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Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Wednesday, 22 October 1986, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. OGOUMA (Benin)
(Vice-President)

later: Mr. KNIPPING-VICTORIA (Dominican Republic)
(Vice-President)

- Critical economic situation in Africa: Report of the Secretary-General [29]
(continued)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

In the absence of the President, Mr. Oguma (Benin), Vice-President, took the Chair.

AGENDA ITEM 29 (continued)

CRITICAL ECONOMIC SITUATION IN AFRICA: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/41/683)

Mr. KIKUCHI (Japan): May I express again my heartfelt condolences and profound sympathy on behalf of the Government and people of Japan on the tragic loss of President Samora Machel. Although I said this before, I should like to repeat it because the present agenda item before us does concern the African continent and President Machel was one of its eminent leaders.

The drought-induced famine emergency that affected much of the African continent is now over. So states the status report issued recently by the Office for Emergency Operations in Africa on the emergency situation there as of 1 September 1986.

It is indeed encouraging to note that the nations of Africa have succeeded in extricating themselves from the immediate crisis they faced, as it is clearly their determination and the corresponding co-operation of the international community that have enabled them to do so. They were aided in this by the rainfall that covered much of the African continent in 1985-1986, which made possible a dramatic recovery in food production in most countries and an end to the famine. Nevertheless, there remain many serious problems to solve.

The status report of the Office for Emergency Operations in Africa (OEOA) states that the famine had its roots in the poverty and underdevelopment of the low-income countries of Africa. The devastating impact of the African crisis is clear proof of the fragility and vulnerability of the underlying socio-economic structures, and therefore it is imperative to find and implement effectively lasting solutions to Africa's chronic and structural economic problems.

(Mr. Rikuchi, Japan)

When the United Nations held its special session on Africa in May this year, it was the first time in its history that it had devoted a special session of the General Assembly to the economic problems of one particular continent. In his report the Secretary-General said:

"The recent special session of the General Assembly on the critical economic situation in Africa showed in a most positive way the results that can be achieved through multilateral co-operation when commonly agreed objectives are brought into a cohesive multilateral approach." (A/41/1, p. 7)

Japan regards the United Nations special session as a great success, in that the nations of Africa and the international community both committed themselves there to the cause of the economic recovery and development of that continent. The special session also provided new momentum and better prospects for further realistic and constructive dialogue between North and South.

Japan, which felt the most profound sympathy for Africa as it passed through its harrowing crisis, played an active role in the special session, and I believe it made a very positive contribution to the elaboration and adoption of "the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990," which is a concrete answer to the greatest and most urgent challenge facing the countries of Africa today. Japan particularly welcomed the unanimous adoption of the Programme of Action, which it believes contains very useful medium- and long-term guidelines for the self-reliant development efforts of the African countries, and for international support for those efforts. Moreover, the countries of Africa confirm in the Programme that primary responsibility for the development of the continent rests with them.

However, adoption of the Programme of Action is only a first step. The truly important thing is to follow it up with full and effective implementation.

(Mr. Kikuchi, Japan)

On the basis of the guidelines and goals of the Programme of Action, Japan, for its part, is determined to contribute positively to Africa's medium and long-term development. In particular, it intends to support efforts to promote agricultural development in Africa so that it may become self-sufficient in foodstuffs.

Now I should like to touch on agriculture. I fully agree with the priority given to agriculture in the Programme of Action, in which it is regarded as the foundation for any sound development plan, because there can be no doubt that agriculture, especially the production of food, remains of paramount importance to the economies of the nations of Africa. I cannot emphasize this point too much. I am aware that nowadays the African countries themselves attach special importance to agricultural development not only because it will help them to avoid future disastrous famines, but also because it will help to increase the purchasing power of the farmers who constitute the bulk of Africa's population, enhance the infrastructure of the rural economy, and increase the participation of rural populations in the process of putting the economy of their country on a sound footing.

(Mr. Kikuchi, Japan)

In passing I might add that that was exactly the process that the Japanese economy traversed after the Second World War.

There can be no doubt that for the African countries to achieve sustained economic and social development over the medium and long term it is vital to effect a transformation of their economic and social infrastructures. In this I believe the development of human resources has a key role to play. The efficient development and utilization of human resources is essential to improve and strengthen infrastructures and thereby further advance economic and social development.

Training an individual so that he or she will be able to participate fully and effectively in the overall national development process is vitally important, particularly in Africa. Indeed, Japan regards the development of human resources - in other words, training - as essential to its own development and socio-economic stability. Accordingly, it will strengthen its co-operation in the field of human resources development in Africa. It has already increased its financial contributions to the various international organizations involved in assistance activities in Africa.

For this fiscal year, the Government of Japan has decided to increase its voluntary contributions to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) by about 12 per cent compared with the last fiscal year, to a total of approximately \$200 million. We estimate that approximately 30 per cent of that amount will be directed to activities relating to Africa. In addition, in view of the importance to African countries of achieving

(Mr. Kikuchi, Japan)

growth-oriented and market-oriented structural improvements on a medium-term and long-term basis, Japan welcomes the establishment of the Structural Adjustment Facility of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and has contributed to the fund of that Facility. For the same reason, Japan believes in the importance of realizing the Eighth Replenishment of the International Development Association (IDA) at a level of \$1.2 billion and has announced its readiness to make further subscriptions to the Association's funds.

In the aforementioned OEOA status reports, the critical situations calling for the closest attention and the greatest assistance include a major threat that is developing at present in some 15 countries throughout Africa in the form of a threatened infestation by swarms of grasshoppers and locusts. According to the FAO, a total area of 2.5 million acres is in immediate danger of locust and grasshopper infestation and up to 6 million acres may require control operations if their spread is to be stopped. Again according to FAO estimates a total expenditure of \$US 23 million for the three-year period from 1986 through 1988 will be required to implement activities to control those pests. Those activities include investigating and monitoring areas infested or in danger of becoming infested, and providing airplanes and such other means of transportation as are needed to disseminate pesticides. In the light of this situation, my Government has contributed a total of \$1.2 million in the last four years to the FAO control operation project. In view of the increasingly urgent need to control this threat now, my Government is considering increasing its contribution for the 1987 fiscal year.

In the light of the significant improvement in the drought-related emergency situation in Africa, the Office for Emergency Operations in Africa will finish its work shortly, after having helped immeasurably to achieve that result. I should like to express my profound appreciation and respect to the Office.

(Mr. Kikuchi, Japan)

As the report of the Secretary-General on the Critical Economic Situation in Africa (A/41/683) states, one of the most important lessons we have learned from the OEOA is how essential it is to have fast and accurate information on emergency needs. The collection, analysis and dissemination of information was one of the most valuable services rendered by the OEOA. An individual donor country is often in virtual ignorance as to what other donor countries are doing, and it may likewise lack adequate and precise information on the many needs of recipient countries. When information is not available or not adequate, the assistance is likely to be inappropriate or duplicative. In this respect, the OEOA has made valuable contributions to emergency needs by providing the necessary information in its status reports, which donor countries have found most reliable and indispensable for the formulation of effective assistance programmes.

The OEOA has also contributed significantly to co-ordination of the efforts of the United Nations system. In any such large-scale emergency operation it is essential to have a single focal point for leadership and co-ordination within the United Nations organizations. In this instance we had the OEOA at Headquarters and the Resident Co-ordinators, Special Representatives of the Secretary-General and other related organs at the field level. The assistance they rendered in the difficult task of co-ordination was indeed invaluable.

It is clear from the response of the United Nations system to the economic crisis in Africa that the system can play an effective role in promoting international co-ordination and co-operation. Japan believes that if the United Nations system is to respond with equal success to future emergencies of this scale and nature, more stress must be placed on achieving a co-ordinated, efficient, inter-agency approach within the system. It is imperative that in mounting another such system-wide operation we should remember the lessons learned from the OEOA.

(Mr. Kikuchi, Japan)

Africa is a continent of enormous potential and promise. The resources, both natural and human, with which that vast continent is endowed are waiting to be harnessed.

It is by no means over-optimistic to believe that, given this abundance of human and natural resources, the countries of Africa, will be able, with the support of the international community, to overcome their difficulties and resume the path of self-reliant and eventually self-sustaining development.

Mr. PEJIC (Yugoslavia): It is a great pleasure and honour for me to speak on this important item on behalf of the Group of 77.

However, before I do so I should like, on behalf of the Group of 77, once again to express our deep sadness, sorrow and grief at the untimely and tragic death of the President of Mozambique, Mr. Samora Machel, who was an outstanding freedom fighter and statesman of Africa and, indeed, the whole world. We in the Group of 77 and in the Non-Aligned Movement feel that we have lost not only a friend but also an outstanding statesman who understood the urges of modern times for freedom, independence and development. On behalf of the Group of 77, I should like to convey our deepest condolences to the peoples and Government of Mozambique and to the family of the deceased.

Ever since the first signs of the dramatic deterioration of the situation in Africa, the Group has rendered firm support to African countries and their efforts to alleviate the devastating consequences of the crisis and to overcome it.

The support was reflected in the direct participation of the developing countries in rendering concrete assistance to African countries, as well as in activities within the United Nations, particularly in the General Assembly.

The recent meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 noted with satisfaction that during the special session of the General Assembly on the critical economic situation in Africa the international community recognized the need to provide the additional external resources necessary for Africa's economic recovery. The Ministers appealed to the international community and regional and inter-regional financial and monetary institutions urgently to mobilize the necessary funds and take appropriate measures for the total and effective implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990.

(Mr. Pejic, Yugoslavia)

The efforts that the international community is investing in overcoming the critical economic situation in Africa should be intensified, since the economic crisis persists in most of the affected countries. Emergency assistance is of greatest importance since human lives are involved. However, the tragic situation in Africa and the tremendous human suffering did not result from drought alone. The adverse external economic environment has also been affecting the African countries with equally devastating consequences. The clear relationship that exists between emergency, recovery and rehabilitation activities is, therefore, rightly underlined. Unless the present efforts of the African countries are fully supported by the international community to assist them to meet their emergency needs, recovery, growth and development prospects will remain extremely remote.

It is therefore exceptionally important that in paragraph 9 of resolution 40/40 the Secretary-General is requested

"to continue to monitor the emergency situation, to assess the needs and responses, to maintain the system's capacity to respond to the continuing emergency in the affected countries, and to report to the General Assembly at its forty-first session".

The African countries are certainly the most qualified to assess all the results achieved so far. The report of the Secretary-General provides a good basis for that and, together with the practical experiences of African Governments, will help us get a clearer picture of what has been done.

The conclusions to be drawn from this debate will be of the utmost importance both for the further efforts of the international community to assist African countries and for the improvement of the mechanism and procedure in the handling of large-scale emergency assistance programmes in general.

(Mr. Pejic, Yugoslavia)

It can be inferred from the report that the Office for Emergency Operations in Africa has been successful in carrying out its tasks. It is regrettable, that the resource mobilization process, for example, was not a success in every respect, but it is to be hoped, that the lost ground can soon be made up.

It can be seen from the report that much has been done in respect of the international response, although much still remains to be done in order to meet the emergency needs in various sectors, as was explained in the statement made this morning by the representative of Congo on behalf of the African Group.

As in many other cases dealt with within the United Nations, the critical economic situation in Africa has clearly shown that, had certain steps been undertaken while the crisis was building up, its negative impact would have been lessened to a considerable extent. The United Nations has no special early warning system. However, it cannot be said that basically the appropriate attention of the international community was not, and is not being drawn in various ways to all major problems. The truth of the matter is that the most frequent cause of its turning a deaf ear to such warnings has been the lack of political readiness to act.

Emergency assistance was rendered to Africa when it found itself in a critical economic situation. But it still remains to be seen when and whether anything at all will be done in order to improve the present adverse external economic environment which is seriously affecting African countries, as well as other developing countries. The doubts remain, although it is recognized that the emergency assistance, however needed and necessary, cannot by itself help Africa overcome its difficulties. It is not enough to say that emergency assistance needs to be provided in ways that are directly supportive both of recovery and of long-term development. This is certainly necessary, but separate international

(Mr. Pejic, Yugoslavia)

measures are also necessary to deal with debt, commodities, finance, protectionism and other important interrelated problems.

Let me reaffirm here the support of the Group of 77 for the appeal by the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in favour of the convening of an international conference on the external debt of African countries.

The African countries are aware that the development of their continent is their prime responsibility. They have taken and continue to take painful measures of readjustment, which are not without their political and social consequences. However, the economic and social crisis is of such proportion, that they cannot overcome it alone. In addition, African countries have very little or no influence on the solution of most of the problems with which they are faced. Therefore, there is not only a need but also an obligation on the international community to assist African countries.

Equally important and deserving of particular mention is the fact that many African countries are victims of the continuous aggression of the minority racist régime in South Africa. Crimes committed against the people of South Africa, the illegal occupation of Namibia and the continuous aggression against the front-line States by the racist régime of Pretoria constitute a violation of all norms and principles of international law and a shameful page in the history of civilization. The material damage sustained and the defence expenditures imposed upon the Governments and peoples of those countries are an enormous burden on their economies. Only when the racist régime is eliminated will the peoples and countries of southern Africa be able to dedicate themselves to solving the pressing problems of economic and social development.

(Mr. Pejic, Yugoslavia)

In conclusion, I should like to express the conviction of the Group of 77 that the spirit of co-operation and international solidarity will manifest itself even more in the future and that the international community will undertake measures which will help African countries to overcome the critical economic and social situation and thus contribute to the strengthening of peace and international co-operation.

Mr. ABULHASAN (Kuwait) (interpretation from Arabic): At the outset I wish to extend to friendly Mozambique, through its delegation, our condolences on the tragedy that has befallen it, which has claimed the lives of President Samora Machel and a number of his companions. The late President was not only a national hero, but a hero for the whole of Africa and for the cause of the development of the whole developing world. During his presidency he struggled to achieve political stability and economic security for his country and extended a helping hand to liberation movements in Africa. We believe that the friendly people of Mozambique will be able to overcome their present pain and difficulty and continue along their path with the late President's spirit and wisdom and with the same approach.

A few months have passed since the convening of the thirteenth special session of the General Assembly, devoted to the critical economic situation in Africa, at which the Assembly adopted the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990, and the international community is still unable to translate the momentum that grew out of that session into practical and concrete steps that measure up to the magnitude of the problem and the African economic reality, which is emerging as one of the urgent issues of our time.

Yet there is a glimmer of hope in the African determination to continue the drive to realize the continent's just demands and to utilize its domestic and international potential with considerable intelligence and political wisdom and maturity.

Kuwait has always been anxious to be in the forefront of those States that support the friendly African peoples in their economic plight. That has been, and still is being, achieved through both official and private channels. My delegation is happy today to renew our commitment to maintain such assistance in all its political, financial and material forms, and on the largest scale allowed by our

(Mr. Abulhasan, Kuwait)

resources, which have been affected by a 40 per cent drop in oil revenues. The assistance is being channelled through the Kuwait Fund for Economic Development, through the Joint Relief Commission of Kuwait, which was established in direct response to the urgent need that emerged after the recent catastrophes of drought and desertification that struck the continent, and through other Kuwaiti financial institutions that provide various forms of technical assistance.

Kuwait also extends its aid to Africa through the African Development Bank, the Islamic Development Bank, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) Fund for International Development, the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa, and the African Development Fund. It is also being channelled through many agencies within the United Nations system, such as the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the World Food Programme (WFP), the International Development Association (IDA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). This is a duty my country is honoured to carry out and for which it will spare no effort, for in doing so it is motivated by its Arab, Islamic identity and by the ingrained solidarity that binds the Arabs to their African brothers and the non-aligned countries.

Africa's image as a needy continent is an erroneous one that should be rectified, for Africa is a continent rich in material and human resources, and the release of its potential would not only realize the African peoples' hopes and ambitions, but would also greatly contribute to the socio-economic prosperity of the whole world.

The African countries fully recognize that responsibility for their economic revival rests primarily on their own shoulders, and that international aid, no matter how great, can only supplement their own endeavours and sacrifices. That perception was clearly reflected in the latest African summit conference. We

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commend the determination of the African countries to restructure their economies and introduce the appropriate political reforms to ensure the attraction of foreign capital, the establishment of joint ventures with other countries and of the atmosphere of confidence and stability that is always required for investment capital.

Kuwait stresses the fact that local resources must participate effectively with foreign resources, for without the former, maintenance of the latter cannot be guaranteed. On the other hand, we believe that the African countries should not be left alone in that process, because of the great sacrifices their participation will require. However, if the international community assists in a realistic way, their suffering will diminish and it will be possible to avoid delay, which might eventually hurt everyone.

Kuwait appeals to the developed countries in particular to make their contribution to the programmes drawn up for that purpose a principal objective of their policy. Failure to meet that obligation would not only deny the African States the opportunity to lay the foundations of lasting development, but deny the rest of the world the advantages that would result from that development for the good of all mankind.

Despite the relatively positive positions recently adopted by some industrialized nations towards the situation in Africa, their overall response is still far below the required level; by no means does it come close to the target designated in Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery. We urge the countries of the north to provide enough resources to meet part of the cost of that Programme.

(Mr. Abulhasan, Kuwait)

Recently, India scored a significant victory over the spectre of famine that had been haunting its great people. India's experience is an outstanding example of success which the African peoples should follow and from which they could derive inspiration in their difficult struggle for development. We have the deep conviction that the current economic plight will give way to an improvement in the utilization of both local and external resources and to progress in economic management methods among the continent's friendly nations, whose gross national products we have seen, regrettably, declining constantly for six years now.

Last month the Secretary-General announced arrangements to implement the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990, adopted by a special session of the General Assembly earlier this year. We are gratified to note that as, part of those arrangements, a group of eminent persons will assume the task of enlisting the support of various bodies of the world Organization in helping African Governments to adjust their policies, as well as the task of mobilizing world public opinion on behalf of the Programme's objectives.

The leaders of the African countries gave a great impetus to the United Nations Programme of Action when, at their latest summit conference, they reaffirmed their commitment to the Programme and their determination to implement it, and established a special mechanism within the Organization of African Unity (OAU) to follow up the implementation.

In addition to this nascent, but diligent, endeavour, the African Ministers of Agriculture took another step forward when they met last month, under the auspices of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), to consider the possibilities of contributing to the implementation of the Programme of Action in the agricultural sector, with a view to achieving effective progress in that vital field - a decisive element in any development plan. In that connection, we take

(Mr. Abulhasan, Kuwait)

considerable satisfaction in the increasing attention that the African and donor States and the multilateral institutions have begun to pay to agriculture and food self-sufficiency in their political decision-making processes, since development policies and strategies had for a number of years denied them the proper position in the scale of priorities. That is a shortcoming shared by many other developing countries.

In addition to the problem of natural disasters, including drought and desertification, there are other persistent realities and facts that in one way or another affect the prospects for the success of our endeavours for economic recovery and development in that continent - namely, the debt burden and insufficient official assistance from industrial nations, as well as adverse global financial and trade conditions, high interest rates, falling prices of primary commodities, and protectionism, which continue to obstruct exporting by the South.

We cannot fail to refer here to the only colonialist remnant in the African continent - that is, Namibia, under the domination of the racist Pretoria régime - or to the grave consequences that this régime's persistent, unchanged policies have on the economic situation of the oppressed majorities in South Africa and Namibia and the peoples of the front-line States. We do not really need to emphasize the obvious fact that the racist burden that weighs so heavily on South Africa impedes Africa's development process in direct and indirect ways. We need only mention here the plundering of the region's wealth and the stifling of the region's human resources either because of wars imposed on them or because the toiling millions are enslaved in lowly jobs and restricted to oppressive living conditions that allow for no progress or development.

(Mr. Abulhasan, Kuwait)

As we have often stated in the past, in these efforts we must be determined not to let questions of political rivalry between the Western and Eastern blocs be foisted upon the African development question, which does not belong in the arena of that conflict.

We have profound hopes that in the near future we shall see an African continent that has achieved food self-sufficiency and has taken great strides towards economic recovery, in preparation for the assumption of its natural role as a major contributor to world economic growth.

Mr. OTT (German Democratic Republic): Before I make my statement on the present agenda item, I wish to express the heartfelt condolences of the people of the German Democratic Republic to the delegation and people of Mozambique on the tragic death of President Samora Machel. Africa has lost one of its most courageous leaders. We mourn a close friend of the German Democratic Republic, whose contribution to the struggle for the liberation and independence of all peoples will never be forgotten.

In connection with the joint statement of the Socialist States delivered at this morning's meeting by the Chairman of our Group, Ambassador Maksimov, the delegation of the German Democratic Republic would like to underline the following.

The critical economic situation in Africa is indeed a challenge to the entire international community. Experience teaches us that it is important to deal with Africa's problems in their entirety.

The Programme of Action adopted at the thirteenth special session of the General Assembly is without any doubt a significant step in that direction. The Programme's detailed stipulations and proposals underline that the stable development of the African continent is an essential prerequisite to peace and

(Mr. Ott, German Democratic Republic)

security in the world at large, just as peace, security and international co-operation are basic pre-conditions for the prospering of economic development in Africa. At the same time, the present critical economic situation in Africa makes it abundantly clear that there exists an objective relationship between armament and underdevelopment, between weapons and famine. The arms race devours financial and material resources which, if applied for peaceful purposes, could save millions of people from starvation and banish famine and malnutrition from the world for ever.

(Mr. Ott, German Democratic Republic)

Since 1984 the United Nations has made great efforts to overcome the critical economic situation in Africa. This is especially true of mitigation of the adverse effects of drought in the countries in the Sahel zone. The results of this endeavour furnish proof of the Organization's vitality and its weight in mastering the great tasks of our time, provided there is the relevant political willingness of all those concerned. In this context we should like to pay a tribute to the personal initiatives of the Secretary-General. His report submitted under agenda item 29 is an eloquent expression of this positive work. The manifold activities undertaken by the Office for Emergency Operations in Africa have supported the famine and drought-stricken African States in their struggle effectively to improve the situation.

Development programmes, however thoroughly prepared they may be, can be successfully implemented only if one gets down to the roots of the difficult situation. The African States rightfully attribute the exacerbation of their situation to the fact that they do not have a position of equality under the system of the capitalist world economy. This inequality runs counter to their efforts to overcome the legacy of colonialism and achieve genuine economic independence. Foreign indebtedness, the policy of high interest rates, fluctuations in exchange rates, worsened terms of trade, the net outflow of resources, and other practices of neo-colonialist exploitation load the African States with unbearable burdens. With a debt of \$US 170 billion, their share amounts to approximately one sixth of the total foreign indebtedness of developing countries. The debt burden is multiplied by the unfavourable economic infrastructures of the African countries and their strong dependence on commodity exports. Debt servicing has assumed dimensions the effects of which are comparable to those on the main debtor countries. To pay off its debts Africa has to give an ever-growing portion of its national product to Western creditors, particularly transnational banks. This is

(Mr. Ott, German Democratic Republic)

what prevents the implementation of the national development programmes and stands in the way of the long-term recovery of the economic situation. Therefore, we support the proposal to convene an international conference on the indebtedness of Africa.

A serious obstacle to the normal development of many African States is still the policy pursued by the racist régime in South Africa. For many African States, especially the front-line States, this policy causes immense economic damage. Many representatives of Member States rightly pointed out that fact in the general debate at the present session. No one can honestly discuss the solution of the economic problems of African States without demanding that effective steps be taken against the policy of apartheid. What is called for is mandatory sanctions in conformity with Chapter VII of the Charter.

Thus, the fact that capitalist countries continue their collaboration with the South African racist régime is all the more to be condemned. Their motives are only too well known. Transnational corporations draw huge profits from that collaboration. The updated Khalifa report provides enough evidence to prove that fact and it discloses who the main collaborators of the racists are.

The Programme of Action adopted by the thirteenth special session of the General Assembly, the Lagos Plan of Action, the decisions adopted at the twenty-second summit conference of the Organization of African Unit (OAU) and at the eighth summit Conference of non-aligned countries, held in Harare, demonstrate the determination of the African States to take decisive measures for their social and economic development. The German Democratic Republic supports these efforts. Relevant information is contained in the report of the Secretary-General.

I shall now present a few facts about our solidarity with and assistance to African countries. From 1983 to 1985 alone the assistance of the German Democratic

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Republic to African States and national liberation movements amounted to 1.5 billion marks. It was used, above all, for promoting industry and agriculture, for training cadres and developing health and social services. Forty-one African States received assistance from the German Democratic Republic. In the same period of time, 9,450 nationals of those countries received vocational training in the German Democratic Republic and more than 2,200 graduated at universities and technical colleges in the German Democratic Republic. Nine hundred and sixty experts financed by the German Democratic Republic have been assigned to African countries. The supply of complete industrial plants, the construction of efficient projects in agriculture and crafts, and the installation of health and social services facilities are a constituent part of our co-operation with African States. My country has also participated in the immediate provision of emergency assistance.

Together with other Member States of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, my country will continue to contribute to the implementation of the Programme of Action adopted at the thirteenth special session of the General Assembly. Our assistance is aimed at the complex and balanced development of the economic potential of our African partners. It is free from exploitation and discrimination and from overt or covert interference in internal affairs. This will be our attitude also in the future.

To find definitive answers to Africa's questions and initiate effective steps towards remedying the situation is of general - indeed, of urgent - significance. Peace can be stable only when it is stable in all parts of the world, when it is based on the equal and constructive co-operation of all peoples and States. The pre-conditions of the real solution of the economic problems with which the African countries are faced are reliable security for all countries and peoples, peaceful

(Mr. Ott, German Democratic
Republic)

conditions for their development and social progress and the elimination of all forms of economic aggression in international economic relations.

The proposals regarding the establishment of a comprehensive system of international peace and security, including international economic security, as submitted by the socialist States, serve this objective.

At their recent meeting in Bucharest, the Warsaw Treaty member States again called for the convening of a world forum which would discuss:

"as a complex, economic security, the establishment of a new international economic order, the development of commercial, scientific and technological co-operation, as well as the elimination of all burdens on international economic relations".

All States should show the relevant political will to create the conditions required for the guaranteed economic security of States. Such a system would be of vital significance also for the African States in reversing the development trends in Africa, turning them in a positive direction and guaranteeing durable economic security.

Mr. NOWORYTA (Poland): Allow me first to extend to the delegation of the People's Republic of Mozambique and through it to the Government and people of that country and the bereaved families our most sincere condolences on the tragic and untimely death of President Samora Machel and his companions. President Machel will be remembered by all of us as the man who led his country to independence, a great son of Africa and a worthy and respected contributor to the world's endeavours to achieve peace, security, social justice and human dignity.

The general position of my delegation concerning the critical economic situation in Africa and the results of the thirteenth special session of the General Assembly was fully reflected in the statement by the representative of the Byelorussian SSR made on behalf of the Group of Socialist States. Therefore permit me to refer only to some topics which, in the view of my delegation, deserve special attention.

The question of the critical economic and social situation in Africa has made us realize the great complexity and magnitude of the problems, whose solution poses an enormous challenge to the international community. It is necessary to expedite the elimination of endogenous and exogenous factors which over the years have constituted the root of the problem. The debate has helped in drawing up and reviewing a detailed inventory of these factors and the underlying mechanisms.

The non-aligned States eloquently recalled in Harare the major causes which led to the present crisis: the accentuation of structural imbalances and inequities in the existing international division of labour, the breakdown of the international payment system, huge external indebtedness, resort to unilateral, coercive and discriminatory economic policies and practices, colonialism, apartheid, racism, foreign aggression, exploitation and destabilization.

This assessment applies especially to the African continent, where remnants of colonialism and neo-colonial practices continue to distort economic structures and where apartheid and the Pretoria régime's aggressive policies against neighbouring

(Mr. Noworyta, Poland)

countries distract their attention and resources from development efforts. Poland, which has itself experienced the detrimental effects of an inclement international economic environment, including discriminatory restrictions on political grounds, understands the situation of the African countries and expresses its profound sympathy for and solidarity with their peoples.

We wish on this occasion to express our appreciation for the work carried out in Africa by the international organizations of the United Nations system. No less than 14 organs and units of the United Nations and 13 specialized agencies have been active in Africa in practically all economic and social spheres, providing emergency and technical and humanitarian assistance. We believe that the role of these international bodies will become more important and their methods of work become diversified as a result of the accumulated experience and the implementation of the resolutions adopted at the special session of the General Assembly.*

It is important that this assistance be provided in accordance with the principles of the United Nations Charter and the decisions of the relevant intergovernmental bodies and with full respect for the sovereignty of the assisted countries and their right to choose their models of social and economic development and to exercise control over their natural resources.

The United Nations agencies might wish to explore various new possibilities for mobilizing assistance in terms of expertise, training, technology and know-how, research and services on favourable and concessional terms. We are of the opinion that many countries might be willing to consider some form of participation in the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990 through international organizations. Voluntary contributions in national

*Mr. Knipping-Victoria (Dominican Republic), Vice-President, took the Chair.

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currencies to the account of the United Nations agencies could be looked at as an immediate source of financing or co-financing for individual assistance programmes. We are of the opinion that tapping this source of funding would be worth trying for the benefit of the developing countries concerned and international economic co-operation in general.

Let me refer to one example, namely, a new paradigm for African development emerging in Ethiopia called "guided transmission training". This new method, elaborated with the participation of Polish experts on management training, permits the training of 10 to 20 times the number of people and the providing of consultancy to many more organizations than conventional training methods permit. The point is not to limit the training to improving the skills of the trainees, welcome as this is. The core of the new method consists of teaching the trainees how to obtain economic results, such as production growth or savings in import inputs, in their workplace within 6 to 10 months and how to transmit the freshly acquired knowledge to their counterparts. A United Nations Industrial Development Organization conference on industrial training for maintenance for the African region held in Nairobi in June 1986 recommended the application of the method successfully tested in Ethiopia by other African countries.

Further consideration might be given by the United Nations agencies to the idea put forward by the Polish delegation during the thirteenth special session of the General Assembly, namely, the possibility of adopting the principle of free transfer of experience, technology and know-how and policies and organizational solutions related to the question of production, processing and storage of food. This matter might be of relevance in view of the focus of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development on agriculture and food production. Moreover, the concept corresponds with the principles of the

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Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition adopted by the World Food Conference on 16 November 1974. Principle 8 of that Declaration stated the following:

"All countries, and primarily the highly industrialized countries, should promote the advancement of food production technology, and the transfer, adaptation and dissemination of appropriate food production technology for the benefit of the developing countries ..." (E/CONF.65/20, p. 2, para. 8)

Mr. ZVEZDIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I wish first, on behalf of the Soviet delegation, to join all those that today again have expressed their sincere, profound condolences on the untimely death of the great fighter for the freedom and independence of Africa, the President of the People's Republic of Mozambique, Mr. Samora Moises Machel.

Our basic position on the results of the special session of the General Assembly on the critical economic situation in Africa was outlined today in the statement made by the representative of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic on behalf of the socialist countries. I should like now to make some additional points.

The socio-economic crisis in the African countries has attained such proportions as to arouse deep concern not only in Africa itself but throughout the entire world community. The crisis has threatened the future of economic development in the African countries and the lives of millions upon millions of people living in Africa. The famine that hit 21 States in 1984-1985 was a tragedy that led to the death of many hundreds of thousands of people, and at the same time was the most acute manifestation of the dire socio-economic problems facing the continent. The accumulation of these problems was due to internal and external factors, but while the former were relatively thoroughly analysed during the thirteenth special session of the General Assembly, the latter were not sufficiently covered, and this is reflected in the final document of the special session.

In our view, no country, however large, can avoid the impact of certain tendencies influencing the world economy. This is particularly true of the African countries, with their narrow agrarian commodities type specialization in the international division of labour. The heavy dependence of the African continent on the capitalist economic system is clearly seen, for example, in the greatest fall

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in world community prices in the past 30 years; the continuing relatively high level of interest rates; the increasing protectionism in trade, which for African countries means the escalation of their foreign indebtedness; the growth of deficits in their trade balances; the drop in investment resources; the reduction of socio-economic programmes; and ultimately the overall deterioration in the living standards of the African peoples.

Although not much time has elapsed since the special session, developments have shown that unless all international trade and economic relations are normalized the African countries will scarcely be able to mobilize the internal resources necessary to finance the Organization of African Unity (OAU) African Priority Programme for the Economic Recovery of Africa for the period 1986-1990.

The external debt of the African countries continues to grow despite a certain fall in nominal interest rates. The prices for basic African export commodities, as we have seen from the calculations of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and of the specialized agencies, are stagnating or continuing to fall. According to the assessment of experts in the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations, 75 to 90 per cent of the world capitalist trade in basic African export commodities is controlled by about 15 transnational corporations. As a result, the producers receive only 6 per cent of the value of the tobacco they sell, 3 to 15 per cent in the case of cotton, 15 per cent in the case of the value of bananas and 25 per cent in the case of skins and leather. According to the United Nations Secretariat, the economic growth rate of African countries will be 1 per cent lower in 1986 than it was last year, amounting to only 1.6 per cent.

All this shows that the underlying causes of this crisis persist. Now that Africa has confronted the need to take radical steps to accelerate its economic

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growth and thus resolve its social problems, the burden of the continent's colonial past stands out more clearly than ever before. For centuries in the colonial era the colonizers reproduced in Africa the pre-industrial type of labour and preserved pre-colonial traditional relations and the process of reforming the national economies was set back many years. Unfortunately, it is not possible simply to obliterate Africa's colonial past. Its peoples and the entire international community are compelled to resolve the continent's problems as they exist now.

Evaluating the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, adopted by the special session of the General Assembly from that standpoint, I should like to state the following.

There is no doubt that the improvement in agricultural production is crucial in the medium term, but world experience has shown that without a thorough reform of the technological basis the expansion of agricultural production will be very limited. Bearing in mind the demographic situation of the continent and the limited investment potential, it is quite clear that without further industrialization this problem will remain acute, especially since the potential for extensive development of agriculture has been practically exhausted. The Lagos Plan of Action and the Priority Programme of the OAU refer quite rightly to the crucial importance of industrialization for resolving a whole range of problems that the continent is facing today. It is possible to review industrialization priorities, but to expect that without industrialization and simply by using imports all the accumulated problems with which the African countries have been trying to deal for more than two decades can be solved is to be a Utopian.

Unfortunately, the final document of the special session did not give enough weight to the social consequences of the radical reorientation of investment policies. Any radical shift, whether towards agriculture or industry, will inevitably lead to exacerbation of the social situation in both the urban and the

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rural areas. It is balanced development, taking full account of the social factors, that we feel is the only correct course from the point of view of the fundamental long-term interest of the countries and peoples of any continent, and of course Africa is no exception.

We cannot disregard another factor either. The military expenditure of the African countries is close to \$15 billion a year, more than their total expenditure on education, public health and the campaign against hunger. The reasons for the escalating military expenditure vary of course. The defensive effort forced upon them by the aggressive policies of South Africa and Israel, the old and new colonizers is one thing; but local conflicts and rivalries deliberately whipped up by imperialist strategies are quite a different matter. It would be in the interest of Africa to resolve those conflicts. However, there is no doubt that military expenditure does compound the negative processes in the socio-economic development of the African countries. It means a worsening of their export position and increased imbalances in their economies; it preserves the archaic socio-economic structures and reduces the investment potential.

It is generally recognized that the African countries will not themselves be able to deal with the colossal problems that they are facing with regard to their economic development. The assistance of the international community is necessary to ensure a real improvement in the external economic conditions and, in practical terms, in implementing the plans they have worked out to revive their economies. Much has been done to assist Africa through bilateral channels and through many intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, but, much remains to be done.

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The international community must be mobilized to overcome the critical economic situation in the continent. Much more must be done, taking into account first and foremost the interests of the African peoples and not political or ideological considerations.

We are seriously concerned about the attempts of some countries of the West, with the assistance of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, to push the countries of Africa into "structural reform", which could lead to catastrophic consequences. The so-called structural adjustment credits are tied to a freeze on salaries, the privatization of economies, a reduction in national industrialization plans, the removal of limits on the activities of industrial private capital and the creation of systems of artificial incentives for private enterprise. The proponents of these policies try to justify them by saying that the African countries themselves have, as they would have it, voluntarily made that choice; but let us be frank, let us not delude ourselves or world public opinion. The African countries that have accepted those recipes have done so, not voluntarily, but because of the hopeless economic situation they are in, and because of the strong political pressure exercised by the Western donors, who want to place the economy of the continent under their direct control.

Our position on this matter is quite clear. It is the African countries alone that have the right to say which reforms, models and methods they need in order to achieve their national development goals. The choice of a socio-economic system is naturally the sovereign right of the people of each country. Therefore, we decisively support the just struggle of the countries of Africa against neo-colonialism and the vestiges of colonialism and against the criminal policy of

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apartheid of the South African racists, and we are in favour of the assertion of the sovereign right of those countries to control their own resources and to restructure international relations on an equitable, democratic basis, and in favour of the establishment of a new international economic order.

The practical reflection of this position of the Soviet Union is the very varied, mutually advantageous trade and economic co-operation with the countries of Africa. The Soviet Union has intergovernmental agreements for economic and technical co-operation with 37 African countries. With the assistance of the USSR, more than 330 facilities have been built in African countries and have been put into operation. About 300 are being built or will be built. With Soviet assistance, African countries are working to develop new land; irrigation work is going on, and we are helping them to mechanize their agriculture. The plan is to triple the size of the co-operation in this field, in the period 1986-1990, particularly with the tropical African countries. With assistance from the USSR, more than 450,000 specialists and qualified workers have been trained for African countries. More than 30,000 people have been trained in colleges and high schools in the Soviet Union, and 22,000 African citizens are being taught in our country. The Soviet Union has assisted African countries to establish about 100 educational institutions.

In 1985, the overall volume of economic assistance from the Soviet Union to the African countries, calculated according to United Nations methods, was 1.2 billion roubles, that is, about \$1.7 billion. The USSR will continue to develop equitable co-operation with the African countries and will give political and economic support to their efforts to resolve development problems, thus making a contribution to the achievement of important tasks that are referred to in documents of the Organization of African Unity and of the United Nations.

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The comprehensive solution of the continent's problems would be promoted by the guaranteeing of international economic security as part of the comprehensive system of international peace and security proposed by the socialist countries, a proposal placed before you, as you know, at this session of the General Assembly.

Mr. RAZI (India): On this occasion when the thoughts of all of us in the General Assembly are focused on Africa, I should like to express my delegation's profound grief over the tragic death of an outstanding leader of Africa, President Samora Machel. I would request the delegation of Mozambique to convey our deepest sympathy to the Government and the people of Mozambique. In his message of condolence, Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi said:

"I have lost a good friend, and Africa and the non-aligned world a dynamic leader. Through his courage and outstanding organizational ability, he led Mozambique to freedom and guided its march to the modern age. All of us who had recently seen this indefatigable fighter in Harare at the non-aligned summit, find it hard to believe that he is no more. Samora Machel's example will inspire us all in our fight for equality and justice."

In the last few years the people of Africa have been engaged in a gigantic effort to overcome centuries of poverty, neglect and under-development. They have suffered an incalculable toll on account of drought and famine. If there was a positive side to this vast human tragedy, it was the spontaneous outpouring of sympathy and fellow-feeling from people all over the world which galvanized the international community. Through the efforts of the African countries and the support of the international community, millions of lives that were at risk were saved. In this human success story the United Nations had an important role to play.

(Mr. Razi. India)

The consensus which was forged in meeting the challenge of the emergency led to the successful conclusion of the thirteenth special session of the United Nations General Assembly on the critical economic situation in Africa. The central message of the special session is that the sense of solidarity which guided the efforts of the international community in seeking to meet the emergency must be fostered and built upon in assisting Africa in its longer-term efforts towards economic recovery and development. The adoption of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990 lays down the framework within which these efforts need to be undertaken.

My delegation greatly welcomed the adoption of the United Nations Programme of Action, in particular the acceptance of African priorities as outlined in Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery.

We have always maintained that instead of trying to impose a policy framework for the development of Africa from outside, the African Governments should be enabled to determine their own priorities in accordance with their social, economic and political circumstances. In the past, far too many resources have been wasted in projects that were inappropriate and in efforts that were unco-ordinated. Fortunately, the United Nations Programme of Action represents the general consensus of the international community on the broad spectrum of efforts required.

(Mr. Razi, India)

Attention should now be focused on the wholehearted implementation of the programme and on supporting with the utmost flexibility and understanding the very strenuous and courageous efforts being made by the African countries. In general the response of the donor community appears to be lagging behind, in particular regarding the mobilization of resources. The World Bank has estimated that there still remains a substantial gap to meet even minimum requirements. The developed countries must respond much more generously to meet these urgent needs through a genuine increase in resources to fulfil their part of the commitments undertaken in the United Nations Programme of Action. The question of African debt also needs to be urgently addressed.

My delegation also fully supports the high priority attached in the United Nations Programme of Action to food and agriculture and human resource development. As a developing country which until recently faced severe shortages, where a large majority of the people live in rural areas and are dependent on agriculture, India is fully aware of the importance of this sector. Our recent experience has also demonstrated the potential of the food and agricultural sector which, given the right conditions, could be transformed into one of the more dynamic areas of economic growth and development. We are ready to share the knowledge and the technology we have acquired in food and agricultural production with the African countries.

There are already a number of collaboration projects under way between India and several African countries in the field of agriculture. In the context of the Non-Aligned Plan of Action we have taken up for implementation nine projects identified by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) under the Agricultural Rehabilitation Programme for Africa. India was host to a workshop attended by agricultural policy experts from 25 African countries in New Delhi in May 1986, in collaboration with the World Food Council. The workshop

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noted the relevance to African development of Indian experience in food and agriculture and follow-up action is now under way to intensify further co-operative efforts in this area.

While stressing the primary role of food and agriculture, the simultaneous need to accelerate industrial development cannot be overlooked. Even for bringing about a stable growth in agriculture, it is essential to have a supportive industrial sector that provides for agricultural implements and tools, fertilizers and pesticides, as well as the processing and transportation of food and other agricultural products. It is with this in view that India will shortly be host, in collaboration with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), to an Afro-Asian industrial co-operation meeting within the framework of the Industrial Development Decade for Africa. India has also pledged a sum of \$400,000 for a project of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) for the promotion of small-scale industries in Africa.

I have mentioned a few aspects of our efforts of co-operation to give an indication of the direction our efforts will take in the future. On earlier occasions my delegation has had the opportunity to outline other efforts we have undertaken towards meeting emergency needs as well as contributing to development needs through our technical and economic co-operation programmes in areas of training, the provision of experts, consultancy services, feasibility studies and the provision of machinery and equipment.

I should also like to mention the decision of the Eighth Summit Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement in Harare to set up a fund to assist the front-line States to overcome the destabilizing acts of the Pretoria régime. The enhanced co-operation through this fund will be a concrete manifestation of the Non-Aligned Movement's solidarity with the front-line States in the struggle to eliminate the tyranny of racism from South Africa and to achieve the independence of Namibia.

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While we shall continue to exert all efforts in support of the African countries to promote the self-reliance of developing countries in general and those of Africa in particular, we are aware that in relation to Africa's great needs those efforts can be only modest and supplementary to the much larger demands of international co-operation.

In this regard we welcome the follow-up measures which have been taken by the Secretary-General in the setting up of a steering committee under the chairmanship of the Director-General for International Economic Co-operation. We are confident that that Committee will ensure effective follow-up of the United Nations Programme of Action.

I should like also to take this opportunity to express my delegation's sincere appreciation of the efforts of the Office of Emergency Operations in Africa (OEOA), which is to be closed shortly. Under the dynamic leadership of its Director, Mr. Bradford Morse, OEOA has performed a remarkable task in the effective co-ordination of relief assistance and has been a telling demonstration of how effective the United Nations can be when Member States choose to use and support the possibilities it offers. While attention has now rightly turned to the needs of longer-term recovery, as the report of the Secretary-General points out, some needs for relief assistance still remain and we hope that the international community will continue to be forthcoming, particularly in meeting the requirements for logistical support and providing inputs for agriculture.

We are also happy that arrangements have been made to preserve in the United Nations the valuable experience gained and the lessons learnt in the course of the emergency operations. This will be a valuable asset for the international

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community in the future. We sincerely hope, however, that a tragedy of the magnitude that struck Africa will never again befall any people anywhere in the world. Such an outcome requires the utmost vigilance and an urgent reactivation of international economic co-operation.

In Africa itself, although there are encouraging signs, there is also need for continued caution and no slackening of efforts.

Infestations of locusts and other pests threaten the first encouraging harvests. The adverse external environment continues to impose a heavy burden. Commodity prices of exports, on which many African countries are mainly dependent, continue to stagnate at historically low levels, real interest rates continue to be high and add to the onerous burdens of debt servicing while official development assistance continues to decline in real terms. We are very deeply concerned that in this unhelpful climate the overall growth rate in sub-Saharan Africa is expected to be less than 2 per cent in 1986, which is considerably lower than the rate of population growth in the region. This implies a further deterioration in poverty levels of people who are already on the margin of existence. No amount of domestic efforts already being undertaken will be sufficient unless appropriate international policy measures are taken to ensure an external environment supportive of growth and development.

In his message to the thirteenth special session of the General Assembly, Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi said:

"I hope that the special session of the General Assembly will be a landmark in Africa's development and a turning point for international co-operation in general." (A/S-13/PV.1, p. 56)

That continues to be our hope for the future.

Mr. JOFFE (Israel): Today's famine in Africa is surely one of the worst ever experienced by that continent. The international community bears witness to this terrible tragedy that has affected so many people in the Sahel region. The destitution brought about by drought and conflict calls for immediate action. New efforts must be made to alleviate this human suffering.

The State of Israel takes this challenge closely to heart. Never before have the people of Israel been so aware of the need to face this challenge of accelerated development in Africa. This awareness has a long history and comes from our own national experience. Since the early years of our national revival we have had to grapple with the problems of severely degraded lands in a hostile environment. This was our starting point in building an economy; first to feed the nation, then gradually improve its income-generating opportunities and foreign currency earnings.

The courageous and realistic analysis by the Organization of African Unity (OAU) regarding the critical economic situation in Africa, and the wide-ranging proposals formed by Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery deserve the highest praise. A commitment to rehabilitating and upgrading rural development by undertaking structural economic transformation is a first step in the right direction. During the 1950s, Israel used a similar strategy to develop agricultural self-sufficiency and its current diversified technological economy.

Based on our own development experience and certain observations resulting from our modest technical co-operation efforts in Africa over the past 28 years, we would like to add some new proposals.

At the outset, we wish to emphasize that Israel is able and willing to place its expertise and capabilities in this area at the disposal of interested African governments and international donor and development agencies in the context of both bilateral and multilateral co-operation programmes.

(Mr. Joffe, Israel)

Some of the most pressing symptoms of the African economic crisis are the negative balance of payments, debt service burdens and adverse terms of trade. African countries are faced with these problems mainly because of their inherited economic structure and their dependence on primary commodities. Israel's proposals, therefore, are based on increasing the flow of resources, reducing the debt burden and seeking a less adverse international trade framework.

In this respect, Israel has already presented to various United Nations forums a number of well-documented proposals dealing with ways to increase capital flow to developing countries. These include the Horowitz plan for mass subsidy of interest, the Sanbar proposal for establishing an export credit guarantee facility, and the Gafney proposal for expanded co-financing.

These policy and structural reforms are severely constrained not only by the lack of sufficient financial resources, but also by the lack of human resources. Israel believes that in most African countries it is essential to develop and expand vocational training on a massive scale, mainly in the rural areas. If we do not equip the available professionals, supervisors, managers and administrators with the added skills and know-how required, then no real and meaningful structural transformation and reforms will be possible. In this respect, Israel has developed several short-term courses in agriculture, community development, and co-operative and labour organization management as well as courses for community health services. In over 28 years of co-operation with about 110 developing countries, Israel has welcomed over 27,000 trainees in specialized institutions for this purpose; instructed over 25,000 trainees in on-the-spot courses in their respective countries; and sent over 9,000 experts to assist developing countries in their programmes of training and development.

(Mr. Joffe, Israel)

Israel's suggestion is to expand even further its co-operation with both African countries and the international community in order to relieve one of the most critical constraints on African economic development: insufficient transfer of know-how. The emphasis on this programme would be on a network of suggested courses in the respective African countries, and "training of trainers abroad", to ensure a motivating exposure to effective methods, procedures and innovations.

Israel wishes to share the fruits of its experience with the peoples of Africa. We are not a large country, nor do we have large budgets at our disposal. We do, however, have a great deal of experience in rural development and agriculture under difficult conditions. Also, as a people with an unparalleled history of being victims of racial persecution, we maintain a large reservoir of good will and sympathy for the peoples of Africa. Israel is earnestly seeking ways in which we can help in the transfer of the relevant aspects of our experience and know-how to Africa.

At the special session held last May at the United Nations, the Israeli delegation presented a document entitled, "Economic development and the transformation of African agriculture: an Israeli view", document A/S-13/7, dated 27 May 1986, which was circulated as an official document of the special session. In that document we suggested certain strategies for rural development, and analysed possible Israeli contributions to the critical areas of applied research and farmer support.

Four phases of agricultural development were identified, as well as various steps to assist in the transition between phases. These phases include the move from traditional to improved traditional agriculture, and from diversified agriculture to market-oriented and specialized agriculture. Areas in which Israeli expertise may be relevant include: first, applied research within development

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programmes for improved agricultural technology for drought-prone and semi-arid African countries; secondly, the use of Israel's international training infrastructure and experience for human resource development, including adapted extension services; and thirdly, institution building at the community and entrepreneur levels, including an approach whereby the public and private sectors join forces to accelerate development.

In this respect, a proposal was made to include the Institutes for Applied and Desert Research of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev and the Centre for Arid and Semi-Arid Zone Development of the Hebrew University for scientific co-operation within the network of African Agricultural Research Institutes.

Israel is well-known for its achievements in ensuring agricultural productivity under semi-arid conditions. Over half of Israel's area receives less than 180 mm of rainfall annually, and we have, therefore, had to make great efforts to develop agriculture with very little water, conditions which are comparable to those in large areas in Africa. Our modern drought management systems vary from farm level technology to conjunctive use of surface and groundwater, regional water transfer, irrigation with brackish water, conservation of flash floods and a national cloud-seeding programme which has gained much international repute. We are prepared to place all this know-how at the disposal of Africa in developing suitable technologies for the reduction of drought vulnerability in improved traditional agriculture.

Israel's research institutions are prepared to collaborate with researchers in Africa on these projects to provide a major input to applied research in the areas we have enumerated, as well as to co-operate in innovative research and development.

In Jerusalem in 1939, the late Dr. Walter Lowdermilk, a renowned conservationist, formulated what has become Israel's eleventh commandment. We

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in Israel implemented it in order better to overcome the desertification, land degradation and human desolation so typical of some of the regions in Africa today. It is:

"Thou shalt inherit the Holy Earth as a faithful steward, conserving its resources and productivity from generation to generation. Thou shalt safeguard thy field from soil erosion, thy living waters from drying up, thy forests from desolation, and protect thy hills from overgrazing by the herds, that thy descendants may have abundance forever ..."

(Mr. Joffe, Israel)

Israel has two lakes - the Sea of Galilee and the Dead Sea. The Sea of Galilee is blessed with lush greenery, fields, trees, vegetation and bustling animal life. The abundance of marine life in the Sea of Galilee makes it a fisherman's dream. It is a symphony to life.

By contrast, the Dead Sea is characterized by desert, drought and oppressive heat. There is no vegetation, no trees, no fish. There is only stagnation. The Dead Sea takes its water from the river Jordan, but does not share it.

The Sea of Galilee gets its fresh water from the north and spills it into the Jordan river. It shares its valuable resource, fresh water, and pumps life into the southern sea.

Those who share their resources will blossom. Much like the Sea of Galilee, Israel wishes to share its valuable resources with those countries of Africa. We are prepared to enter into immediate discussions with African countries and international organizations in order quickly to find solutions to Africa's agricultural and economic development problems. Israel will do all it can to provide the greatest contribution possible. We look forward to being a partner in this great enterprise.

Mr. MADATANG (Malaysia): I wish first to convey my delegation's heartfelt condolences to the people and the Government of Mozambique on the tragic death of their outstanding leader.

Over the past two years we have assembled on several occasions, not only to share our concern over the critical economic situation in Africa, but also to seek understanding and attempt to define the future direction that the international community can take in co-operating with and assisting our friends on the continent to overcome this critical period in their development.

(Mr. Madatang, Malaysia)

The initial dismay - even shock - of seeing the starving and the dying in the many drought-stricken areas jolted the international community into action. The numerous deaths, however, were too costly a price for any nation to pay.

But today my delegation finds hope - hope drawn from the successful conclusion of the thirteenth special session convened as a result of resolution 40/40, in which the Assembly called upon the international community specifically to take up consideration of the critical economic situation in Africa.

My delegation welcomes the adoption by consensus on 1 June 1986 of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990. To us it is a reaffirmation of the viability of the United Nations, showing that when an important segment of the international community is affected by a particular problem the entire community shares its concern and its members work together, however difficult the problems may be and however formidable the obstacles appear, and succeed in adopting an agreed programme of action. This reaffirmation attests to the fact that the United Nations today remains relevant to its community and its time.

Looking ahead, we are optimistic about the future. We were heartened by the very loud message of self-help that the African countries themselves delivered - that in undertaking the programme for reconstruction and development to address the important structural weaknesses of their economies the African Governments will depend primarily upon themselves for the bulk of the effort.

Our optimism also results from the support of the developed countries, which pledged their commitment to seeing through the specific recommendations proposed in the Programme of Action.

Malaysia, as a developing country, readily joined in that collective effort, even though we are mindful of the modest resources that we have available. Our stand has been a ready willingness to share whatever experience and know-how are

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relevant for the development efforts of our friends in Africa. Even before the situation in Africa had its impact on the international community we had already put in place bilateral assistance programmes with several countries on the continent. My Government remains committed to continuing that programme of assistance, which we have extended under the Malaysian technical co-operation programme.

Malaysia's own experience and resources are, however, limited. But the resources and experience of the developed countries as well as of other developing countries are also relevant to the recovery and development efforts that are anticipated in the United Nations Programme of Action that we adopted last June. We urge those in a position to do so to extend whatever assistance can be made available to the affected countries, for we believe that the well-being and the future growth of the African countries have a direct bearing on the continuing well-being and growth of the international community as a whole.

My delegation believes that the crisis currently facing the African countries can be overcome with the commitment and participation of the entire international community, and we believe that the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development is a viable basis for attaining that objective. We pledge our full support to the Programme of Action and we look towards early realization and a turn-around towards recovery and progress for all African countries affected by the present crisis.

Before I conclude, my delegation would like to express sincere appreciation in particular to the Secretary-General for his deep concern about, commitment to, and personal involvement in the critical situation in Africa. The Secretary-General himself was among the first to seek to bring to the attention of the international community the very severe situation that already confronted the African countries before 1984. To our mind, the convening of the thirteenth special session, on

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the critical economic situation in Africa, was very much inspired by the work done by the Secretary-General and the tremendous efforts of the Organization of African Unity, which brought the world the message of the need for action.

My statement would not be complete without a special commendation of the superb job done by the Office for Emergency Operations in Africa (OEOA) under the stewardship of Mr. Bradford Morse. Although the Secretary-General announced on May 1986 the closure of OEOA on 31 October 1986, I am sure many will not forget the very effective role that it played, particularly during the most critical phase of the crisis, when thousands were dying or facing the prospect of death as a result of famine. Credit must be given to OEOA for mobilizing the tremendous volume of food and emergency aid that were received as a result of the information made available on the critical situation in Africa. Anyone familiar with such a job and with the local situation in many of the drought-stricken countries will know that the apparently straightforward task of transporting food and other emergency aid from donor countries to the affected population is fraught with difficulties. To all those involved in those life-saving efforts, including the countless numbers of volunteers from all over the world, we give a special word of appreciation.

To conclude, we wish to repeat our message of hope - our hope that the Programme of Action agreed upon during the thirteenth special session will be translated into effective programmes for the affected countries, not only to relieve the emergency caused by famine, but, more important, to contribute to the medium- and long-term adjustment and reconstruction process needed to provide the foundations of the economic infrastructure required for growth and development for each of the affected African countries.

Nawab YAMIN-KHAN (Pakistan): The scourge of famine and drought which struck many countries in Africa was one of the major tragedies of our time. The response of the international community to the devastating experience in Africa brought home emphatically the need for action at the multilateral level to alleviate the conditions prevailing in the affected countries. The spirit of solidarity and oneness which was rekindled in the wake of the African crisis culminated in the adoption during the thirteenth special session, in June 1986, of the Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development.

The United Nations special session was a unique opportunity for Member States to focus on the problems of one particular region. It marked a turning point in the efforts of the international community to solve the development problems of African countries.

The credit for the positive results achieved at the special session must go to the African countries themselves, which, at a summit conference of the Organization of African Unity, initiated the call for the convening of a United Nations special session and subsequently, in June 1985, adopted a Priority Programme for the economic recovery and rehabilitation of Africa 1986-1990, which served as the basis for the work of the special session. The bold initiative taken by the African countries to evolve a comprehensive framework for structural as well as medium- and long-term solutions made possible the adoption at the special session of the General Assembly of the Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990.

This Programme of Action establishes a clear relationship between the commitment of the African countries to undertake policy reform measures in identified priority areas and the response and commitment of the international community to support indigenous African efforts. The full implementation of the priority programme requires a major effort to mobilize resources amounting to

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US \$128.5 billion. The Africans are committed to raising through domestic efforts US \$82 billion. The remaining US \$46 billion during the period of the Programme have to be provided by the international community. Actions are also required to alleviate the African debt burden and facilitate their exports through trade liberalization.

My delegation has studied with great attention the report of the Secretary-General, which offers the first glimpse of how the framework for increased economic co-operation provided for in the Programme of Action is likely to work. We have also heard statements this morning regarding actions taken by major donor countries to follow-up the commitments undertaken by them during the special session.

While it may be too early to evaluate the process of implementation of the Programme of Action, we are pleased to note that appropriate actions have already been initiated in many important areas to ensure the effective implementation of that Programme. The African Governments are currently in the process of initiating specific actions to implement the Priority Programme, actions aimed at revitalizing their economies. The process of follow-up at the regional level has also been initiated. At the United Nations the Secretary-General has established a Steering Committee to monitor and evaluate the process of implementation of the Programme of Action. These are indeed positive steps.

My delegation believes, however, that the Secretary-General, drawing upon his past experience, must establish a strong and effective mechanism to follow up and monitor the actions undertaken by the Africans themselves and those undertaken by the international community and other agencies to ensure the full implementation of the Programme. Action and response are a tandem. Inability by one party to fulfil its commitments will foil all efforts to implement the Programme. We therefore

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hope to receive more detailed information from the Secretary-General on his assessment of the implementation process and the United Nations monitoring mechanism, at an appropriate time.

Pakistan, itself a developing country, is deeply and sincerely committed to giving every possible assistance to African countries in order to enable them to make significant strides on the road of economic development, growth, prosperity and well-being.

I wish to quote, in this context, from the statement made by the President of Pakistan, His Excellency General Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq, at the eighth Conference of Heads of States or Government of Non-Aligned Countries in Harare this September:

"The peoples and nations of Africa have suffered most grievously from the effects of the recent series of economic crises, hunger and famine, and this has evoked a sympathetic, universal response. The international community must also commit itself to providing the necessary support for the full implementation of the United Nations programme for Africa's recovery and development, adopted at the recent special session of the General Assembly. Pakistan has also formulated a five-year programme of its own for technical assistance to African countries and has established a special fund for emergency relief to Africa. I assure you that Pakistan will continue to extend all possible support to its African brothers, for their problems are our problems and their burdens are our burdens".

It was natural for Pakistan, therefore, to have participated actively in the special session and in the preparatory process that preceded it. We remain committed to making every effort to ensure the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action.

Pakistan contributed generously - 17,500 tons of rice last year - to avert the famine in several sub-Saharan African countries and has now established a Fund for

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Emergency Assistance to the African countries which is ready to respond at short notice to any emerging situation.

In addition, Pakistan has adopted a Five-Year Programme of Technical Co-operation specially designed to meet the requirements of African countries. Under this technical programme we shall share our own experiences with African countries in all spheres of economic activity, particularly the fields of agriculture, banking and management. We have also indicated to the African countries our preparedness to extend export credits for import of textiles, machinery and other capital as well as consumer goods.

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In conclusion, I should like to reiterate Pakistan's commitment to assist the African countries in their courageous efforts to change their economic destiny. We also appeal to the international community to take appropriate steps to ensure the full implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990.

Mr. ICAZA GALLARD (Nicaragua) (interpretation from Spanish): As we turn our attention today to the critical economic situation in Africa, we cannot fail to refer, first and foremost, to an event that has plunged into mourning not just the African continent but the whole of mankind. We refer to the tragic death of Marshal Samora Moises Machel, father of the homeland, national hero and President of the People's Republic of Mozambique. The people of Mozambique, the peoples of Africa, and those of the third world, have lost a tireless fighter for freedom, self-determination and the unity of their continent. Our solidarity and condolences go to the people and Government of Mozambique.

In recent years, one of the problems that has commanded the international community's most careful attention has been the critical economic situation in Africa. Mindful of that, the General Assembly, in resolution 40/40, convened a special session last May to consider the critical economic situation of that continent.

As we did then, Nicaragua is taking part in this debate again because we fully identify with the problems of Africa. The history of the countries of Africa is similar to the history of many of our countries, in the sense that they were subjected to colonial exploitation.

Africa today faces a wide range of problems which require the attention and unconditional support of the international community. Drought, desertification,

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food problems, inadequate social and economic infrastructure, the lack of human and financial resources, the low level of industrialization and the effects of the destabilizing policy of the racist régime of South Africa, are all problems that have to be added to the series of adverse factors prevailing in the current international economic situation. The general picture then, dismaying enough as it is, is rendered even more sombre.

The African continent has become a mosaic of peoples and nations facing hunger, poverty and anguish, day after day. Their predicament clearly illustrates the injustices and inequities that at present govern international economic relations.

At its thirteenth special session last May, the General Assembly adopted the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990. This Programme, in addition to identifying areas for priority action to rehabilitate the African economies, is tantamount to a firm commitment fully to use and mobilize domestic resources to implement these priorities, but the Programme cannot be fully carried out without a commitment from the international community to support these efforts. Here my country wishes to emphasize that external support is a prerequisite if we are to put an end to the shame attaching to life in a world where the wealth and extravagance of a few contrasts sharply with the hunger and poverty of many.

Another problem which must not be overlooked is that of the external debt, which for 1986 has reached alarming proportions. Unless this problem is solved, it is highly unlikely that African countries will be able to carry out their programme of recovery. Hence, my country fully supports the convening by the Organization of African Unity (OAU) of an international conference on the external debt of Africa.

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Economic problems are not the only ones that need to be tackled and solved in order to bring about peace, stability and sustained economic development throughout the African continent. Existing political problems similarly need a definitive solution.

In addition to these problems, southern Africa has yet another problem with profound economic consequences which needs to be solved as a matter of urgency, if these countries are to enjoy real economic stability. It is that of apartheid and its destabilizing policies throughout the region.

The front-line and other countries of southern Africa live under constant aggression and destabilization from South Africa. Many of their resources have had to be devoted to the defence of their sovereignty.

Pretoria has embarked on policies which enable it to force those countries that have the misfortune of sharing borders with it to depend more extensively upon South Africa for their imports and exports.

One of the main features of this policy is the cutting off and destruction of the lines of transportation from the front-line countries to their seaports. To do this, South Africa uses mercenaries under its orders and its own forces. Railway lines running through the heart of southern Africa, from the Atlantic to the Indian oceans, have been subject to attack and sabotage. Clear examples of this are the Benguela railway line to the Atlantic Ocean, and the Beira Corridor to the Indian Ocean. On the other hand, the railway lines that run north and south, passing through South Africa, have been virtually untouched.

The destabilization by South Africa has cost southern Africa more than \$1 billion extra for transportation alone.

The creation of the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference has been a fundamental step to counteract South Africa's policies. We would appeal to the international community to help the countries participating in the

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co-ordination Conference in whatever way they can to carry out their programmes and projects of co-operation and development.

In conclusion, we express our solidarity with the African countries. We hope that the international community will be able to deal with the political, economic and social conditions of these countries with greater maturity and pragmatism. We must all be guided by the collective efforts of the African continent towards unity. For Africa is in the best position to indicate the solutions required by that continent's realities.

The meeting rose at 5.30 p.m.