also had responsibilities in the area of co-ordination. Recipient Governments had an essential role to play in the field, and the governing bodies of

(Miss Frankinet, Belgium)

the various agencies concerned should seek to ensure consistency of the positions taken by individual Governments: specifically, those positions should not vary to suit the particular agency being addressed at a given moment.

9. Activities must be co-ordinated not only within the United Nations but also with development activities carried out on a bilateral basis. Such harmonization required a genuine commitment to work together. For its part, Belgium had often reiterated its willingness to take any measures that might facilitate the co-ordination of bilateral assistance with that provided by United Nations agencies.

10. While activities relating to the emergency situation in Africa were not operational activities per se, they had nevertheless mobilized United Nations bodies and agencies as well as bilateral donors. It had been apparent for some months that the co-ordination of information and emergency assistance was being carried out smoothly. As the transition from emergency assistance to development assistance was being made, lessons should be drawn from the successful experience of the Office for Emergency Operations in Africa.

11. The information contained in document A/40/698 on the difficulty in comparing support costs of the various United Nations agencies carrying out operational activities was welcome. However, a common definition of administrative and support costs should be applied throughout system. In the absence of such a definition, a mechanism for calculating such costs on a comparable basis would be of great use. In addition, there should be complete transparency with regard to the composition of such costs so that cost-effectiveness could be measured. The same held true for procurement procedures within the United Nations system. Her Government's recent study of those procedures had shown that, despite efforts to improve the situation current official procedures were not always followed. While flexibility was obviously necessary in some situations clear criteria governing the awarding of contracts would be beneficial. The same was also true for the recruitment procedures of certain organizations: the governing bodies of those organizations had authorized the recruitment of a significant number of staff without adequately publicizing the vacancies.

12. Her delegation was pleased that in the deficit of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development had been reduced and that additional measures had been taken to eliminate it by 1987. The UNDP Governing Council had also requested the Secretary-General to identify specific measures to increase the Department's effectiveness, and it was to be hoped that suggestions would soon be forthcoming in that regard.

13. Mr. ROZHKOV (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that the creation of UNDP was indissolubly linked with the establishment of the United Nations, so 1985 was a good time to assess the results of its activities with a view to making it more effective.

14. His delegation appreciated the work of UNDP on the whole, but it was puzzled by certain negative trends which had recently appeared. UNDP activities should be

(Mr. Rozhkov, Ukrainian SSR)

based on such principles as those laid down in General Assembly resolution 200 (III), on technical assistance for economic development. Such assistance should not be a means of foreign interference in the internal affairs of other countries. It should be provided only through Governments and be meant to satisfy the needs of developing countries in the form which suited them best. Strict observance of those principles by UNDP would rule out any discrimination to satisfy the political ambitions of particular countries when considering the provision of assistance to sovereign Member States. Such discrimination clearly contradicted General Assembly resolution 39/210.

15. His delegation was concerned at the dangerous tendency to link UNDP activities increasingly with those of the World Bank and other financial organizations dominated by Western countries. The strengthening of those organizations' influence through their use of the UNDP technical assistance system was helping foreign capital and transnational corporations to penetrate the economies of developing countries with harmful consequences. That contradicted the purposes and principles of the United Nations, and his delegation resolutely opposed changing UNDP into a commercial institution, which would clearly be against the interests of developing countries.

16. The recently proposed measures to make UNDP a centre for co-ordinating the development of developing countries and the attempts to use the network of UNDP field offices to settle problems beyond their competence were contrary to fundamental UNDP principles. They led to violation of the sovereignty of developing countries and of their right to solve their economic development problems independently. They also increased UNDP administrative costs and unjustifiably extended the resident representatives' powers.

17. The Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic took an active part in 70 per cent of Soviet technical assistance projects in developing countries, as well as participating in the United Nations system. In addition, it provided a reliable and growing market for exports from developing countries, at a time when capitalist Governments were raising protectionist barriers against them. It also gave considerable help in training qualified national personnel. About 23,000 foreigners from nearly 90 countries were currently studying in the Republic's educational institutions, while 400 of its teachers were working abroad in educational centres and universities.

18. His country's contribution to UNDP was one of the ways in which it helped developing countries to solve their economic problems. Unfortunately, criticism was often levelled at socialist countries in connection with the alleged problem of contributions in national currencies. In his delegation's opinion, such criticism was just a slanderous attempt to distort the role of socialist countries in helping developing countries. Practice showed that voluntary contributions in national currencies could be used successfully. For example, they had recently been used in his own country to finance seminars on several important problems. Hundreds of specialists from many developing countries had been trained at similar seminars organized by UNIDO in Kiev and Zaporozhe every year.

(Mr. Rozhkov, Ukrainian SSR)

19. In conclusion, he wished to emphasize that the solution of major problems in the field of international economic relations depended primarily on the state of the international situation, and would not be possible without a substantial reduction in military expenditures and the diversion of part of the means thus saved to meet the economic and social needs of developing countries.

20. Mr. DE CATERINA (Italy) agreed that there was a need for a more integrated application of the round-table process to emergency situations. In the case of the African countries most affected by the recent crisis, a comprehensive approach to emergency relief and medium-term and long-term development was of crucial importance. Greater emphasis should also be placed on enhancing the evaluation and monitoring capabilities of Governments receiving assistance.

21. Co-operation between the World Bank and the regional development banks on the one hand and the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system on the other should be expanded. The report of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation (A/40/698, annex) provided a realistic picture of the difficulties currently facing the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development. His delegation was convinced that the Department had a positive role to play in the area of technical co-operation and therefore welcomed current efforts to contain administrative costs and streamline procedures. His delegation also looked forward to studying the proposals which the Department would submit to the UNDP Governing Council at its organizational session in 1986. The creation of the joint DTCO/UNDP Task Force designed to increase collaboration between the two bodies constituted a step in the right direction.

22. Italy had long supported United Nations development efforts and appreciated the role the system could and should play in that area. The international community's response to the recent emergency situation in Africa was commendable and a special tribute was due to the Office for Emergency Operations in Africa. At the same time, the Italian Government, heeding the Secretary-General's warning that the critically important recovery period immediately ahead should envisage sustained development assistance programmes designed to prevent the recurrence of such tragedies and to deal with their fundamental causes, had sought to adopt an integrated approach in its development assistance programmes, and in particular to improve co-ordination with the United Nations system in the context of a number of its bilateral initiatives.

23. The overall increase in resources pledged at the recent Pledging Conference was due only in part to the more favourable exchange of the United States dollar, resulting also from the desire of donor countries, including an increasing number of developing countries, to express their confidence in the multilateral system. Italy had reaffirmed its strong support for UNDP by increasing its contribution by more than 8 per cent, and welcomed the Programme's efforts to meet developing countries' needs more effectively and to improve the quality of programming. Its contributions to the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office and the United Nations Capital Development Fund had also been increased in comparison with those for the previous year.

(Mr. De Caterina, Italy)

24. His Government was helping to finance UNICEF projects in the areas of nutrition, essential drugs and water supply, and in recognition of UNICEF's effectiveness in the current emergency situation in Africa, had increased its contribution to UNICEF general resources for 1986 by 10 per cent. At the recent Pledging Conference, Italy had also made pledges to the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control, including contributions for a number of special ongoing projects, and had increased its contribution to UNITAR by 30 per cent with a view to helping the Institute become financially viable.
25. The effective co-ordination of all operational activities for development was of paramount importance. Donor countries were closely monitoring the use the United Nations made of the financial resources contributed to it, and would be likely to provide continued support if it was demonstrated that those resources were being fully and efficiently employed. The work of the Office for Emergency Operations in Africa had been instructive in that respect, and it was to be hoped that the Office would continue its activities in 1986. While the United Nations system was sometimes criticized for its performance in some areas, it was frequently praised for its effective and visible presence in the field of development. Developed and developing countries and multilateral organizations should bear that in mind, and further their mutually beneficial co-operation.
26. Mr. LI Luye (China) said that his Government had always supported operational activities for development, and would continue to contribute its due share to them, as evidenced by the increase of 17 per cent in the United States dollar portion of its contribution announced at the recent Pledging Conference and of 8.3 per cent in the portion pledged. His delegation welcomed the considerable improvement in the co-ordination of activities within the United Nations system, particularly in co-ordinating emergency relief operations for Africa, in the dialogue between the recipient and donor Governments and in the effectiveness of round-table meetings. Efforts to achieve the integration of technical co-operation procedures had been further strengthened, and attention had been given to the development of human resources.
27. China's close co-operation with UNDP was continuing, and the implementation of the country programme was having positive effects on the country's economic construction. However, UNDP could further explore the potential of funds it administered, inter alia, by broadening the mandate of the Capital Development Fund.
28. Progress had also been made in the co-operation between the Department of Technical Co-operation and China. In 1985, the Department and his Government had co-sponsored meetings in which representatives from many developing countries had participated. The department had also assigned experts to China to advise on better utilization of multilateral assistance and had served as a useful bridge between China and other developing countries in furthering technical co-operation.
29. China supported UNICEF's goal of "Universal Immunization of all the World's Children by 1990" and would also strive to achieve a similar goal at the national level.

(Mr. Li Luye, China)

30. China faced a serious population problem, with a population exceeding 1 billion and an annual net increase of over 20 million over the past several years which exerted tremendous pressure on the country. The Government had pursued planned population control since 1970, and had included in the national constitution a provision to the effect that both husband and wife had the duty to practice family planning so as to make population growth commensurate with economic and social development, resource availability and environmental protection, in conformity with the plan of action, declarations and recommendations adopted by the population conferences held in 1974 and 1984. Knowledge of contraception was disseminated among the population and couples of productive age were supplied with various kinds of contraceptives free of charge. The result was that China had been able to reduce the annual population growth rate from 17 per thousand in 1974 to 10.81 per thousand in 1984.

31. The Chinese Government's call for "one child for one couple" was not a mandatory rule. Instead, those families having one child, were commended and given awards, and late marriage and birth spacing were encouraged. Emphasis was placed on contraception but abortion was allowed if contraception failed. The considerable success of the programme could not have been achieved without the voluntary co-operation of hundreds of millions of couples. One big Power, however, had chosen to distort and vilify China's population policy by wilfully exaggerating some individual violations of the policy, and had even made some unreasonable demands, which constituted interference in China's affairs. The Chinese Government categorically rejected those demands from a country where abortions were not uncommon. It would be equally absurd to conclude, from the social problems resulting from drug addiction in that country, that its Government supported the traffic in drugs.

32. As a developing country, China sought first and foremost to be self-reliant while seeking international assistance and support. The co-operation between the Chinese Government and the UNFPA had been very fruitful, and the Government would continue to strengthen that co-operation.

33. Mr. STORFA (Austria) said that UNDP played a key role in strengthening the planning and co-ordinating capacity of developing countries. Of all the sources of external aid, UNDP was the only one that provided technical assistance in all areas, not only through a variety of programmes and special funds, but in co-ordinating emergency aid for Africa and the Substantial New Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries. In the face of competition from other aid channels, UNDP had to demonstrate that it still remained an indispensable institution. Projects and programmes should be soundly designed and executed, and local conditions, availability of resources and potential impact should inter alia be taken into account in the identification and formulation of projects.

34. With respect to country programmes, clear objectives for UNDP inputs, and strategies for meeting those objectives, should be established. In order to maintain the confidence of both donors and recipients in UNDP, the Governing Council should exercise its right to review and decide whether or not to approve proposed country programmes.

(Mr. Storfa, Austria)

35. Round tables could be extremely useful if they were based on sound macro-economic analysis. They should facilitate information exchange among donors and between donors and recipients and encourage project-specific co-ordination. To be effective, they should be conceived as a continuous process of dialogue, information exchange and co-ordination.
36. Global, interregional and inter-country programmes were useful in such areas as vaccine production, water and sanitation, energy and international research institutions, and Austria favoured a certain shift to such programmes, in respect of which UNDP had greater responsibility for establishing an order of priorities.
37. Austria's substantial increases in its contributions over past years reflected its belief in UNDP, and although its announced contribution had not been increased in nominal terms for 1986, there would be an increase in real terms. It had made a great effort to alleviate the difficult situation in Africa, and had opened in 1985 a special facility of 100 million Austrian schillings (S) for the emergency situation in Africa, as well as contributing, S 10 million to the World Bank's special facility for Africa and S 1 billion to the Bank's co-financing system for land-locked developing countries, both over a three-year period, and an additional \$US 1 million to the Energy Account.
38. Austria fully supported the basic parameters for the fourth programming cycle; they were sound and fully reflected the principles UNDP stood for.
39. Mr. WALTER (Czechoslovakia) said that the 1970 Consensus still provided a firm basis for fruitful co-operation between developing countries and advanced countries with different socio-economic systems with full respect for national sovereignty, non-interference in internal affairs, equality and universality. There was still an urgent need to ensure that development projects and operational activities in developing countries contributed to achieving industrial progress not by inviting a return of multinational private capital but by independent and equal participation in the development process. The colonizing States and those with whose multinational capital was profiting from the developing countries could not be absolved of the responsibility for the marked economic and technological underdevelopment of those countries.
40. In the period following political decolonization, the main priorities should be the development of both natural and human resources and of an industrial basis for economic self-sufficiency, and the political independence and security of all countries.
41. His delegation had agreed to strengthening the co-ordinating role of the UNDP Administrator, but nevertheless believed that there was no need to keep expanding co-ordinating mechanisms, and that any conflicts of authority in that respect must be avoided. While the co-ordinating role of UNDP in respect of operational activities was indeed necessary, it was the task of the specialized agencies to focus on the highly specialized areas of industrial and agricultural development,

(Mr. Walter, Czechoslovakia)

the development of health care and culture etc. Most of them, moreover, unlike UNDP, did not pose problems of deliberate non-use of voluntary contributions in national currencies, non-observance of the principle of equitable geographical representation, the unwillingness to use the accumulated contributions even to organize technical training courses in which the host country covered most of the expenses, and failure to make use of experts and short study courses.

42. Czechoslovakia's National Committee for UNICEF had become one of the most active committees of its kind in the country. In the implementation of the UNICEF programme "Revolution for Survival and Development", none of the programmes applied so far had been able to stop the deaths of millions of children from starvation, undernourishment and disease. While his delegation appreciated the negative impact of a number of diseases on children's health, it could not agree to the Secretariat's tendency to narrow the broad orientation of UNICEF to the solution of one or even a few specific problems, however acute. The underlying causes of the pitiful situation of children in developing countries were socio-economic, and not emotional, organizations could not remove them unless there was political will for disarmament and peaceful co-operation, regardless of the differences in socio-economic systems. In addition to the "Revolution for Survival and Development", attention should also be focused on other activities which sought to ensure the harmonious development of children and adolescents, including development education.

43. His Government's annual contribution to UNICEF was 1 million Czechoslovak crowns, and for the second consecutive year it was making an additional contribution of 5 million crowns. Unfortunately, UNICEF did not provide for full use of his country's contributions, thus preventing Czechoslovakia from increasing its participation in the agency's programmes. He hoped that the situation would substantially improve the following year.

44. Mr. REED (United States of America) said that the Committee's debate on operational activities focused on the transfer of real resources to the developing world in the sum of approximately \$1.5 billion from main programmes and funds. In monitoring the efficient and effective utilization of those resources, his Government sought not to control the system, but to strive for maximum effectiveness in the use of contributions provided by United States taxpayers. Both donors and recipient countries had the right to know how the resources were being used and whether they resulted in the betterment of people. The United States therefore attached great importance to the progress made in improving the programme impact of the United Nations activities for development vehicles.

45. While both the UNDP Director-General and the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation had noted in their oral presentations that modest growth of resources in real terms appeared likely, a dramatic increase in resources should not be expected, and the agencies and funds should be encouraged to streamline their operations to make more effective use of existing contributions.

46. The data on voluntary contributions to the United Nations system showed that the overwhelming majority of resources, over 90 per cent in the case of UNDP, were

(Mr. Reed, United States)

provided by the CECD countries, with the developing countries themselves contributing several times as much as the socialist bloc. It could not but be asked why the contributions data were so one-sided, whether the base of support for the system should not be widened, and why the usable contributions of those who professed such solidarity with the developing world were not more generous.

47. Recent important steps had included strengthening the co-ordinating capacity of UNDP at field level and improving its machinery for round-table consultations. The round-table and World Bank Consultative Group processes offered a unique means of engaging Governments and their development partners in positive and practical dialogue. However, his country was dismayed by the trend towards establishing other special assistance reviews and meetings, which tended to confuse potential donors.

48. Co-ordination of service delivery programmes at field level remained a prime concern. The Office for Emergency Operations in Africa had shown that it was possible to co-ordinate the diverse elements of the United Nations system, and its example should not be forgotten. Among the many reasons why co-ordination at field level did not work was the problem of the resident co-ordinators' capacity to keep on top of the wide range of programmes and funds. Too many programmes with limited funding, however worthwhile in themselves, tended to obscure priority concerns. The answer might be to integrate them into the main programmes, and he hoped that the planned study of the problem would indicate feasible solutions. Better integration could be achieved through closer collaboration with the major multilateral funding institutions.

49. The Director-General's report mentioned the difficulty of comparing the overhead costs and programme delivery of various programmes and funds. However, common budgeting and accounting systems could be found which would facilitate an analysis of management effectiveness, and his delegation believed that the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination and the Office of the Director-General should work to define common elements rather than outline differences.

50. The Department of Technical Co-operation for Development remained a large source of special skills and provided over \$100 million a year in services to developing countries. His delegation believed that it should continue to collaborate closely with UNDP, and looked forward to the issuing of guidelines to enhance that process.

51. His Government attached great importance to the recent measures to improve the management and programme effectiveness of UNDP. Deliberations in the Governing Council's Committee of the Whole had helped it to understand how the United States could better support UNDP operations. In addition, the UNDP administration had begun to implement measures to strengthen and improve UNDP activities: its establishment of a Central Programme Review Committee, in particular, deserved support.

52. The Governing Council's consensus on the fourth programming cycle (1987-1991) was of special importance to his Government. In addition, the Council was seeking

(Mr. Reed, United States)

to improve its own performance by means of a working group of the Committee of the Whole. The agreements constituted a package whose individual elements should not be questioned. They were a landmark in the history of UNDP and had encouraged the United States to renew its commitment to the Programme. It was most unfortunate that no further action had been taken for nearly five months. The working group's activities were crucial to preparations for the fourth programming cycle and must be initiated without delay.

53. The report of the Secretary-General on the liquidation of the United Nations Emergency Operation Trust Fund (A/40/740) outlined agreements reached by the United Nations in support of a Global System of Trade Preferences among Developing Countries which the United States considered to jeopardize certain basic principles of universality. His Government took issue both with the conduct of the negotiations and with the opinion of the Legal Office.

54. Among other important components of United Nations development activities, the field programme of the United Nations Capital Development Fund in the least developed countries was impressive, and UNICEF was to be commended for its tremendous efforts to achieve the immunization of all children. His country supported the report on the United Nations Volunteers programme, but would like to see a shift in recruitment to correct the imbalance which favoured volunteers from developing countries by over four to one. His delegation would also like to see volunteers integrated into the country programming process, and supported the idea of an International Volunteer Day to recognize the special contribution which they made.

55. In conclusion, the United States was pleased to reaffirm its determination to work to promote the development process. It was confident that, with a reinvigorated United Nations system co-operating closely with bilateral and other multilateral programmes, substantial progress could be made.

56. Mr. FIELD (United Kingdom) said that the increased contributions pledged by his country to operational activities for development reflected its view that UNDP was the focal point of technical co-operation in the United Nations system.

57. Although overall contributions to operational activities in terms of United States dollars had stagnated in recent years, talk of the demise of multilateralism was too pessimistic. Overseas development assistance from Development Assistance Committee countries had shown modest growth. The commitment, then, was still there, but the setting of specific targets was not particularly helpful, since failure to reach them was too easily seen as a disaster. They had a certain role to play but the key to attracting support was for multilateral agencies to demonstrate efficiency and value for money. The United Kingdom saw bilateral and multilateral aid as complementary, not competitive.

58. It was regrettable that contributions to UNDP up to 1984 had failed to reach their former level as a percentage of the whole resource flow for the United Nations technical co-operation activities, due in part to the increase in

(Mr. Field, United Kingdom)

contributions direct to specialized agencies. The United Kingdom opposed the proliferation of special funds since they added to costs, seldom produced truly additional resources and resulted in a more rigid system. It would therefore continue to channel the largest part of its voluntary contributions through UNDP. The trend shown at the recent Pledging Conference and the decline in the value of the United States dollar since 1984 should result in a reasonable increase in voluntary contributions, measured in terms of that currency.

59. His delegation appreciated the realism and dedication shown by the UNDP secretariat during discussions on the fourth programming cycle, and wished to pay particular tribute to the work of the Administrator and Deputy Administrator. The meeting of the Governing Council of UNDP in June 1985 had been something of a watershed. The Council was to be congratulated on its decision 85/16, which gave the fourth programming cycle a solid basis for success. If it was to succeed, however, more financial support would have to come from countries whose contributions were currently far below their capacity, and all funds should be provided in readily usable form. Paragraphs 7 to 11 of the decision were essential reading for all those interested in the well-being of UNDP. The Council had also shown by its adoption of decision 85/17 that it aimed to improve its own internal working procedures. The United Kingdom delegation strongly supported that decision and was concerned that the working group for which it provided had not yet started work. It should do so as soon as possible.

60. His delegation hoped that all 48 decisions adopted by the Governing Council would be implemented with maximum speed and effectiveness, in particular those concerning the development of human resources. UNDP should not attempt to specialize in human resources for the United Nations system as a whole, but human resources were likely to play a part in every project funded by UNDP.

61. The African crisis had resulted in very positive action by the United Nations system, and the valuable lessons of that exercise would need further consideration. The crisis also raised another point of direct relevance for the United Nations system - the connection between population growth and economic and social development, which was perhaps more obvious in Africa than anywhere else. There was a clear need for action to help countries deal with the problem of populations increasing faster than economic growth. UNFPA had increased awareness of the problem and implemented programmes based on the principles laid down in the World Population Plan of Action and the Declaration adopted by the International Population Conference in Mexico. As a result, demands for assistance from the Fund had increased and the United Kingdom had increased its support accordingly. His delegation was therefore concerned that the Fund faced a major financial crisis as a result of the partial withdrawal of support by one of its major donors. He hoped that the difficulties would be resolved and that a united international effort could continue.

62. The British Government also had high regard for the work of UNICEF, in recognition of which it had given £1 million to its emergency appeal for Africa in 1985 in addition to £6.3 million to its Regular Programme.

(Mr. Field, United Kingdom)

63. It was essential to be constantly alert to how operational activities were organized and how effectively they worked. His delegation therefore welcomed the setting up of a joint DTCD/UNDP task force to promote collaboration and had consistently supported the whole system of round-table consultations for the least developed countries. But co-ordination could be just as effective through a system of contacts. Ideally, such a system should encompass representatives of donors outside the United Nations family and its focal point should be the individual UNDP resident representatives. His delegation attached great importance to the need for more co-ordination and hoped that it would become a common goal of Member States and all members of the United Nations development system. His delegation had just tabled a draft resolution on the subject for the Committee's consideration.

64. Mrs. TIRONA (Philippines) said that the operational activities for development of the United Nations system lay at the heart of all United Nations operations. Given the deep and wide-ranging repercussions of the current world economic situation on the political stability and social progress of all countries, those activities must be viewed with urgency and in all their aspects.

65. Her delegation was pleased to learn from the Administrator of UNDP that IPF projections would remain stable in order to ensure the continued viability and relevance of country programmes. It also welcomed the assurance that UNDP was ready to help extend country programmes to include technical assistance in connection with capital investments in national institutional and manpower projects and support for debt management and adjustment policies. Finally, the arrangements recently made within UNDP to strengthen the Programme's effectiveness were commendable.

66. United Nations operational activities for development must relate to national economic recovery programmes. In that connection, she drew attention to the programme established by her Government for the economic recovery of the Philippines. International co-operation had an important role to play in accelerating national and world recovery, and the politicization of efforts at the international level must be prevented if that recovery was to be brought about.

67. The Philippines had joined with other like-minded States in devising measures for alleviating the problems of debt repayment and strengthening national capacities to find solutions to economic and financial problems. It was to be hoped that operational activities for development would enable the developing countries to derive maximum benefit from the exploitation of their natural resources.

68. In recognition of the significant contribution of volunteer organizations, the Philippines would support the recommendation contained in UNDP Governing Council decision 85/23 regarding the designation of an International Day for Volunteers for Economic and Social Development.

69. Development was dependent on technical co-operation, and her delegation supported measures to enable the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development to harmonize and co-ordinate such assistance. Furthermore, the role of

(Mrs. Tirona, Philippines)

technical co-operation should be considered in the context of structural adjustment and the negative effects of debt problems on the economic and social growth of developing countries. Many countries, especially the least developed countries, required support in strengthening their institutional capacity to evaluate economic and social development performance, and they must ensure that short-term recovery efforts did not create economic and social imbalances or satisfy immediate needs at the expense of long-term requirements. The Philippines was committed to assisting the least developed countries, and was carrying out technical co-operation with a number of them in such areas as rural banking, agricultural management, tax research, project-study preparation, small business consultancy and energy management.

70. Her delegation welcomed the continued efforts of the United Nations system to include women in projects executed by the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development.

71. With respect to the role of qualified national personnel in the social and economic development of developing countries, she said that her Government's manpower development programme made provision for providing unemployment assistance loans and at the same time to training for the unemployed, the strengthening of agricultural education and training, greater institutional support for planning and regional development, improved the quality and accessibility of formal education at all levels, and employment generation through the encouragement of cottage, small and medium industries. More efficient placement services and a more effective market information system would be introduced, and the promotion of the workers' welfare, the maintenance of industrial peace, the enhancement of labour productivity and the development of appropriate technology would be considered.

72. Countries participating in TCDC activities should complete and exchange lists of specific TCDC needs and capacities. Her country would support any initiative utilizing existing mechanisms to effect a more co-ordinated and cost-effective approach to the delivery of services to developing countries. On the other hand, it favoured the continued institutionalization of a dialogue between donor and recipient countries, as well as the use of development planning, as a framework for aid co-ordination.

The meeting rose at 1.20 p.m.