

and also to improve the design and execution of future projects.

105. His delegation had noted the increased number of projects implemented by the Office of Technical Co-operation in the field of natural resources development, but supported the request of the Director-General of IAEA to increase the latter's share of UNDP funds for the implementation of projects concerning basic services and utilities.

106. He was enthusiastic about the idea of mobilizing the resources, energies and know-how of youth in the development efforts of the international community within the framework of the United Nations Volunteers programme. He endorsed the plan to increase the number of volunteers in the field. Priority should be given to the least developed countries where an additional source of trained manpower should be available at modest cost. None the less, volunteer assignments and services had to be evaluated to ensure the quality of their contribution.

107. His delegation welcomed the co-ordination between the UNFPA and agencies in the developed countries. His delegation supported the UNFPA programme, welcomed its multidisciplinary approach and its trend towards comprehensive country programmes.

108. He was pleased to note the co-operation achieved between UNICEF, Governments, and other agencies. UNICEF had made a practical contribution to recipient countries in the form of supplies and equipment as well as financing the training of personnel in those countries. Greater resources were needed to help children in the developing countries, and he accordingly supported the proposal to arrange a special pledging conference in 1974 to help UNICEF meet its target for 1975.

109. The substantial contribution of WFP assistance in the first three years of the Second United Nations Development Decade had helped to achieve the objectives of the Strategy. Wider geographical distribution of food stocks would provide better opportunities to increase the number of donors, broaden the composition of food aid and expand assistance through WFP and other multilateral channels. His delegation supported

the suggestion that WFP could receive contributions other than food, in the form of services or donations in kind which would promote agricultural output.

110. Mr. ELIASHIV (Israel) said he did not wish to be drawn into a sterile political argument as he had already had occasion to refute the baseless allegations made by the representative of Egypt against Israel. It was sad that a debate on UNDP concerning constructive assistance for development should be misused by the representative of Egypt as an excuse for introducing destructive propaganda.

111. Mr. ZAHARAN (Egypt), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the statement by the representative of Israel was hypocritical, a distortion of the facts and imbued with Nazi sentiments and deceit. Israel was occupying the territory of three Member Arab States, namely Egypt, Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic. They were not occupying Israel. In addition to usurping their territorial sovereignty and dominating the peoples in the annexed territories, Israel was illegally exploiting the natural resources in those territories.

112. In the context of the agenda item under discussion, he had the right to point out that United Nations development assistance should not be granted to Israel because, in view of its Nazi policies, the Arab States were obliged to sacrifice their much needed resources on defence and on armaments to liberate the occupied territories from the foreign invader, Israel. He had, moreover, the duty to point out the difficulties experienced by Egypt in achieving the best results from the Programme because of the aggressive expansionist policies of Israel.

113. By all the standards and criteria adopted by the United Nations, Israel was not a developing country, and since, moreover, it did not respect the resolutions and decisions of the main bodies of the United Nations system, it should not receive any assistance from that system.

114. The CHAIRMAN said that Finland, Lebanon and Peru had joined the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1308.

The meeting rose at 6.50 p.m.

1558th meeting

Thursday, 15 November 1973, at 10.50 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Zewde GABRE-SELLASSIE (Ethiopia).

A/C.2/SR.1558

In the absence of the Chairman, Mr. Arvesen (Norway) took the Chair.

AGENDA ITEM 49

Operational activities for development (*continued*)
(A/9003 and Corr.1, chap. VI):

- (a) United Nations Development Programme (E/5256 and Corr.1, E/5365/Rev.1, A/C.2/L.1307);
- (b) United Nations Capital Development Fund (A/C.2/L.1306);

- (c) Technical co-operation activities undertaken by the Secretary-General;
- (d) United Nations Volunteers programme (E/5342, A/C.2/L.1309);
- (e) United Nations Fund for Population Activities;
- (f) United Nations Children's Fund (A/C.2/L.1308);
- (g) World Food Programme (A/9003/Add.1 (part IV); A/9031, A/C.2/L.1298)

1. Mr. DJERMAKOYE (Under-Secretary-General, Commissioner for Technical Co-operation) said that the total value of the projects of the Office of Technical

Co-operation—\$66 million in 1972—had increased six-fold since 1960, whereas the staff responsible for managing those programmes at Headquarters had only doubled. It had thus been necessary to undertake urgent reforms to make the best possible use of the Office's human resources.

2. In describing certain specific operations, he noted that in Africa, which contained 15 of the 25 least developed countries,¹ the execution of various important projects in the six drought-stricken Sahelian countries represented a major effort which would be continued and intensified in the years to come. A ground-water development programme had been adopted for each of those countries and would be executed in close co-operation with the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel. Several projects had earlier been undertaken in that region, to which a total of approximately \$27 million had been devoted. Other water resources development programmes had been started in Ethiopia, Malawi, Togo and Somalia and there were also multinational or regional projects in that field. The United Nations had also provided assistance in the field of mineral resources, but perhaps the most noteworthy efforts made in Africa during the past year concerned population matters. Thus, 23 countries would take a population census during the period 1973-1975. There were several forms of assistance: secondment of experts, provision of equipment, training of national technicians and aid to demographic centres. The Office of Technical Co-operation was also responsible for the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa, which gave priority to training in Africa itself.

3. So far as the countries of Asia and the Middle East were concerned, emphasis had been placed on large-scale projects in such fields as water resources development, mining research, land development and transportation. That trend clearly reflected the priority Governments attached to development of rural areas and of infrastructure; in addition, increasing attention had been given to natural resources. Governments in the area were also becoming increasingly concerned at the problems arising from rapid urbanization. In the Middle East, there was keen interest in the improvement of administrative systems, as was the case elsewhere in Asia, where the Asian Centre for Development Administration had just been established. Important projects had been undertaken in the field of statistics, particularly in Bangladesh, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia and Mongolia.

4. The development of water resources was becoming vitally important in Latin America. He also mentioned projects in the fields of energy and mineral resources, transportation, town planning and housing, economic and social planning, public administration and population.

5. Through UNDP, the United Nations gave financial assistance to some European countries, including Yugoslavia, Hungary, Romania, Iceland, Malta, Bulgaria and Turkey.

6. In 1972, the United Nations regular programme of technical co-operation had adopted a new policy in compliance with the resolutions calling for an intensification of the technical co-operation efforts in favour of

the least developed countries. That policy had been further strengthened in 1973. Thus, in the Sudano-Sahelian zone, three albeit still modest projects represented a first step towards more substantial investment. The aim of the first project was to improve the living conditions of the nomads in the Agades region of the Niger; undertaken in association with FAO and WHO, it had provided the Government with a team of experts and a minimum infrastructure to assist it in organizing the influx of people driven from their customary grazing areas, and at the same time prepared a longer-term regional renewal programme. The second project, organized under the aegis of ECA, involved a study of the resources and priority needs of the subregion comprised of Mali, the Upper Volta and the Niger. Finally, a low-income urban housing project had been launched in the Upper Volta. Other projects in the least advanced countries included, for example, an urban planning project in Haiti and a social planning project in Laos; efforts were being made to improve the living conditions of the nomads in the northern deserts of Democratic Yemen. The "young economists" project begun in 1972 had made available to seven countries a dozen economists who had first taken a three-month orientation course in various international organizations.

7. The regular programme was also the main source of financing for the teams of interregional advisers sent out at the request of Governments. Finally, the programme contributed, albeit in a limited way, to activities in the field of human rights and drug control.

8. Above all, the regular programme made possible a rapid and highly flexible response to certain requirements of the least developed countries. Thanks to the programme, Governments could undertake, at low cost, pioneering action which would open the way for subsequently more substantial assistance. As the programme helped to fill certain gaps in the technical assistance system, its work was complementary to, rather than a substitute for, that of other bodies. That trend would be continued in 1974. To that end, the Office of Technical Co-operation intended to make active use of all the resources available to it, including those in non-convertible currencies, in particular the amount contributed to it in roubles.

9. He emphasized the irreplaceable role played by the regional economic commissions and the United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut in the execution of programmes. The Office of Technical Co-operation would do its utmost to encourage such decentralization, but it would also ensure the maintenance of a common policy and an over-all approach in order to maintain balance and consistency both between the regions and between regional and national projects. More systematic use should be made of the intellectual resources of the regional economic development and planning institutes. In his view, there should be very close and very frank co-operation with each of the components of the United Nations system, as well as with the deliberative bodies, particularly the Second Committee. The Office was determined to meet the requests for assistance it received, but there must be an order of priorities; accordingly, it had to establish a programme of work, concentrating its efforts first on the most critical aspects and aiming at realistic goals. For his part, he would endeavour to remedy any problems, inadequacies and omissions. However, United

¹ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 7*, para. 66.

Nations assistance was modest by comparison with the effort made by Governments themselves; without such an effort, external assistance was bound to be marginal. The best form of co-operation was, therefore, that which strengthened and enhanced a country's capacity to control its own resources and its own destiny. Development was a challenge: for its part, the Office of Technical Co-operation intended to mobilize all its forces to meet that challenge, but it could only do so with the constructive co-operation and understanding of all States Members of the United Nations.

10. Mr. JOSEPH (Australia) said that his Government supported the activities of the Executive Director of UNFPA and was impressed with the speed with which the Fund had begun its operations and especially with the tact and diplomacy which had marked its approach to its sensitive responsibilities. UNFPA was completely neutral and did not attempt to impose or prescribe any particular policy. Under the 1973-1976 work plan, the family planning sector accounted for only 50 per cent of UNFPA expenditure over that period. That proportion proved that, far from imposing policies of population control, the Fund was so scrupulously attached to its neutrality that it might be tilting in the other direction, a tendency which would compromise its whole *raison d'être*.

11. Australia was happy to support the decision taken by the Governing Council of UNDP at its sixteenth session (see E/5365/Rev.1, para. 247), approving the system of a rolling plan; it would have preferred, however, for the Governing Council to have taken a more relaxed view of the projects submitted to it for approval. For projects involving expenditure of \$1 million or more and for certain other projects, the Executive Director was required to consult the Governing Council or the Administrator before committing funds. His delegation believed that those restrictions were entirely unnecessary; the Governing Council could very easily approve each year the four-year rolling plan, leaving the Executive Director to approve the expenditures for each project. The Governing Council's attitude was symptomatic of a disturbing tendency of United Nations bodies everywhere to try to manage the institutions which they were supposed only to govern. It was to be hoped that the Governing Council's involvement did not become an encumbrance for UNFPA. Moreover, population policy was an activity uniquely unsuited for intergovernmental interference. Few Governments were going to accept any *diktat* from representatives of other Governments on what they should do in the population field. It was far better that the question should be left to UNFPA to work out in consultation with each individual Government.

12. The United Nations Volunteers programme had considerable potential and the disappointments that might have occurred in the initial years were probably only teething problems. With respect to recruitment arrangements, the contract with the International Secretariat for Volunteer Service had now been extended but the United Nations Volunteers programme hoped rapidly to build up its own recruitment capacity, particularly in the developing countries. That was a logical development: on the other hand, the programme should continue to operate, where possible, through existing institutions, and the Co-ordinator should not try to be a one-man band. His delegation supported the proposals

which had been made to strengthen the programme, in particular the concentration of activities in a limited number of countries and the fielding of teams instead of individual volunteers. It also applauded the efforts to step up recruitment of volunteers from developing countries.

13. While Australia recognized the crucial role played by UNICEF, especially in emergency situations, it knew little about the internal functioning of UNICEF and the problems it might be facing in the area of management, programme delivery and so on. Perhaps Australia should begin to think again of re-election to the Executive Board of UNICEF. Meanwhile, it would be increasing its contribution to UNICEF by 24 per cent in 1974 and had also announced that it would contribute a quarter of a million dollars to the special operations of UNICEF in the Indochina peninsula.

14. His delegation considered that improvements could still be made in the operation of UNDP. For example, the system of country programming had undoubted merits but it was difficult to perceive the purpose of the ritualistic submission to the Council at each session of some 25 to 30 country programmes and the equally ritualistic approval of them. Generally speaking, the Council had nothing new to add and acted merely as a rubber stamp.

15. At the sixteenth session of the Governing Council, the Administrator himself had raised the question of improving the Council's methods of work and had suggested that it might consider abbreviating its sessions and perhaps limiting them to one a year. It appeared that the Administrator and his senior staff might find themselves so tied up with meetings that they never had time to do any constructive work. As early as the thirteenth session his delegation had supported an overhaul of the Council's working methods. For example, many of the matters on which the Administrator was called upon to prepare reports for the Council more properly fell within the domain of management. Moreover, greater use could be made of intersessional contacts, a procedure which would cut down on the number of official reports.

16. The amount of documentation being presented to the Governing Council had increased fourfold in a very few years and there seemed to be considerable merit in the suggestion that the Administrator might use his annual report as a vehicle for bringing recurrent items to the Governing Council's attention instead of submitting separate papers under separate agenda items. Already at the sixteenth session the Council had had before it a new style of Administrator's report which focused much more clearly on the operational problems of UNDP. The problem of documentation had come up at the fifteenth session when the utility of submitting detailed briefs identifying sectoral priorities had been questioned. The plethora of studies, analyses and other documents served to confuse rather than clarify the issues.

17. Little progress had been made at the sixteenth session in the drafting of the omnibus statute. The group established to review the matter would resume its work at the seventeenth session. The notion of consolidating existing legislation into a single statute was difficult to reconcile with the proliferation of resolutions, decisions and the like not only in the Governing

Council, but also in the Economic and Social Council, and indeed in the General Assembly.

18. At its sixteenth session the Governing Council had agreed to allocate an additional \$5 million for the countries affected by the drought in the Sudano-Sahelian zone. That was the minimum that it could do and many delegations would have hoped that something more generous might have been agreed. On the other hand, the major role of UNDP was long-term development and, with its funds wholly committed years in advance, there were limits to what emergency aid it could provide.

19. The calculation of indicative planning figures (IPFs) had divided the Governing Council into two camps: one made up of countries opposed to any reduction in IPFs between the current programme cycle and the next, and the other, including Australia, arguing that the main need in the second cycle was to assure equity for the poor and populous countries even if that also involved a reduction in the existing IPFs of some of the more advanced developing countries. At the sixteenth session of the Council, a compromise had emerged (see E/5365/Rev.1, para. 90) and the Administrator had been asked to prepare a fresh set of calculations providing for the attainment of three objectives: the allocation of at least 25 per cent of the total IPFs for the least developed countries; a significant improvement in the relative position of the other low-income countries; and no reduction in IPFs for any recipient country. The calculations were now ready and, although he had not had time to study them, he suspected that, whatever mathematical formula had been devised, the three objectives could be achieved only if the rate of growth of contributions was somewhat higher than 9.6 per cent. Any shortfall would be sufficient reason to reopen the question of whether the third objective should be retained. For the moment, the problem of resources had receded into the background and the foreshadowed 18 per cent increase in contributions held out the hope of a small surplus.

20. The need to improve the delivery system was a source of concern to the Administrator and to a large number of delegations, particularly the Swedish delegation, whose initiative had given rise to the adoption of General Assembly resolution 2975 (XXVII) for the strengthening of the executing agencies. In cases where projects were delayed because of lack of in-house capability in the United Nations system, greater use could be made of the subcontract mechanism. He understood that the Administrator shared that view and Australia welcomed the establishment within UNDP of an office for subcontracting.

21. He wished to congratulate the Administrator on getting the spiral of administrative costs under control. In real terms, they revealed an increase of less than 1.6 per cent, the lowest in UNDP history. Of course, there could be no relaxation. The Administrator must continue to resist or head off new financial commitments and his delegation was pleased that the Administrator had refused to underwrite UNITAR's staff college extravaganza. Mr. Peterson would also want to take a firm stand in regard to additional sectoral advisers. A new look should be taken at UNDP's field staffing arrangements since that was where 80 per cent of administrative costs were incurred.

22. There remained the problem of overhead costs. The costs to the agencies of backstopping UNDP projects seemed well in excess of the 13 per cent of project costs currently reimbursed by UNDP. His delegation felt that UNDP could probably not afford to pay more.

23. Finally, draft resolution A/C.2/L.1306, concerning the United Nations Capital Development Fund, caused his delegation certain difficulties. The official development assistance provided by Australia had increased by 20 per cent in 1973 and the present Government planned to redouble its efforts to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product (GNP) laid down in the International Development Strategy. That assistance was provided essentially through bilateral channels. Indeed, there was a clear discrimination against the countries of Asia and especially those of the Pacific, neighbouring Australia, in the distribution of UNDP's resources. Fortunately, the situation had begun to improve and hence the Australian Government had increased its contribution from 25 per cent to 42 per cent in the last two years. However, he was afraid that, rather than pay, in addition, a contribution to the United Nations Capital Development Fund, the Australian Government might prefer to revert to bilateral aid. However, those difficulties were not perhaps shared by other delegations and in that case the Australian delegation would not oppose a consensus.

24. Mr. KOSSEV (Bulgaria) noted that as a member of the Governing Council of UNDP his delegation had already had occasion to make known its views concerning the activities of the Programme. However, he wished to take up certain specific points.

25. As a universal body, UNDP should ensure that all countries had equal opportunities for voluntary co-operation on a multilateral basis to enable them to attain their economic and social development goals. Since the twenty-seventh session of the General Assembly, UNDP had been doing useful work which should be considered from a positive standpoint. For example, there had been an increase in the volume of assistance, a rationalization of the distribution of resources among development sectors, an improvement in country programming and greater efficiency in operational activities. His delegation had likewise noted with satisfaction that, in a large number of countries, assistance had been used to strengthen the public sector in areas which were vital for improving the standard of living of the population. Lastly, it approved the Governing Council's decision to take special measures in favour of the least developed countries and to provide additional aid to the drought-stricken Sudano-Sahelian countries.

26. His delegation would like urgent measures to be taken to assist the youngest States, such as Guinea-Bissau, and the national liberation movements, particularly those of Mozambique and Angola, which were waging a bitter struggle to throw off the colonialist yoke. At the same time, his delegation was opposed to the granting of UNDP aid to countries pursuing a policy of aggression and occupying the territory of other States, thus hampering their development. It called for an immediate halt to assistance to aggressor countries and considered that UNDP would do well to make available to their victims the funds which would thus be released.

27. UNDP should be concerned in particular to assist those countries which were striving to improve their economic potential, especially those which were seeking to strengthen economic planning. In all cases, UNDP should harmonize its assistance with national development plans. It would be advisable to decide as quickly as possible on the criteria for the calculation of IPFs for the next country programming cycle in such a way as to take into account the particular situation of each country.

28. UNDP should not be content with the resources derived from annual contributions but should also seek additional funds, such as those which might result from disarmament and a reduction of military budgets. Moreover, expenses which had nothing to do with operational activities should be kept to a minimum, and he was glad to note that the Administrator had expressed that same view.

29. His delegation considered that regional and sub-regional projects were of particular importance, for they constituted a basis for multilateral co-operation. Co-ordination within UNDP and with the executing agencies should be improved, as should the quality of the assistance provided.

30. The Governing Council's role in determining UNDP policy and carrying on the Programme's day-to-day business should be strengthened. Given the universal character of UNDP, his delegation urged that in the awarding of subcontracts and the selection of experts there should be greater fairness as between countries; in particular, discrimination against the socialist countries and the developing countries should cease. UNDP's effectiveness would be considerably enhanced if all resources intended for technical assistance were concentrated under its authority. Many delegations were concerned about the need to increase UNDP's resources and he wished to draw attention to a matter which was of direct interest to UNDP, namely, the USSR proposal that States permanent members of the Security Council should reduce their military budgets by 10 per cent and utilize part of the resources thus saved to provide assistance to developing countries (agenda item 102). The Bulgarian Minister for Foreign Affairs had stated his country's position on the matter in the General Assembly on 27 September 1973 (2130th plenary meeting). That proposal warranted the support of UNDP, for it would be another step towards détente and the strengthening of international trust.

31. Some delegations had expressed doubts concerning the amount of the resources which would really go to the developing countries; however, figures showed that even if only 10 per cent of the amount saved were allocated to development aid, the resulting sum would still be several times larger than the present amount of UNDP resources. Moreover, that step would be only a beginning and might be followed by other even larger reductions.

32. In conclusion, he assured the Administrator that Bulgaria would continue to co-operate with UNDP and would support any progressive decisions which might be taken by the Programme in the interests of scientific, economic and technical co-operation among all countries.

33. Mr. SPITERI (Malta) said that the future activities of UNDP, as outlined by the Administrator at

the 1554th meeting, would be of immense value for development; however, his delegation was concerned at certain tendencies which had emerged in the Governing Council of UNDP with respect to the future of the Programme and its universality.

34. His Government was somewhat perturbed by the decision taken by the Governing Council at its sixteenth session (see E/5365/Rev.1, para. 90) under which the recipient countries which were at the upper end of the *per capita* GNP scale should explore ways and means of enabling them to assume net contributor status. Some of the means suggested were the reduction or termination of UNDP assistance, increases in their voluntary contributions or a combination of the two measures. As his country was not represented on the Governing Council of UNDP, he wished to set forth its position in some detail.

35. His Government of course considered that each country should contribute according to its ability and receive according to its needs. Hence the least developed nations should receive a relatively higher amount of UNDP assistance than the more developed. It also thought that *per capita* GNP and population should continue to be the principal criteria governing the allocation of international assistance. In accordance with those criteria, Malta had been allocated an IPF for the current five-year period of \$2.5 million; like many other recipient countries, Malta was not entirely happy with that allocation.

36. Apart from the fact that at its current stage of development Malta could absorb much greater assistance, consideration had not been given to a whole range of problems peculiar to small developing countries, especially island countries, which had to overcome a number of handicaps in their development efforts. For example, it was more difficult for them than it was for countries with larger domestic markets to realize economies of scale. It was thus only in their export industries that small countries could benefit from economies of scale. Unfortunately, that necessity made them particularly vulnerable to the vicissitudes of international trade. Also, they were more dependent on capital and technical know-how from abroad and had to carry a heavier burden, in proportion to their population, in respect of administration and defence. Finally, their most able and highly motivated people tended to emigrate because the facilities offered by small countries were inadequate.

37. In addition to those general drawbacks, the island countries, having acceded to independence, were now confronted with the Herculean task of diversifying economies which had been geared solely to meeting the needs of the former metropolitan power, while they did not have the necessary financial means and had lost access to the markets required. Nevertheless, the small countries enjoyed one psychological advantage which enabled them to make effective use of development assistance, namely, a greater spirit of national solidarity. Their needs were greater but their ability to make good use of assistance was also greater. Thus Malta had been able to make five strategic choices which would require major readjustments in its policies within the next few years: the phasing out of the British military base; the modernization and adaptation of the dry docks; the mobilization of resources for the development and diversification of exports; development of the

infrastructure necessary to achieve the purposes indicated under the preceding three points; and lastly, the establishment of social services worthy of an independent modern country. That programme was bound to cause hardships, but international co-operation could help small countries equip themselves to earn a living in a world dominated by very large countries and giant firms.

38. While *per capita* income in Malta was about \$950 per annum, that figure must be viewed in the context of a number of other elements. For example, Malta had no mineral resources; moreover, its population density limited its agricultural potential. Accordingly, its economic development must be based on an industrialization programme aimed at the production of manufactures containing a sufficiently high domestic input to counter-balance the importation of raw materials. Another resource was tourism. To succeed in its efforts, Malta required considerable assistance, both financial and technical.

39. Malta's balance of trade showed a deficit of £47.4 million. To maintain its *per capita* income of \$950 per year, it had to depend on income from the rental of certain military facilities. That was the result of a political decision which had not been taken lightly and the Maltese Government did not wish that state of affairs to continue any longer than was strictly necessary. Therefore, it was essential that it should be able to count on United Nations assistance, particularly from UNDP, so that it could reach a stage of development where it could maintain a self-sustainable level of growth.

40. The Maltese Government realized that the inadequacy of the IPF allocated to it was due to the fact that UNDP's resources were limited. However, it was disturbed at the increasingly insistent demand that countries at the upper end of the *per capita* GNP scale should assume net contributor status. That would mean that if Malta was not to renounce entirely the multilateral assistance which it so badly needed, it would have to make a contribution of \$500,000 to UNDP every year. He could not refrain from voicing his Government's deep concern over a proposal based solely on the *per capita* GNP level of recipient countries without reference to other considerations, such as population and total national resources. It would be readily apparent that a country with a relatively high *per capita* GNP but with a relatively small population would have a smaller total GNP than a country with a low *per capita* GNP but with a large population. The total amount of Malta's budget for the current year was just over £38 million, or \$106 million. It was obvious that a yearly contribution of \$500,000 to UNDP would impose an unacceptable strain on the budget. His delegation therefore hoped that in considering that question the Governing Council would take into account the size of the population, and hence of total GNP, as well as of the problems encountered by small countries. If size of population was considered a valid criterion in the allocation of aid, it could not be ignored when the amount of contributions was to be determined.

Mr. Gabre-Sellassie (Ethiopia) took the Chair.

41. Mr. HUTAGALUNG (Indonesia) said that, having benefited at first hand from the services and activities of United Nations operational organs, Indonesia had no doubt that such organs contributed to the cause of development. They had been instrumental

in the current process of structural reform in international economic relationships aimed at attaining the targets of the International Development Strategy. In his delegation's opinion, the activities of those operational organs should be broadened and strengthened. His delegation had been encouraged by the increase in financial contributions to UNDP announced for 1974. He agreed with the Administrator that such an unprecedented increase was an expression of the confidence which UNDP enjoyed. If resources continued to increase steadily over the coming years, UNDP would undoubtedly be able to improve the IPFs while taking into account the new criteria for 1977-1981 agreed upon by the Governing Council at its sixteenth session. The choice of those new criteria was, in his delegation's view, the most important decision taken by the Governing Council at that session. In that connexion, he wished to restate his delegation's view that the calculation of IPFs for the Second United Nations Development Co-operation Cycle should be based on a more optimistic projection of the growth of resources.

42. With regard to the data on population and *per capita* GNP adopted as basic criteria for the calculation of IPFs for the five-year period ending in 1981, he took the view that such data should be supplied by IBRD. His delegation thanked the Government of the Philippines for its generous offer to act as host to the eighteenth session of the Governing Council of UNDP at Manila, and hoped that the Governing Council would accept that offer at its seventeenth session.

43. With regard to UNFPA, his delegation welcomed the expansion of its activities and the increase in the number of countries which benefited from its aid. Furthermore, the impressive growth in resources made available to UNFPA testified to the confidence which the international community showed towards it. His delegation wished to reiterate its support for the UNFPA work plan for 1973-1976, including its rolling plan, and for its activities relating to the World Population Year and the World Population Conference.

44. His delegation, which had always been in favour of the United Nations Volunteers programme, would like to see its activities grow, since it took the view that the programme could make a substantial contribution to development.

45. With regard to WFP, he welcomed the greater emphasis given to land development and improvement, crop diversification and the like—in other words, to projects which helped the economy of countries to progress in the short run. The development of human resources had also been given attention. His delegation therefore considered that the performance of WFP during the first three years of the Second United Nations Development Decade was quite satisfactory. Greater resources should, however, be made available to WFP to enable it to meet the ever-increasing demand for aid. It was regrettable that it had had to curtail its food aid and postpone approval of new requests for aid, since the impact of such measures would be severely felt in the countries receiving food aid, particularly since many of them had recently suffered very serious crop failures. His delegation therefore supported draft resolution A/C.2/L.1298 submitted by the Economic and Social Council for the Committee's consideration.

46. Commenting on the role of UNICEF, he endorsed the view expressed by Mr. Labouisse that, through its

activities for the benefit of successive younger generations, UNICEF played an essential role in development. It had achieved very positive results as a result of local participation in its projects. There had been an increase both in the number of people, mostly children, benefiting from its assistance and in the number of its projects. UNICEF was giving increasing emphasis to helping countries extend basic education to children and adolescents in deprived rural areas and slums, such activities being fully in line with the needs of many developing countries. Whereas the results achieved by the Fund appeared to be satisfactory, such was not the case with its financial resources. He noted with apprehension that, if contributions made thus far were a reliable indication, the \$100 million target, although a reasonable one, would not be met in 1975. His delegation therefore expressed the hope that the Committee would unanimously adopt draft resolution A/C.2/L.1308, of which it was a sponsor, and in which Governments were invited to make an effort to enable the Fund to reach its target of \$100 million.

47. Mr. OMAR (Libyan Arab Republic) emphasized the importance for the countries of the third world of operational activities for development and the key role played by UNDP and its participating agencies in that field.

48. His delegation agreed with the Administrator that the increased resources to be made available to UNDP should be allocated as a matter of priority to regional, interregional and global projects and should be used principally to intensify UNDP's regional and country-programming activities. Although his country had not participated in the latest Pledging Conference on UNDP, his Government had the intention of making a contribution.

49. The great difficulty faced by the developing countries was that the developed countries showed their reluctance to provide the former with the experts and technology that they needed. That was why UNDP should be responsive to the demands of the developing countries in that field.

50. As to the proposed criteria for calculating IPFs, his delegation wished to express some reservations. It considered that those calculations should not be based on *per capita* income and population. It was unfair to discriminate against developing countries with a high *per capita* income, without taking into account the difficulties which they faced in their efforts to promote social and economic development. Those countries could not accept a reduction in the assistance given to them; what they expected from UNDP was not charity but rather financial assistance that would help them to solve their development problems. In his delegation's view, the role of UNDP should be to assist all the developing countries until they reached the same level as the developed countries. He therefore hoped that UNDP would adopt sufficiently objective criteria that would take into account the needs of every developing country. His delegation appreciated UNDP's efforts to assist the least developed countries. The Libyan Arab Republic shared the economic and social difficulties that they faced. The United Nations Capital Development Fund, in its new form, had a vital part to play in that field. It was to be hoped that the developed countries which had once opposed the establishment of that Fund would henceforth adopt a positive attitude to-

wards it. His delegation accordingly supported draft resolution A/C.2/L.1306.

51. Turning to UNICEF, he said that it merited the support and admiration of all for the aid which it furnished to developing countries in the context of UNDP country programmes. Given UNICEF's need for substantial resources, his delegation supported the idea of a special pledging conference. It therefore supported draft resolution A/C.2/L.1308 and hoped that the Committee would adopt it unanimously. He announced that his Government was intending to make a generous contribution to UNICEF in 1974.

52. With regard to the United Nations Volunteers programme, his delegation considered that the programme could enhance its contribution to the developing countries if its participants possessed higher qualifications and showed greater dedication.

53. Mr. OGISO (Japan) said that UNDP country programming was an interesting development, but its effectiveness should be intensified by means of more thorough evaluation. Evaluation could be applied not only to basic problems, such as the appropriateness of priority projects themselves, but also to the details of project implementation.

54. His delegation was satisfied with the progress achieved at the last two sessions of the Governing Council regarding preparation of the criteria to be used for the calculation of IPFs for the period 1977-1981. It was his firm belief that the new IPFs would provide the least developed countries and other low-income countries with an equitable share of resources. His Government hoped that the Governing Council would complete its work on the criteria at its seventeenth session and also that it would give due consideration to the question of regional IPFs.

55. With regard to assistance to the least developed among the developing countries, his delegation would prefer their needs to be met within the context of technical assistance for the developing countries as a whole, rather than through separately devised programmes. It was therefore not fully convinced of the need to create a special fund to finance multilateral technical assistance for those countries; in its view, that might actually have negative effects on them.

56. His delegation greatly appreciated the activities of UNICEF. Many Japanese still remembered the emergency food supplies which UNICEF had provided for them after the Second World War. As a new member of the UNICEF Executive Board, his delegation looked forward to active participation in its work at the next session. His delegation supported draft resolution A/C.2/L.1308 introduced by the Philippines. The Government of Japan had under consideration a contribution to the useful work being carried out by UNICEF in the Indochina peninsula.

57. With regard to UNFPA, he said that a special survey mission on population questions in Asia, headed by a former Prime Minister of Japan, Mr. Kishi, had recently conducted, with the assistance of UNFPA, a very useful tour in a number of Asian countries. The mission had submitted to the Japanese Government some important recommendations on measures to be taken to help Asian countries to solve their population problems. It was to be hoped that concrete action would be taken in response to those recommendations.

58. Mrs. THORSSON (Sweden) said that the operational activities of the United Nations were important and, in her view, would grow in importance as the developing countries became increasingly aware of the need to enhance their social and economic self-reliance. Her delegation therefore noted with satisfaction that one of the targets of the Second United Nations Development Decade was to increase multilateral assistance.

59. Her delegation was pleased that continuing efforts were being made to improve the assistance programmes. The process of reform on which UNDP had embarked, the compromise reached in June 1973 concerning a revision of the distribution of its future resources, and the result of the 1973 Pledging Conference were encouraging signs. However, there were many factors that gave rise to concern in respect of both resources and programme implementation.

60. The Pledging Conference had been very encouraging and had given indications of further substantial increases in the future contributions of many donor countries. Her delegation welcomed the fact that the position of Sweden, the second largest contributor, was being challenged by other countries, in spite of an increase of 38 per cent in its contribution for 1974. It was also encouraging to note that some of the more developed among the developing countries seemed to have decided to increase rapidly their contributions to the Programme and thus become net contributors. In addition, many developing countries, in spite of obvious financial constraints, continued to contribute significantly to the Programme, thus preserving its multilateral character. The improved resources position should mean that other problems could be tackled decisively.

61. With regard to the United Nations Capital Development Fund, her delegation noted that, according to the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1306, the Fund should aim at making the least developed among the developing countries more self-reliant by strengthening their social and economic infrastructure. However, it was relevant to ask whether the new Fund would be able to attract enough contributions to make a significant impact and what the future relationship between UNDP activities and those of the Fund would be. Her Government would not be able to state its final position on the Fund until those questions had been answered. Nevertheless, it supported the draft resolution introduced by the representative of the Netherlands. She recalled that her Government's special contributions for special measures for the least developed countries would reach a total of \$6.5 million in 1974.

62. She noted with regret the slow growth of direct government contributions to UNICEF. Her Government considered that the target of \$100 million in 1975 could and should be achieved. It was anomalous, however, that the contributions of two Governments, of which the Swedish Government was one, should constitute almost one half of the regular annual budget of UNICEF. Thus, the Swedish Government had contributed \$11 million in 1973, compared to \$2 million in 1968. It was to be hoped that the draft resolution on the subject introduced by the representative of the Philippines would be adopted unanimously.

63. UNFPA, to which Sweden had been one of the largest contributors, had thus far been able to attract

the necessary financial resources. She noted with interest that the number of countries providing support for the Fund was increasing, as were the requests for assistance. Her Government would continue to be a warm supporter of the Fund, as its future contributions would indicate.

64. Her delegation welcomed the fact that a compromise had been reached regarding the criteria governing the distribution of UNDP resources. The decision would mean that the emphasis could be shifted to the least developed and other low-income countries, for which technical and pre-investment assistance was crucial. She also noted with appreciation the Council's decision that 7.5 per cent of the resources should be distributed in accordance with supplementary criteria, including in particular the efforts of the recipient countries to mobilize their own resources and to achieve social justice in accordance with the International Development Strategy. Her Government furthermore endorsed the ideas put forward at the last session of the Governing Council to the effect that UNDP should widen its humanitarian and educational aid to the peoples of the liberated territories in Africa, who were struggling for freedom from the colonial yoke and racial discrimination. The Administrator of UNDP must pursue his consultations with OAU with a view to concluding an agreement which would make it possible to use the resources of UNDP, in consultation with OAU, for assistance projects in the liberated areas of Angola, Guinea-Bissau and Mozambique. The Governing Council should consider the various aspects of the question at its seventeenth session.

65. To remove any possible financial constraints on such action, her Government was prepared to make additional contributions in 1974. Since UNDP now had special contributions totalling \$14 million, it should be able to translate the policy decisions into concrete action in those countries.

66. Her delegation also believed that the United Nations regular budget could play an important role in planning assistance to the least developed countries.

67. As population programmes complemented the development assistance given by UNDP, her delegation felt that UNFPA had an important role to play in the field of development co-operation. It welcomed the decisions taken by the Governing Council in June 1973 regarding the work plan, the division of competence between the Executive Director and the Council in connexion with project approval, and the rolling plan system for programming and planning. Her delegation had also noted with satisfaction the stress placed on co-operation with UNDP and UNICEF, both at Headquarters and in the field.

68. She would like to make particular mention, in the context of co-operation, of the efforts of UNICEF to integrate its field activities with UNDP country programming. WFP would be able to increase the effectiveness of its aid by doing likewise. It was essential that WFP should concentrate its efforts even more on the least developed and other low-income countries. During the last few years, WFP had also played an important co-ordinating role in emergency relief, the operation in Bangladesh being a case in point. Her Government believed that WFP would play an increasingly important role in its dual capacity as a development agency and as an emergency relief organization.

69. At its twenty-seventh session, the General Assembly had recognized the need for the executing agencies to speed up their delivery and to scrutinize possible constraints on their operational capacity, in accordance with the principles laid down in the consensus (resolution 2975 (XXVII)). Some of the agencies had apparently decided to consider that problem, but much remained to be done. The implementation rate had not improved significantly since 1972 and was still at an unacceptably low level. While the United Nations had previously been among the executing agencies with the highest implementation rate, it was now among those with the lowest rate. Her delegation would like to know what measures the United Nations itself had taken to implement resolution 2975 (XXVII). The difficulty experienced by an agency in performing its task on time could have serious consequences for those countries which needed to accelerate their development process, and their entire programme could be disrupted. Furthermore, if it was shown that the United Nations system was incapable of performing the tasks for which resources were available, there would be little incentive for the developed countries to increase their contributions. She hoped that the UNDP and UNFPA sec-

retariats were aware of the seriousness of the situation and would act accordingly, and that the executing agencies would also realize their responsibility. Another possibility would, of course, be direct contracting outside the United Nations system and greater responsibility for the recipient countries themselves in running the programmes.

70. The first review and appraisal had not given much cause for joy in the field of development assistance. It was therefore all the more gratifying to see the progress made by multilateral assistance, which in 1972 had amounted to 22 per cent of the total flow of assistance. Multilateral assistance was free from any political or economic ties and was governed by intergovernmental organs where donors and recipients decided on the content and direction of the assistance programmes in a democratic manner. As many speakers had stressed, the recent Pledging Conference had been a clear vote of confidence by the international community not only in the administration of the programmes and the ongoing reform process but also in multilateral co-operation as such.

The meeting rose at 1.20 p.m.

1559th meeting

Friday, 16 November 1973, at 10.55 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Zewde GABRE-SELLASSIE (Ethiopia).

A/C.2/SR.1559

AGENDA ITEM 49

Operational activities for development (*continued*) (A/9003 and Corr.1, chap. VI):

- (a) United Nations Development Programme (E/5256 and Corr.1, E/5365/Rev.1, A/C.2/L.1307);
- (b) United Nations Capital Development Fund (A/C.2/L.1306);
- (c) Technical co-operation activities undertaken by the Secretary-General;
- (d) United Nations Volunteers programme (E/5342, A/C.2/L.1309);
- (e) United Nations Fund for Population Activities;
- (f) United Nations Children's Fund (A/C.2/L.1308);
- (g) World Food Programme (A/9003/Add.1 (part IV); A/9031, A/C.2/L.1298)

1. Mr. LUCHTERHAND (German Democratic Republic) said that UNDP fulfilled an important function by promoting more and more effectively the economic development of the developing countries. His delegation had noted that the view of the Administrator on the question of military expenditures came close to the Soviet proposal that the military budgets of States permanent members of the Security Council should be reduced by 10 per cent and that part of the funds thus saved should be utilized to provide assistance to developing countries (agenda item 102).

2. His delegation believed that UNDP's effectiveness depended essentially on how it implemented its principles in practice and on how it made its activities corres-

pond to the development targets set by countries; it also depended on the rational use of the financial resources available to it and on its capacity to promote long-term stable socio-economic development in the developing countries.

3. UNDP, which was an integral part of the United Nations system of organs dealing with economic, scientific and technological co-operation and development, was bound to comply with the recommendations and decisions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and its own Governing Council, in particular, by observing and implementing the principles of co-operation among States laid down in the Charter of the United Nations, above all the principles of the equality of States and of non-interference in their internal affairs.

4. His delegation, too, thought that the introduction of country programming and indicative planning figures (IPFs) had enabled UNDP to make more rational use of the financial resources at its disposal. It believed that, in accordance with the provisions of the annex to General Assembly resolution 2688 (XXV), it was the responsibility of the Governments of the States concerned to formulate the programmes for their countries. If those States wished, the UNDP resident representatives could help them.

5. Like many other delegations, his delegation was strongly opposed to UNDP preparing programmes for States which continually violated the resolutions and decisions of the principal organs of the United Nations and felt that it should urgently take the necessary steps,