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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 39th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. BIRIDO (Sudan)

later: Ms. ERIKSSON (Sweden)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued)
(A/C.2/40/L.44)

Draft resolution A/C.2/40/L.44

1. Mr. BENMOUSSA (Morocco), introducing the draft resolution entitled "Patterns of consumption: quality aspects of development", said that the draft stressed first of all the need to devise an econometric analysis instrument in the form of a qualitative indicator for the development process as a whole. In addition, since it would be an evolutive indicator, it was important to introduce the dynamic factor by taking into account the chain reaction of the interrelationships between resources, population, environment, consumption and development. His delegation had distributed a text setting forth in detail the arguments in favour of the draft and answering some of the most important questions raised during informal consultations. The preamble of the draft resolution emphasized that existing quantitative economic indicators did not ascertain with accuracy the level of satisfaction of socio-economic needs in the developing countries, and recalled the conclusions of the major international sectoral conferences organized in the 1970s, as well as the main reports of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council in which patterns of consumption were discussed.

2. Paragraphs 1 and 2 defined the purpose and procedures for devising the proposed new econometric analysis instrument. Paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 were procedural in nature: they provided for the inclusion of an item entitled "The purpose of development in relation to patterns of consumption" in the agenda of the second regular session of the Council in 1986, and for the presentation of two reports, one containing the observations and recommendations of Governments on patterns of consumption, and the other a preliminary study on the usefulness of such patterns. The patterns of consumption would be useful for the process of long-term development by helping to give higher visibility to economic policies and fresh impetus to international co-operation. The objective was to ensure all-round, equitable and continuous development by improving human potential in all areas and by satisfying the basic social and economic needs (education, health, housing, food, water supply, etc.) under balanced management of the global ecosystem. Devising a qualitative indicator for the level of satisfaction of the fundamental needs of humanity as a whole would further the principles and goals set forth in the United Nations Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Development Strategy. In addition, the draft resolution complied with the mandate specified in General Assembly resolution 3345 (XXIX), calling for the adoption of appropriate measures to provide facilities for co-ordinated multidisciplinary research aimed at synthesizing, integrating and advancing existing knowledge on the relationships between population, resources, environment and development and to provide for the efficient co-ordination of related activities of the United Nations system. His delegation was ready to carry the dialogue further in informal consultations with a view to exploring the concept of patterns of consumption in greater depth.

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)
- (b) UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (continued) (E/1985/32 and Corr.1)
- (c) UNITED NATIONS CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT FUND (continued) (E/1985/32 and Corr.1)
- (d) UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTEERS PROGRAMME (continued) (E/1985/32 and Corr.1)
- (e) UNITED NATIONS TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES: REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/40/549; DP/1985/43 and Add.1-3)
- (f) LIQUIDATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS EMERGENCY OPERATION TRUST FUND AND ALLOCATION OF THE REMAINING BALANCE: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/40/740)

3. Mr. HUSSAIN SAFI (Afghanistan) said that the main objective of operational activities was to intensify the development process of the developing and least developed countries, thereby contributing to the implementation of the International Development Strategy. Those activities must respond to the particular needs of the recipient countries and, in particular, further their national development plans and programmes, and help them to become self-reliant and make the most rational use possible of their human, financial and natural resources.

4. With regard to the Secretary-General's report on the role of qualified national personnel in the social and economic development of developing countries (A/40/549), his delegation shared the view that it was first of all the responsibility of the Governments of the developing and least developed countries to establish a system of instruction and training, guaranteeing everyone the right to education and work.

5. The operational activities of the United Nations system in Afghanistan had declined in number in all sectors after the victory of the April revolution. The undeclared war being waged against his country and the dispatch of gangs of counter-revolutionary saboteurs had severely damaged the Afghan economy and made economic and technical assistance even more essential. In spite of those problems, his Government was determined to implement a strategy for ensuring planned growth of the productive forces, gradually rebuilding the economy and improving the living standards of the population. In order to achieve those objectives, however, it needed the financial and technical assistance of developed countries and various United Nations agencies and international financial institutions, and it appreciated in that regard the technical assistance provided by UNDP.

6. Afghanistan welcomed the efforts made by the Governing Council of UNDP, which it regarded as one of the most important bodies in the area of technical assistance, to make the Programme's action in favour of the developing and least

(Mr. Hussain Safi, Afghanistan)

developed countries more effective. It therefore urged that the principles of the 1970 Consensus be respected and that UNDP should adopt, in a constructive and democratic manner, decisions on the continuation of its programmes. Some developed capitalist countries were attempting to use UNDP as a means of blackmail and pressure, an attitude completely incompatible with the principles of the United Nations Charter and contrary to the promotion of multilateral economic and technical co-operation.

7. To ensure the success of the UNDP fourth programming cycle, due account should be taken of the proposals made by the developing and the least developed countries at the thirty-second session of the Governing Council. Afghanistan, for its part, hoped that the country programme it would submit in order to receive assistance would be considered on a priority basis, as was usual in the case of low-income countries.

8. Afghanistan welcomed the current policy of UNICEF and appreciated the effective assistance which, it hoped, could be expanded, particularly in respect of projects involving mother and child. It also appreciated the assistance of FAO, but found it regrettable that IFAD did not extend any assistance to it and that WFP had suspended its assistance after the revolution. Mention should also be made of the fact that Afghanistan received no assistance from the industrialized countries under the Substantial New Programme of Action, and accordingly called upon donors to contribute to the implementation of that Programme on the basis of equality, regardless of the political, economic and social system of recipient countries.

9. Lastly, despite the assistance provided by friendly countries such as the Soviet Union, Afghanistan needed the official development assistance which international financial institutions such as the World Bank and IMF withheld from it in violation of agreements which had already been signed. It was to be hoped that those institutions would review their decision and respect their obligations under General Assembly and UNCTAD resolutions.

10. Mr. DIETZE (German Democratic Republic) said that the objective was still to make operational activities an effective instrument for promoting economic prosperity and independence, and that in that context what was needed was the implementation of General Assembly resolution 200 (III), particularly paragraph 4 (d) which was designed to prevent any use of technical assistance as a means of exerting political or economic pressure on recipient countries.

11. The results achieved at the thirty-second session of the UNDP Governing Council showed that, given a constructive approach, it was possible to solve difficult and complex issues, as had been the case in respect of decision 85/16, whose adoption had respected the basic principles of UNDP. His delegation was not opposed to the establishment of a working group of the Committee of the Whole in order to facilitate, in the interests of the developing countries, a decision on the modalities of the fourth programming cycle, although it shared the doubts expressed by the overwhelming majority of States. The 1970 Consensus and General Assembly resolution 3405 (XXX) on the new dimensions of technical co-operation must

(Mr. Dietze, German Democratic Republic)

remain the basis for the Programme's activities. His Government was in favour of any measure which would bring about a genuine increase in the effectiveness of UNDP, on the understanding, however, that such measures must not modify its democratic character.

12. Some delegations nevertheless seemed to wish to combine the granting of technical assistance with the promotion of market forces. Furthermore, it appeared as if UNDP was to be transformed into a subsidiary body of the World Bank. His delegation would have nothing against World Bank funds being allocated pursuant to UNDP principles, but that idea seemed to give rise to objections. Moreover, there was a tendency to give Member States unsolicited advice on the modalities and the amounts of their voluntary contributions to operational activities. It should be recalled that his Government was a net contributor to UNDP and that its assistance to developing countries had amounted in 1984 to 1.82 billion marks, or 0.82 per cent of its GDP. It might be prepared to increase its contribution considerably on condition that the some 10 million marks currently frozen were finally used in developing countries. In addition, equitable arrangements should be made for the supply of goods and services within the framework of UNDP.

13. The resolutions adopted by the General Assembly with regard to the training of qualified national personnel for the economic and social development of developing countries should be applied. The German Democratic Republic would continue to work towards that end, in the hope that other Member States would do the same. In that respect, the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 39/219 (A/40/549) did not contain any conclusions regarding measures to be taken in that area. His Government, for its part, had submitted specific recommendations pertaining to that matter, and supported the continuation of Mongolia's initiative.

14. In 1985, his Government had provided additional assistance worth more than 1 million marks to UNICEF, whose activities for the benefit of children in Africa, Asia and Latin America it appreciated. Moreover, it would participate actively in the UNICEF programme for the immunization of all children by the year 1990, inter alia by supplying vaccines and training medical personnel. The celebration in 1986 of the fortieth anniversary of the Fund's foundation should be an occasion to take concrete steps for eliminating by the year 2000 hunger and malnutrition in the developing countries, and building a safe future for all children.

15. Mr. HUSSAIN (Pakistan) reiterated that operational activities for development remained the most tangible and dynamic instrument available to the United Nations for promoting international co-operation, and that their success was due in large measure to the qualities of the Administrator of UNDP, the Executive Director of UNICEF and the Executive Director of UNFPA and the efforts they had made.

16. With regard to the report of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation on the operational activities for development of the United Nations system (A/40/698), his delegation wished to focus on a number of points which should make the triennial review more fruitful. Thus, there should

(Mr. Hussain, Pakistan)

be a comprehensive analysis of the impact of "tied aid" on the technical assistance programmes of the United Nations system. The problem in fact had two facets, relating both to the recovery of the funds provided by donors and to the cost of programme delivery. There was also a need to examine how resources were utilized in order to determine the relationship between the contributions of the principal donor countries and the amounts utilized by the system. Project delivery costs should also be analysed in detail, and specific figures given. The report showed a decline in the UNDP programme delivery rate, and the reasons for that decline must be analysed in order to remedy it. Consequently, a more detailed analysis would be required of the relationship between administrative costs, which had continued to become higher and more mysterious, and programme delivery. His delegation again suggested that attention should be given to the question of the utilization of accumulated balances of non-convertible funds and that concrete suggestions should be offered in that regard. Finally, future reports should also study the possibility of using expertise and equipment available in developing countries themselves.

17. If recipient countries demonstrated that the IPFs allocated to them were being utilized effectively and promoted their development efforts, while the donor countries for their part demonstrated their readiness to supply adequate resources on a stable basis, and if programme delivery was satisfactory, operational activities would become an increasingly efficient means of technical assistance. The recent Pledging Conference was an important step in that direction.

18. With regard to the report of the UNDP Governing Council, Pakistan would respect decisions 85/16 and 85/17 adopted at the thirty-second session, and invited other parties to do likewise notwithstanding the modalities of the negotiations and the circumstances under which agreement had been reached. It was however regrettable that in paragraph 3 of decision 85/16 it had not been possible to agree on an annual growth rate for total voluntary contributions higher than 8 per cent. It should be noted in that respect that the increase in contributions for 1986 resulted largely from fluctuations in exchange rates. There was thus a need for the main donor countries to seek to increase the real value of their contributions. In addition, greater transparency in the work of UNDP must be ensured; to that end, there should be continual examination of the application of supplementary criteria, and review, if necessary, of the manner in which a substantial increase in the resources of UNDP should be treated. Given the desire to increase the effectiveness of UNDP, the establishment of more committees and sub-committees, as in the case of the Committee of the Whole and the Working Group, was perhaps not the best way to proceed. Greater transparency and simplification of procedures would certainly yield better results.

19. Pakistan commended the extraordinary efforts made by UNICEF for the universal immunization of children by the year 1990, and fully supported the activities of the Fund and its Executive Director. The important role of UNFPA, which from modest beginnings had become a dynamic organization, should also be recognized. An effort should be made to reverse measures which were against the spirit of multilateral technical assistance, and it was to be hoped in that respect that the United States Government would restore its contribution to the Fund to its original level.

20. Mr. EL GHOUAYEL (Tunisia) said that operational activities for development were one of the pillars of the United Nations system and, in order to achieve their objective, they should be provided with the necessary resources, especially funds, so as to facilitate the transfer of knowledge, technology and skills. The principles on which those activities were based were increasingly under attack. In particular, in spite of repeated appeals to respect the principle of the universality of operational activities, technical and financial assistance to medium-income countries had tapered off noticeably at the very time when those countries were having to make draconian adjustments because of the critical world economic situation. In his opinion, per capita income was not an adequate criterion and should be weighted by applying other parameters, such as the magnitude of external-debt servicing and the extent to which the IPF was used. In order to maintain the basically multilateral nature of operational activities, conditionality and tied-aid devices must also be eschewed.

21. Given the financial resources available to United Nations bodies, it was particularly disturbing that the negotiations on the second replenishment of the International Agricultural Development Fund's resources had not been successfully concluded. Tunisia had raised its contribution to operational activities by 10 per cent in relation to 1984, and had done so in spite of a particularly unfavourable economic situation. It should be noted that, in 1985, the medium-income and higher-income countries had once again expressed their confidence in the programmes and organizations concerned with those activities, but the economic revival in the major developed donor countries had not been reflected in any increase in their contributions to operational activities, which denoted an unjustified distrust of multilateral economic co-operation. The reforms proposed for achieving better utilization of resources through improved co-ordination had therefore no chance of producing the desired result unless they were motivated by a genuine belief in multilateralism.

22. Mr. TUAN (Liberia) said that his Government supported and would continue to support United Nations operational activities and that the UNDP and UNICEF programmes helped it very effectively to achieve its national development objectives. He hoped that the positive spirit shown by the major donor countries at the recent pledging conference would persist. It was important that the resources of UNDP and UNICEF should be commensurate with the needs which those two bodies were expected to cover.

23. He was in favour of strengthening the field offices in Africa and of granting aid to the national liberation movements accredited by OAU. He was also gratified that co-operation between UNDP, the World Bank and the regional development banks had become closer, and hoped that the interests of the recipient countries would be taken into account. Furthermore, UNDP's efforts to improve the round-table system were commendable.

24. Thanks to skilful co-ordination of their activities, UNDP and UNICEF had managed to provide valuable and effective assistance to the African countries affected by the crisis, but they should further develop their operational capacity in order to deal with emergencies before they degenerated into crises. The

(Mr. Tuan, Liberia)

resident representative and resident co-ordinators had an important role to play in that respect. In conclusion, he appealed to all countries, and especially the major donor countries, to increase their financial support to the organizations of the United Nations system, particularly to UNDP which could thus approach the fourth programming cycle on a sound footing.

25. Mr. NATHON (Hungary) noted with satisfaction that the operational activities for development of the United Nations system had effectively helped developing countries to speed up economic and social development and attain self-reliance. Unfortunately, given the problems of financing, numerous projects had not been implemented as originally intended. His delegation therefore welcomed the fact that the search for ways and means to ensure the fullest possible utilization of available resources and the efforts made to increase efficiency, to improve national evaluation and inter-country co-ordination capabilities and to raise the level of co-operation between the organizations and governments concerned had become a focus of attention.

26. As was shown by the documents before the Committee, great importance was attached to different forms of consultation, particularly round-tables and consultative group meetings, in the promotion of co-ordination, but insufficient attention was given to follow-up activities, without which the real value and efficiency of consultations were impossible to assess. Consideration should therefore be given to making progress in that direction.

27. The results achieved through evaluation arrangements were gratifying but, at the same time, care must be taken to ensure that programme evaluation did not divert significant human and financial resources from co-operation for development.

28. In order to make operational activities more efficient, executing agencies should, in view of existing financial constraints, seek to procure the necessary equipment and to subcontract on the best concessionary terms. While efforts had been made in that direction, they had been far from successful in devising an objective and uniform procedure for the purpose. Equal opportunities must be provided for potential suppliers, including timely invitations to bid and genuine competition.

29. Hungary endorsed the main line of priorities for operational activities, including the need for devoting special attention to certain groups of countries, but that did not mean excluding from those activities other countries interested in co-operation for development. A relatively higher level of economic development should not by itself rule out the necessity of co-operation for development; it should, on the contrary, enable wider application of more complex forms of co-operation.

30. It continued to be a basic criterion for operational activities for development to be linked in each case to national development plans and programmes. That was the approach adopted by UNDP, which played a unique and central role in technical co-operation, in preparing country programmes. It was reassuring that,

(Mr. Nathon, Hungary)

at its last session, the Governing Council, although after long debates on the principles of the fourth programming cycle, had come to an agreement which, while preserving the current positive aspects of programming, would continue to provide the necessary framework for UNDP activities.

31. Mr. LAUTENSCHLAGER (Federal Republic of Germany) said that, in the manifold relationship between North and South, particular importance should be given to development assistance, whether bilateral or multilateral. The causes of political instability in many countries were largely due to underdevelopment. Reducing socio-economic tensions through co-operation based on partnership would make it possible to lay the groundwork for a more peaceful environment.

32. In spite of his Government's tight fiscal policy, resources allocated to the developing countries in the form of official development assistance had amounted, in 1984, to 7.9 billion deutsche mark (DM), or 0.45 per cent of his country's GNP. That figure should serve as an incentive for the East European socialist countries, which were also industrialized countries, to step up their assistance to developing countries. In the Federal Republic of Germany, non-governmental organizations had raised DM 1.1 billion for projects from which the peoples of developing countries benefited directly. During the same period, the private sector had transferred a total of DM 6.7 billion to the economies of those countries in the form of direct investments and bank loans. Overall, in 1984 his country had placed, DM 18.5 billion at the disposal of the developing countries, which represented 1.06 per cent of its GNP.

33. In all its activities, his Government paid particular attention to the promotion of the least developed countries. Moreover, it had cancelled the official debts of 23 least developed countries, which amounted to more than DM 4 billion, or 50 per cent of all debt waivers granted so far by donor countries to the least developed countries.

34. His Government remained firmly committed to multilateral co-operation for development, and multilateral official development assistance currently represented 30 per cent of its total development assistance. In 1985, the international community had made considerable efforts to assist the crisis-ridden African countries in overcoming their difficulties, and the countries of the European Economic Community would continue to support those efforts. The Federal Republic of Germany believed that the international community should intensify the dialogue with Governments of African countries with a view to strengthening the economies of sub-Saharan Africa and to ensure the transition from emergency aid to medium- and long-term development assistance.

35. With regard to UNDP, the central United Nations agency for multilateral technical assistance, he noted that, considering the budgetary constraints resulting from stringent fiscal policies adopted by the Governments of certain major donor countries, the qualitative aspects of technical assistance took on greater importance. At the same time, the role of UNDP as a centre for co-ordination and financing of that assistance should be enhanced. That was why

(Mr. Lautenschlager, Federal
Republic of Germany)

his Government welcomed the overall outcome of the thirty-second session of the Governing Council of UNDP, and noted with satisfaction that consensus had been reached on the fourth programming cycle and the establishment of a working group of the Committee of the Whole to deal with programming matters.

36. With regard to the report under consideration (A/40/698), his delegation was particularly interested in the co-ordination of operational activities for development. Development was a process comprising all sectors of economic activity and all social institutions, and it could be successful only if it was implemented through an integrated approach. There was broad agreement on the need to increase aid co-ordination. His Government was prepared to participate actively with its bilateral programmes of assistance in the overall co-ordination effort. However, it believed that all parties concerned should co-operate more closely. In that regard, his Government supported the dialogue between recipient Governments and donors that was being conducted within the framework of round tables organized by UNDP and the Consultative Groups of the World Bank.

37. His delegation agreed with the Secretary-General that the United Nations Office for Emergency Operations in Africa, which had been established to co-ordinate the activities of United Nations agencies, bilateral donors, non-governmental organizations and, especially, the Governments of recipient countries with a view to helping those Governments to cope with the severe crisis in Africa, had accomplished positive results at the country level. However, co-ordination efforts so far had been limited almost exclusively to sub-Saharan Africa. The developing countries of other regions should also benefit from that experience. The United Nations system should make use of the existing structures, such as the Joint Consultative Group on Policy, consisting of UNDP, the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, (UNFPA), UNICEF and the World Food Programme. That group not only financed three quarters of the total system-wide expenditure for technical co-operation but had reached an agreement on co-operation which could form the basis for better co-ordination in other regions.

38. His Government had shown great interest in UNFPA, which was the most important multilateral development aid organization in the population field. The Federal Republic of Germany, which ranked third among the donor countries, fully supported the mandate of the Fund. The population growth problem was being assessed world-wide in its proper dimensions, and a growing number of Governments were beginning to make policy changes in that area. Nevertheless, the approach adopted in the various countries should differ according to their socio-cultural environment, and particular emphasis must be placed on respect for human rights.

39. His Government also assigned high priority to co-operation with UNICEF. The well-defined concept of basic services, the efficient and decentralized work conducted in the field and the concentration on primary health care, nourishment, social welfare and education in the poorest and least developed countries were positive elements, but there was an urgent need for better co-ordination and co-operation, in particular with UNDP and UNFPA. The Federal Republic of Germany

(Mr. Lautenschlager, Federal Republic of Germany)

whole-heartedly supported the general approach and the application of new technologies in the context of the child survival and development revolution, and the considerable donations made by private persons attested to the interest on the part of the population of his country in UNICEF activities for mothers and children in the third world.

40. Lastly, his delegation shared the concern expressed by many other delegations with regard to urgently required structural improvements in the United Nations system, and felt that the Second Committee should address the issue of streamlining the institutional framework of operational activities.

41. Mr. DOLJINTSEREN (Mongolia) said that the operational activities of the United Nations system helped developing countries to overcome their economic backwardness and accelerate the democratization of international economic relations. In that regard, UNDP played a leading role at the multilateral level. The thirty-fifth anniversary of United Nations technical co-operation activities had provided an opportunity to reflect on the activities of UNDP. The socialist countries and Mongolia had indicated their position on the question in their joint statement at the meeting of the Governing Council of the Programme devoted to the above-mentioned anniversary. The principles set forth in General Assembly resolution 200 (III) and in the 1970 Consensus (resolution 2688 (XXV) of the Assembly) should be strictly observed, in particular those relating to the sovereignty of States, non-interference in their internal affairs, the rejection of economic sanctions and universality. His delegation hoped that they would be reaffirmed in a new General Assembly resolution on operational activities.

42. Decision 85/16 of the Governing Council of UNDP concerning the fourth programming cycle was a balanced text which took into account the interests of the various groups of States. At the present time, efforts should be directed, as a matter of priority, towards giving effect to those provisions.

43. His delegation also supported decisions 85/14 and 85/15 of the Governing Council of UNDP concerning assistance to the Palestinian people and to the national liberation movements recognized in its area by the Organization of African Unity. Other decisions, however, were difficult to accept, particularly the one concerning the establishment of a working group of the Committee of the Whole. Such an organ would not contribute to strengthening the effectiveness of UNDP but, on the contrary, would lead to duplication.

44. Mongolia was opposed to the strengthening of relations between UNDP and the World Bank or the International Monetary Fund, which sought to facilitate the penetration of the capital of transnational corporations in the developing countries. The resources of the Programme should serve to promote economic independence and social progress.

45. The report of the Secretary-General on the role of qualified national personnel (A/40/549), which had been submitted in good time by the Secretariat, was a new contribution to the study of the role of human factors in development and to the promotion of exchanges of information on experience among Member States.

(Mr. Doljintseren, Mongolia)

46. His country gave wide support to the activities of the various United Nations funds and programmes, including UNICEF and UNFPA. Its contributions to UNICEF took various forms. For example, it gave that organization part of the income from the sale of stamps issued in collaboration with the Paramount Corporation. To date, those contributions amounted to approximately US 176,000. In addition, his delegation wished to point out that it supported the UNICEF programme for the vaccination of all children by 1990.

47. In conclusion, he expressed his gratitude to Mr. Bradford Morse, who would shortly be leaving his post as Administrator of UNDP, and stated his delegation's readiness to co-operate in drawing up recommendations and resolutions concerning the operational activities of the United Nations system.

48. Mr. RAMANDRAIARISOA (Madagascar) reaffirmed his country's position regarding operational activities: it was necessary to preserve and strengthen the multilateral framework of co-operation, to take account of the priority objectives and needs of recipient countries and to respect the principles set forth in the 1970 Consensus, particularly with regard to universality.

49. His delegation had already had an opportunity to present its point of view on general policy issues relating to operational activities, and it now wished to draw particular attention to the problems of financing. The note of the Secretary-General on those activities (A/40/698) pointed to several negative trends showing a decline in the global transfer of resources and an overall reduction in expenditures in that field. It was generally agreed that the financial crisis of the operational institutions was due mainly to a disaffection with multilateral development programmes owing to the priority given to bilateral co-operation and the effects of the world economic recession. Nevertheless, in the present economic situation, developing countries had a greater need than ever for increased technical and financial assistance.

50. Under those conditions, the urgent necessity to achieve the objectives agreed upon should be reaffirmed, particularly as far as the fourth programming cycle of UNDP was concerned, thereby ensuring adequate growth in real terms of the resources allocated to programmes. In addition, problems related to the mobilization of resources should be reconsidered in terms of the global outlook for official development assistance. Specifically, there was a need to undertake a preliminary evaluation of the objectives of all the programmes, provide for practical adjustment measures when mobilized resources were insufficient, continue meetings of organs such as the intersessional Committee of the Whole of UNDP, maintain the practice of missions of consultation and, in general, increase the cost-effectiveness and efficiency of operational activities. The results of the round tables and meetings of the consultative groups were to be commended, moreover, but those essentially bilateral mechanisms should not prejudice the central role of the United Nations. Similarly, while his delegation welcomed the strengthening of co-operation between UNDP and the World Bank, it nevertheless stressed the need to avoid the risk of making the Programme dependent on the international financial system. Finally, the best way of supporting co-operation activities was to increase contributions rather than to search for mechanisms that were concerned solely with the management of the meagre resources available.

(Mr. Ramandrainarisoa, Madagascar)

51. In conclusion, he reaffirmed his Government's support for the other programmes of operational activities, in particular UNFPA, UNICEF, WFP and FAO. He also wished to pay a tribute to Mr. Bradford Morse, the Administrator of UNDP, on the occasion of his retirement in the near future.

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

53. Mr. McBARNETTE (Trinidad and Tobago) said that the contraction in world trade, the collapse of commodity markets, the indebtedness of many developing countries and the crisis in Africa lent new urgency to the assistance activities of organizations of the United Nations system. Over the past few years, contributions to operational activities had shown a tendency to decline in real terms, and his delegation welcomed the fact that in 1985 that trend had been reversed and that, on the eve of the fourth programming cycle, the target of \$700 million had been surpassed.

54. His delegation was not satisfied with the methodology agreed on for the fourth programming cycle by the UNDP Governing Council at its thirty-second session, but since that had been a consensus decision it would not reopen the issue. It wished to stress, however, that the decision impaired the universal and voluntary character of UNDP's activities and that all developing countries, including island developing countries, should be afforded unconditional access to the Programme's resources.

55. In previous cycles, Trinidad and Tobago had utilized the Programme's resources effectively and, through cost-sharing, had made additional resources available over and above the IPF. As a result of the new methodology, it would have to evolve new arrangements with UNDP. It hoped that, in the preparation of regional programmes and projects, due attention would be paid, as in the third cycle, to the priorities of the various subregional groupings.

56. The co-ordination and exchange of information between donors and recipients had the advantage of avoiding wastage, duplication and an unnecessary proliferation of projects. The United Nations Office for Emergency Operations in Africa had demonstrated the effectiveness of a co-ordinated approach to a problem of tremendous magnitude. Co-ordination and evaluation could not, however, be substitutes for greater support by the donor community.

57. Commenting on the report of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation (A/40/698), he noted that the round-table process required further refinement and hoped that the measures proposed by the Director-General in that regard would be effective. Noting also that UNDP collaboration with regional banks and the World Bank had increased, he expressed the view that Member States should be provided with additional information to enable them to assist in shaping that relationship.

58. It was disturbing to note that programme delivery by the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development had dropped from \$136 million in 1981 to \$111 million in 1984 and that the Department was not being utilized by the United

(Mr. McBarnette, Trinidad and Tobago)

Nations system as had been envisaged in General Assembly resolution 32/197. In that connection, his delegation hoped that the joint DTCD/UNDP task force created by the Secretary-General would devise mechanisms that would strengthen collaboration between the two organizations and allow their potential to be tapped successfully, and that the Department's operational activities would not be eroded further. He looked forward with interest to the Director-General's report for 1986, which would examine some important policy questions that had not been considered in the current year's report.

59. Mr. AMANTE DA ROSA (Cape Verde) said that his country's climate was characterized by very low and irregular rainfall and that its water resources were therefore both limited and uncertain. Moreover, since almost all the islands of the archipelago were of volcanic origin, grain production was far below the needs of the population. No mineral or energy resources had as yet been identified, and industrial production was insignificant since its development confronted a number of obstacles such as limited markets and the high cost of factors of production. Cape Verde's economy was therefore highly dependent on other countries, and funds sent home by Cape Verdeans working abroad and exports of services were very important to the balance of payments. The country's investment programme, 90 per cent of which was financed by external assistance and which represented about 50 per cent of GDP, was aimed basically at the creation of infrastructures and had permitted a steady growth of GDP and a rapid increase in internal demand. Since 1980, the Government had managed to balance the national budget. Those remarkable results had been achieved through strict controls on public spending and increased revenues, combined with a prudent monetary policy and the enthusiasm and perseverance of Cape Verdeans. Careful management, political stability and the establishment and consolidation of institutions had also undoubtedly been important factors in Cape Verde's economic recovery.

60. Since human resources played a very important role in development, the United Nations system should make a concerted effort to use them to full advantage, thereby strengthening the autonomy of developing countries. His delegation had accordingly given wholehearted support to the proposal instructing the UNDP Administrator to set up a special team to deal with that question.

61. The operational activities of the United Nations system were often the main source of development financing, particularly for the least developed countries. The 6 per cent increase in pledges for 1986 over 1985 was therefore encouraging. The mobilization of resources on an increasingly predictable, continuous and assured basis was an urgent necessity for the maintenance or reinforcement of operational programmes. However, his delegation was disturbed at the increasingly widespread practice of tying contributions to the procurement of goods and services in certain donor countries.

62. The establishment of a permanent dialogue and co-ordination between the various sources of assistance and recipient Governments would also make it possible to reduce duplication and ensure the necessary complementarity between programmes. National co-ordination machinery must play a central role in integrating external

(Mr. Amante da Rosa, Cape Verde)

assistance into national development plans and the role of the Resident Co-ordinators must be strengthened in that regard, in accordance with decision 85/3 of the UNDP Governing Council.

63. Despite the criticisms levelled at the United Nations system, the importance and effectiveness of the action taken in response to the crisis in Africa by its component organs and organizations, in particular the United Nations Office for Emergency Operations in Africa, deserved recognition. The consensus reached on UNDP's fourth programming cycle also showed that the international community was concerning itself increasingly with the development of the least developed countries. Increased co-operation among multilateral development institutions, in implementation of General Assembly resolution 38/171, should be sufficiently dynamic and flexible to take into account the specific features of individual programmes.

64. His delegation commended the praiseworthy efforts made by UNICEF in Africa and noted with satisfaction that the United Nations Volunteers programme continued to prove very useful and that its activities were welcomed by recipient countries. It also appreciated the important part played by the World Food Programme in responding to both emergency situations and development needs, and was gratified to see that the Programme was increasingly emphasizing the long-term prospects for food aid. On the other hand, it regretted that the seventh replenishment of the International Development Association had not achieved the anticipated level and that as yet no decision had been taken on the second replenishment of the International Fund for Agricultural Development.

65. Mr. LEWU (Nigeria) said that the provisions of paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 35/81 were now more relevant than ever. While there had been some increase in the contributions pledged for operational activities, their level still fell far short of the capacities of some developed countries. The 1984 Pledging Conference had provided ample evidence of that fact, as had the report of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation (A/40/698), which stated that contributions to UNDP's main programme resources had stagnated at less than \$700 million for the fifth consecutive year. Such a situation was a source of great concern, for those activities played a catalytic role in the economic and social development of developing countries. His delegation noted with dismay that the seventh replenishment of IDA amounted to only \$9 billion, representing a reduction of 25 per cent in nominal terms and 40 per cent in actual terms over the sixth replenishment. It hoped that Member States would take due note of the fact that the commitment authority of IDA would accordingly decline significantly in real terms at a time when the poorest countries were in great need of concessional resources.

66. The importance of United Nations operational activities to the developing countries in general and to Africa in particular could not be overemphasized. The efforts being made by the African countries to adjust their economic structure, continued to be hampered by such problems as the external debt, the reverse transfer of resources, unfavourable terms of trade, high interest rates,

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(Mr. Lewu, Nigeria)

protectionism, lack of foreign exchange to purchase essential goods and services, and lack of infrastructure. Those problems were aggravated further by drought and desertification.

67. It was encouraging to note that, in 1984, 45 per cent of the total regional distribution of grant-financed expenditures on operational activities had gone to Africa, and it was to be hoped that Africa would continue to receive an appreciable share of such expenditures in view of the continent's critical economic situation and the fact that Africa had the largest number of least developed countries. Since the financing of operational activities of the United Nations system depended mainly on voluntary contributions, Member States, and the developed countries, in particular, should demonstrate their goodwill and commitment to multilateralism. In that connection, he commended the efforts of the Secretary-General to establish a remote sensing centre in Ethiopia and hoped that similar facilities would be set up in many countries of west, central and southern Africa. Efforts should also be made to establish early warning facilities in the Sudano-Sahelian region, particularly in countries such as Nigeria which had large populations and where the adverse effects of natural disasters such as drought, desertification and soil erosion had catastrophic consequences.

68. Since many developing countries were situated in tropical zones, the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development should develop solar energy schemes to meet the ever-growing energy needs of those countries. Water supply and irrigation systems should also be constructed in countries threatened by desertification.

69. In view of the importance of the co-ordination of operational activities, it was essential that United Nations funds and organizations should co-ordinate their activities at the national, regional and interregional levels in order to ensure effective evaluation and avoid duplication. Co-ordination must never be imposed on the developing countries, but should stem from a genuine attempt to ensure the relevance and effectiveness of the multilateral assistance delivered by the United Nations.

70. Finally, the operational activities of executing agencies played a highly commendable role and adequate financial resources must therefore be provided so that the activities of those agencies in all their spheres of competence could be enhanced.

71. Mr. GORITA (Romania) said that technical co-operation activities had been among the United Nations most remarkable development achievements. In view of the persistence, indeed the aggravation, of the crisis, multilateral technical co-operation was essential to enable developing countries to surmount their serious economic difficulties and implement their programmes of economic and social growth. The stagnation and even reduction in technical assistance was also a matter of concern. The report of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation (A/40/698) indicated that contributions to UNDP had stagnated over the past five years while the assistance needs of recipient

(Mr. Gorita, Romania)

countries called for a substantial increase in contributions. While the results of the 1985 United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities were encouraging, a significant increase in resources was needed, particularly on the part of the developing countries, if UNDP was to provide a volume of assistance commensurate with the real needs of developing countries.

72. The discussions on the fourth programming cycle had demonstrated the very special importance of the basic principles which underlay technical co-operation activities, namely, their universality and the right of all States to participate fully in them, and the right of all States to receive assistance commensurate with their needs. Respect for those principles was essential to the viability of UNDP and other multilateral technical co-operation programmes.

73. As a developing country, Romania had benefited constantly from United Nations assistance, which it had used effectively to implement projects in priority areas. In that connection, the UNDP office at Bucharest had played a particularly useful role in helping Romania to make the most of the resources allocated to it and to identify new possibilities for broadening and diversifying its participation in technical co-operation activities. Romania had also co-operated productively with other technical co-operation programmes such as UNICEF, the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development and the United Nations Fund for Population Activities.

74. Mr. DOMINGUEZ (Mexico) recalled that, at the thirty-second session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme, when the Council had been defining criteria for the allocation of resources under the fourth programming cycle, his delegation had stressed the need to preserve the Programme's universal and voluntary character and, above all, to adapt its operations to the growing demands of development and to the world economic situation. The previous cycle had been characterized by zero growth in contributions to the Programme at a time when the developing countries were experiencing particular difficulties. The world situation had now changed, however, and the economic recovery heralded by the major industrial countries should be reflected in a real increase in the resources allocated to multilateral technical co-operation. His delegation had also insisted that those resources should be allocated in a realistic manner. In that connection, the consensus that had emerged at the latest session of the Governing Council was a step forward. There had been recognition of the need to take account of new situations and the growing complexity of the developing world when establishing criteria for the allocation of the Programme's resources. Factors such as structural changes in the economy, income distribution, deterioration of terms of trade, the debt burden, the balance-of-payments deficit and the level of unemployment should, in future, play a key role in the calculation of allocations. That consensus had been achieved without calling into question the basic principle that UNDP was a permanent programme devoted essentially to development. As the Administrator of the Programme had stressed recently, it was also essential that UNDP's action in Africa be based on the conviction that the crisis afflicting that continent was essentially a development crisis. In other words, the Programme's activities must be aimed at responding to both immediate needs and the requirements of long-term development.

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(Mr. Dominguez, Mexico)

75. In that context, his delegation found the results of the recent Pledging Conference encouraging, in that the \$700 million target for 1986 had been exceeded. However, the 8 per cent rate of resource growth envisaged was still inadequate to satisfy the ever-growing needs of the developing countries. The emerging trend towards an increase must therefore be maintained and, indeed, considerably intensified in the years to come if the Programme's objectives were to be attained.

76. With regard to the United Nations Financing System for Science and Technology for Development, currently in a critical situation, his delegation was extremely concerned that the Financing System, the establishment of which had been decided upon by consensus at Vienna, had still not garnered the economic support required to ensure its long-term viability. Mexico had participated very actively and constructively in all the consultations on the subject and had even offered, despite its own extremely difficult situation, to contribute to the financing of the System in 1985. Mexico attached great importance to the project, and if countries were to demonstrate concrete support for it at a future pledging conference, his delegation might be able to take a more explicit position in regard to the financial, institutional, operational and administrative arrangements provided for in the Secretary-General's recent recommendations on the subject contained in document A/C.2/40/4. Mexico was already willing to examine the possibility of an association between the Financing System and UNDP, provided the System retained its autonomy, that the criteria for selecting projects remained objective, and that the projects themselves were truly adapted to the developing countries' needs.

77. In 1984, the Group of 77 had submitted a proposal whereby technical support for the negotiations on the establishment of a global system of trade preferences among developing countries would be financed, inter alia, through the resources allocated for economic and technical co-operation among developing countries under resolution 38/201. His delegation was pleased that those resources were already being used for that purpose. It was clear to his delegation however, that, under the terms of resolution 38/201, the allocation of those resources to various co-operation programmes should not in any case involve a decrease in developed country contributions in that connection.

78. In conclusion, he paid tribute to Mr. Morse for the devotion and skill with which he had performed his duties as Administrator of UNDP. His delegation had learned with regret of Mr. Morse's intention to leave UNDP, and offered him its best wishes for the future.

79. Mr. BIRIDO (Sudan) resumed the Chair.

80. Mr. LAZAREVIC (Yugoslavia) said that operational activities for development were an important component of the role played by the United Nations and the specialized agencies in the modern world. By assisting the developing countries in mobilizing their own financial, natural and human resources for self-reliant growth, those activities had contributed considerably to enhancing the capacity of

(Mr. Lazarevic, Yugoslavia)

developing countries to absorb development investment. Without those activities, a large part of the population of the world's most underprivileged regions would probably have been unaware of the very existence of the United Nations. He took advantage of the occasion to pay a tribute to Mr. Morse, who had devoted himself with enormous energy to the cause of co-operation for the development of the third world. Those who had been fortunate enough to know him personally or to co-operate with him had learned with regret of his intention to retire.

81. Reviewing the main funds and programmes that made up the United Nations development system, he said that his delegation found the outcome of the most recent Pledging Conference encouraging. The increase in contributions was a sign of renewed confidence in operational activities and a reassertion of multilateralism. The United Nations Development Programme, which was the system's principal organ of technical co-operation, played an increasingly important role in mobilizing national and foreign investment capital. Its ability to adapt to changing needs and the complexity of the development process was also a proof of vitality. The decisions taken at the Governing Council's thirty-second session would enable UNDP to pursue its activities throughout the fourth programming cycle.

82. His delegation had noted with satisfaction that contributions to UNICEF were expected to increase in the period 1986-1988.

83. Yugoslavia also attached great importance to the United Nations Fund for Population Activities. It was glad to hear, therefore, that, in line with the recommendations of the 1984 Mexico Conference, a modest increase in UNFPA resources could be expected in the same period.

84. The growing involvement of the United Nations system in development efforts underlined the need for better co-ordination of aid activities, both at the national and the international level. A number of steps had been taken in that direction. The strengthening of UNDP's central co-ordinating role at the field level was an example. Yugoslavia regarded the round tables organized with the assistance of UNDP as a useful mechanism for engaging all partners in a positive dialogue concerning programme delivery. In that regard, the round-table meetings should, as the Secretary-General had suggested in his report (A/40/698), be part of an ongoing process. In that connection, it should be noted that the recipient countries' right to determine development priorities must be fully respected. The Governing Council's decision 85/3 represented a significant contribution to the improvement of co-ordination at the national and international levels. In conclusion, he reaffirmed his Government's continuous commitment to the operational activities of the United Nations system.

85. Mr. LIGAIRI (Fiji) said that the developing countries viewed the United Nations system above all as a source of multilateral assistance to promote development. Fiji valued the operational activities of the United Nations system highly, and believed that the bodies and organizations of the system should be able to respond to the urgent needs of third world countries by suitably adapting their procedures and activities. It noted in that connection that efforts had been made to improve

(Mr. Ligairi, Fiji)

UNDP's processes of formulating and examining projects and programmes. It welcomed the efforts that had been made to strengthen the co-ordination of United Nations operational activities in all their aspects. It also welcomed the moves by UNDP and other organizations of the system to support the convening in the recipient countries of meetings between multilateral and bilateral donors, and to develop the evaluation capacity of recipient Governments. His delegation was also glad to note that co-operation among the multilateral development institutions was increasing. It regarded it as essential to strengthen consultative arrangements so as to promote understanding of the priorities and strategies of the recipient countries. It therefore strongly supported the emphasis placed by the UNDP Governing Council on that issue. It also supported the Council's recent decision reaffirming the resident co-ordinators' country-level co-ordinating responsibilities on behalf of the United Nations system and its emphasis on human resource development, and welcomed the establishment by the Administrator of a special task force within UNDP to advise him on the latter subject. The establishment of a focal point for short-term advisory services should make it possible to meet the vital needs for short-term skills in the productive sectors of many developing countries. Lastly, his delegation had always believed that in fund allocation and project selection under regional programmes, it was important to take sub-regional priorities and the peculiarities of each situation into account.

86. The establishment of the ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre was a welcome move which would enable ESCAP in future to respond more effectively to requests from island developing countries in the Pacific region. It had also opened the way for better and wider co-operation between ESCAP, the South Pacific Commission, the South Pacific Bureau for Economic Co-operation and the University of the South Pacific.

87. His delegation found the results of the latest Pledging Conference encouraging. In its own case, despite difficulties caused by the recent natural disasters, Fiji would maintain its voluntary contributions for 1986 at the same level as for 1985. Fiji strove so far as possible to practise self-help and not to call on outside assistance. However, it was very concerned at the harsh treatment meted out to some countries, including itself, in the matter of IPF ceilings. Fiji's IPF had remained the same for some 15 years, but its real value had declined by at least 60 to 70 per cent. In addition, only half of the IPF was being delivered, so the effect was serious. The fairness of such treatment and the justification of the basis for it were questionable.

88. His country appreciated the commendable efforts of the world community to provide prompt and effective relief in emergency situations, as it had done in Africa, Mexico and Colombia. However, for millions of people in the developing world, and particularly in the least developed countries, existence was a series of disasters which all deserved the same attention and assistance from the world community.

89. In conclusion, Fiji had always been a strong supporter of UNICEF, the United Nations Industrial Development Fund and UNFPA, whose activities were very useful

(Mr. Liqairi, Fiji)

for developing countries and to which Fiji made modest but regular contributions. It also supported the objectives of the United Nations volunteer programme, from which it had often benefited, especially in rural areas.

90. Mr. LEE (Canada) said that his delegation would like the Committee to discuss, under the item on operational activities for development, specific development policy issues. As a first contribution to the more thorough debate on the subject, in 1986, it wished to recall certain principles. First of all, the United Nations development system must develop a coherent set of objectives to which all parties adhered and the Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation must provide strong and effective leadership. Furthermore, the central funds, UNDP in particular, must have the financial and political backing of all parties. Moreover, recipient countries in terms of support in the field, and donor countries must play their role in a co-ordinated fashion. Finally, the system of country programming must be responsive to the priority needs of recipient countries and all executing agencies must operate with maximum efficiency. Those were the principles in the light of which the comprehensive policy review of 1986 should be conducted.

91. Another aspect of operational activities for development which should be addressed in the present debate was the question of their co-ordination. In that connection, his delegation regretted that the report of the Secretary-General did not deal with the need for greater co-ordination among United Nations agencies. However, there were a number of encouraging signs in that regard. One was the increasing co-operation among the four major funds, UNDP, WFP, UNICEF and UNFPA, through the co-ordination of joint policies. Another was the growing co-operation between UNDP and the World Bank. In-country meetings between multilateral and bilateral donors were a form of co-operation which should be encouraged, the more so because the development assistance system still suffered from the reluctance of some institutions to pursue real possibilities for co-ordination openly and actively. In that respect, his delegation questioned the ability of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to function effectively. One solution to the problem, as suggested by the Director-General, would be to request the governing bodies of the autonomous agencies to contribute their thinking on co-ordination to a general debate on the topic at the Economic and Social Council in the summer of 1986. On co-ordination, the overall strategy used by the United Nations system to respond to the crisis in Africa was a lesson which should not be forgotten.

92. With regard to Africa, two long-term goals must be kept in mind: to help Africa to anticipate and manage any future emergency situations better, and to put Africa on an economic path that would reverse the continent's recent decline. While his delegation supported the plan to dismantle the Office for Emergency Operations in Africa before the end of 1986 it believed that a means must be found to incorporate into UNDP and the operations of resident co-ordinators what might be called the corporate memory of the Office's experience. That experience had shown that greater emphasis should be put on the human resources element of the development equation. In other words, increasing people's well-being was both the means and the end of development.

(Mr. Lee, Canada)

93. Women were obviously an integral part of the development process, and his delegation considered it essential to ensure that the United Nations operational activities were reformed quickly to respond to the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies. It had been disappointed to see no reference to that issue in the statement by the Administrator of UNDP. Canada believed that the development institutions should develop new policies and plans for the integration of women in all aspects of their programmes, and should collect data to reflect the extent to which women were participating in and benefiting from development programmes. Canada had recently implemented a plan of action for the integration of women in development and expected similar action to be undertaken at the international level.

94. The Committee should also consider the problems of structural adjustment, the opportunities for involving the private sector, particularly voluntary agencies, and the need to diversify the economies of developing countries in order to reduce their dependence on commodities.

95. With regard to the financing of operational activities, the results of the last pledging conference were encouraging. On the other hand, the fact that a small number of countries financed those activities was cause for concern. Ten donors, including Canada, provided 80 per cent of the resources. In 1986, Canada would provide \$CAN 90 million for operational activities, which represented an increase of approximately 10 per cent. The 17 members of the Development Assistance Committee provided a total of 92 per cent of the resources. The recipient countries provided almost all of the remaining 8 per cent. The contribution of the members of the Group of Eastern European States was negligible. It might well be asked on what basis those Governments were participating in the debate. Since they were neither recipients nor contributors, their status should perhaps be merely that of observers.

96. With regard to the allocation of resources, Canada noted with satisfaction that expenditures for sub-Saharan Africa had continued to grow and that the least developed countries and other groups of low-income countries were being given an increasingly important place.

97. His delegation would continue to give strong support to UNICEF, one of the main development funds. A method of integrating the management and accounting of its three types of activities, namely the regular programme, the supplementary funded activities and emergency activities should be devised. Canada also attached great importance to the child-immunization campaign launched by UNICEF in co-operation with WHO. It intended to set aside at least \$25 million in addition to its contribution to the General Fund of UNICEF.

98. With regard to UNDP, his delegation expressed satisfaction at the outcome of the negotiations on the fourth programming cycle. As it had demonstrated at the pledging conference, Canada was prepared to do its utmost to ensure the viability of the agreement on the fourth cycle. It also considered that the working group should meet in the near future so that the Committee of the Whole could realistically evaluate programming needs before the next session of the Governing Council.

(Mr. Lee, Canada)

99. Lastly, he conveyed his delegation's sincere gratitude to Mr. Bradford Morse for his unparalleled contribution to UNDP. During his term as Administrator, UNDP had vigorously recovered from difficult periods and, when he withdrew from UNDP in 1986 Mr. Morse would leave behind him a sound and healthy organization, well run and firmly rooted in the spirit and practice of multilateralism.

100. Mr. PAYTON (New Zealand) welcomed the results of the pledging conference of the previous week. UNDP had been one of the main recipients of the development assistance promised at the conference. The pledges to UNDP had exceeded the target of \$700 million anticipated for 1986 in UNDP Governing Council decision 85/16. That meant that the fourth programming cycle could begin on a solid basis. It also showed that there was a firm bond between donor and recipient Governments. The result was particularly gratifying, in view of the fact that there had been no guarantee that the goal of \$700 million would be achieved, and it showed that the international community had risen to the challenge.

101. Governing Council decision 85/17 provided for the establishment of a working group to assist the Committee of the Whole in carrying out its programming functions. Although that matter had been under consideration since June 1985, the working group had still not been established, for which he shared the disappointment expressed by a large number of representatives. All member countries, donors and recipients alike, should undertake to set up the working group at the very latest during the Governing Council's organizational session in February 1986. It should be kept in mind that the Governing Council in 1986 must assess the work of the Committee of the Whole, of which the working group was supposed to be an integral part. The Governing Council must therefore be able to evaluate the work of the working group even if in its early stages. The working group would have to become operational well before June for that to be done.

102. Although the pledge made by Tokelau to UNDP might seem modest, it should be kept in mind that in the South Pacific region the volume of resources called for was not great. Above all, the assistance should be relevant and be provided by experts who could understand the needs of the region. In an organization with almost 160 members, needs would always be different. The Governing Council and its Committee of the Whole would therefore have to be flexible in reviewing the more than 40 country programmes in 1986.

103. With regard to the activities of UNICEF, his country fully supported the immunization campaign for all children launched by UNICEF in co-operation with WHO and other development agencies. Although New Zealand had been unable to announce the amount of its contribution to UNICEF at the last pledging conference, it confirmed its intention to provide strong support for UNICEF. It had recently channelled part of its contribution for emergency relief in Africa through the Fund.

104. In view of the fact that the earth's population would continue to increase at an unprecedented rate for many years to come, the importance of UNFPA could not be doubted. It was gratifying to note that the contributions pledged in 1985 for the

(Mr. Payton, New Zealand)

Fund were approximately 13 per cent higher than those of the previous year. Unfortunately that increase would not compensate for the shortfall in resources resulting from the decision taken by one of the main contributors to UNFPA to reduce considerably its contribution for 1985 and to delay its contribution to the Fund for activities to be carried out in 1986. It was to be hoped that the serious financial crisis brought about by that decision could be resolved to the satisfaction of all parties concerned. His delegation was firmly committed to the principle that each State was free to determine its population policy and was aware that UNFPA also endorsed that principle.

105. The CHAIRMAN said that Ecuador had joined the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/40/L.35, and that Denmark, Liberia and Uganda had joined the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/40/L.41.

The meeting rose at 7.20 p.m.