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MEETING**

Monday, 13 November 1972,
at 10.30 a.m.

NEW YORK

Chairman: Mr. Bruce RANKIN (Canada).

AGENDA ITEM 12

Report of the Economic and Social Council [chapters III to XI, XII (sections A to G) and XVII to XIX] (continued)

UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND (continued) (A/8703, CHAP. VII, SECT. D; A/C.2/L.1242)

AGENDA ITEM 46

Operational activities for development: reports of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme (continued) (A/8703, chap. VII, sect. A, B and C; E/5092, E/5185/Rev.1):

- (a) United Nations Development Programme (A/8648);
- (b) United Nations Capital Development Fund;
- (c) Technical co-operation activities undertaken by the Secretary-General;
- (d) United Nations Volunteers programme (E/5146)

1. Mr. UDOVENKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that UNDP was one of the most important instruments for the development of international economic co-operation and it could play an even more important role in the economic development of developing countries if it were to make more rational use of the financial resources placed at its disposal. Assistance provided through UNDP would be really meaningful to such countries only if due regard was paid to the principles that assistance should be voluntary and universal and strictly in conformity with national development plans and that the Governments of recipient countries should have the unrestricted right to make their own plans for using it. If those and other similar principles were strictly observed by UNDP, it would be able to perform its tasks more efficiently.

2. The transition to country programming and the approval of 35 country programmes by the Governing Council at its thirteenth and fourteenth sessions should be considered as positive achievements. The submission of excessively detailed information by the recipient countries should not be a condition for the approval of country programmes and the implementation of projects, for that would be tantamount to interference in the internal affairs of States.

3. His delegation welcomed the decision of the Governing Council in connexion with its further assessment of experiencing country programming as contained in the report on its fourteenth session (E/5185/Rev.1, paras. 101-103).

4. Pre-investment projects could usefully be more closely linked with the various types of industrial projects proposed in the national development plans, and UNDP should allocate more of its resources to industrial development in general and to the programme of Special Industrial Services in particular. His delegation also found the activities of the *Ad Hoc* Committee on Co-operation between UNDP and UNIDO constructive.

5. Stressing the usefulness of the UNDP activities in promoting follow-up investment, he said that the trend towards a strengthening of the role of IBRD in UNDP activities gave his delegation cause for concern. IBRD represented essentially the interests of private capital and imperialist monopolies, which were motivated solely by the desire to reap profits. The penetration of private capital into the economies of the developing countries was one of the main reasons for the disproportionate increase in their debt. In that connexion, his delegation felt that UNDP should apply to its activities the following well-known provision in paragraph 53 of the Consensus adopted by the Governing Council at its tenth session, in June 1970¹: "No one source of follow-up investment financing should be regarded as the only acceptable source or as a source enjoying preference over others."

6. His delegation felt that the Governing Council had taken a constructive decision with regard to assistance to the least developed countries and the allocation of an additional amount of \$15 million for that purpose (see E/5185/Rev.1, para. 137).

7. Nevertheless, it was his delegation's opinion that the amount could be considerably increased almost immediately if appropriate measures were taken to reduce the abnormally high level of administrative and management costs. The efforts of the Administrator notwithstanding, administrative and management costs continued to rise. That was why it was indispensable to continue to improve the structure of UNDP and especially to find ways of controlling expenditure on communications and in particular on cables. He could cite several instances in which cable correspondence had not been used rationally—a shortcoming which was, to some extent, typical of United Nations organizations.

8. The Ukrainian SSR had assisted and would continue actively to assist the developing countries both through the United Nations and on a bilateral basis.

¹ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 6A*, para. 94.

For example, many seminars and training courses for cadres had been organized in the Ukraine. However, as the principle of equitable geographical distribution was still not applied in the United Nations, only a very few Ukrainian experts had been called upon to fill vacancies in the UNDP secretariat and to work in the field in the developing countries.

9. UNDP had not yet become a truly universal organization and as a result its scope of activities and resources were limited. The German Democratic Republic, which for many years had maintained active relations with many developing countries, was still prevented from participating in UNDP activities because of the opposition of a number of Western countries.

10. He concluded by saying that UNDP's financial situation could be considerably improved and its operational budget increased if UNDP and the United Nations regular programme of technical assistance were merged and the latter was financed by voluntary contributions.

11. Mr. OKELO (Uganda) drew attention to the need to concentrate on the selection of criteria to be applied in calculating indicative planning figures and endorsed the proposals of the Administrator of UNDP for the adoption of simple and realistic criteria. His delegation was also able to endorse the additional criteria suggested by the Working Group on review of criteria to be followed in calculating indicative planning figures (*ibid.*, paras. 96 and 97), for it believed that such criteria should be realistic. It was none the less true that *per capita* income and population remained the most reliable and appropriate criteria in the existing circumstances.

12. In view of UNDP's limited resources and the growing number of recipient countries, the more advanced of the developing countries should consider the possibility of assisting UNDP by considerably reducing their requests for aid, as that would make it possible to step up assistance to the most disadvantaged of the developing countries. Obviously, UNDP assistance could not be distributed on a basis of strict equality for the very reason that the least developed of the developing countries should benefit from special measures to enable them to close the gap between themselves and the other developing countries. In that connexion, he thought that special treatment for the least developed countries would not run counter to the interests of the other developing countries and that it should constitute the starting-point for steady and continuing aid for some time.

13. With regard to the regular programme of technical co-operation, his delegation viewed with particular favour the programme which had been launched to meet the serious needs of the developing countries. He was referring to the programme of young economists undertaken by the Office of Technical Co-operation in 1972 and he stressed the need to look for a spirit of enterprise and generosity, and not only professional qualifications, when recruiting young people under that programme. The Office of Technical Co-operation

should therefore consult with the United Nations Volunteers programme for the purpose of identifying candidates with a high level of professional training and a genuine desire to serve the cause of development.

14. The activities undertaken by the United Nations Volunteers programme were to be commended, although it must be admitted that there were certain shortcomings. Thus, it was too bad that volunteers were recruited by the International Secretariat for Volunteer Service and the Co-ordinating Committee for International Voluntary Service because that meant a delay before volunteers could take up their duties. His delegation thought that the recruitment procedures should be re-examined with a view to eliminating useless complications and enabling the programme itself to do its own recruitment. Similarly, the activities of the programme were little known and an effort should be made to give them greater publicity, perhaps with the assistance of the resident representatives.

15. He whole-heartedly welcomed the assistance given by UNICEF to Uganda in training, preventive medicine and the establishment of clinics and health centres. Moreover, UNICEF had co-operated with UNDP and the health authorities of Uganda in preparing the country programme, to which it had contributed the component for health and social matters, with emphasis on young people and children.

16. Mr. AL-EBRAHIM (Kuwait) fully approved of country programming, which had already demonstrated its superiority over the old system used by UNDP to provide development assistance. However, he felt that the indicative planning figures had not been formulated according to proper and equitable criteria and in certain cases were too low to satisfy the real needs of the countries concerned. For example, they were too low for Kuwait; for many years Kuwait had been devoting a major portion of its own resources to aid and development, and it had therefore expected UNDP to show some appreciation of its efforts. It had been said that the indicative planning figures were based on projections from aid delivered in the past, but that was not a satisfactory criterion; many factors were involved, including the agricultural and industrial level of development of a country. Kuwait had no agriculture and almost no industry, and it definitely needed a great deal of assistance from UNDP in its efforts to promote economic and social development.

17. Recalling that the function of the United Nations was to maintain peace and security and to prevent aggression, he said that he was firmly opposed to any provision of aid by UNDP to Israel. His delegation was protesting not only because the indicative planning figures for Israel were high or because it was a developed country but also because Israel was an aggressor which was occupying the territories of other Arab States and denying the people of Palestine their natural rights.

18. He expressed the hope that the developed countries would increase their contributions to UNDP to enable it to achieve its objectives and that they would

devote more resources to multilateral than to bilateral aid, for the latter often had political strings attached.

19. His delegation had always been aware of the need to accord priority to the least developed countries, but that should not prevent UNDP from granting other countries the aid they needed.

20. His delegation supported all efforts to reduce the cost of UNDP programmes and administrative expenditure to enable UNDP to use more of its resources directly for the benefit of developing countries.

21. Mr. CARIM (Turkey) pointed out that, with the increase in the world population, the scope of UNDP's responsibilities was constantly increasing. It was in an attempt to take that fact into consideration that he had suggested that the various countries should increase their contributions to UNDP by 15 per cent a year instead of the 9 per cent originally proposed. UNDP resources were still not enough to cover requirements, but they could be used more effectively if duplication was eliminated and administrative expenditure reduced.

22. He then referred to General Assembly resolution 2688 (XXV) of 11 December 1970 on the capacity of the United Nations development system, the annex to which contained the provisions of the Consensus. He considered it very important to keep recipient countries informed of the aid UNDP could provide, and also to keep foreign experts informed of the situation and requirements of the country to which they were providing aid in order to create an atmosphere of mutual understanding and trust.

23. With regard to the United Nations Volunteers programme, he regretted that an insufficient number of Volunteers had been recruited; in his view, establishing a United Nations training college or university would not be of any use in training Volunteers because two- to six-week seminars should be enough to make future Volunteers understand what was expected of them and to explain United Nations activities. His delegation thought that another way to lighten the financial and administrative burden of the United Nations was for the resident representatives themselves, and not any new administration, to be instructed to participate in country programming.

24. Mr. AL-BAKSHI (Bahrain), drawing the attention of members of the Committee to Article 55 of the Charter of the United Nations, stressed that UNDP must shoulder its responsibilities with full respect for the ideals of the Charter. That did not of course mean that if UNDP operated in a way that was not to the satisfaction of the developing countries, it should be made a scapegoat. In that event, the rich countries were also to be blamed.

25. Although the contributions of Member States to the UNDP budget increased every year, the gap between the affluent and the poor countries was still widening. That, however, by no means diminished the role played by UNDP in development. Since its estab-

lishment, it had made a substantial contribution to the process of development, and it deserved gratitude for that.

26. Because of its limited resources, at the 1972 United Nations Pledging Conference on UNDP² Bahrain had pledged a contribution of only \$10,000 for 1973, but the Government of Bahrain was ready to co-operate with UNDP because it believed it was a useful organization. He recalled that UNDP had been collaborating with Bahrain since before that country became independent, and that a subregional office would soon be opened officially to provide services for all the States of the Arabian Gulf.

27. It was the opinion of his delegation that the UNDP Governing Council should give due consideration to the revision of the criteria used for calculating the indicative planning figures, which were not high enough for the Gulf States. It was only through increased assistance from the United Nations that the programmes under way in that region could produce the hoped-for results.

28. Mr. OCHIRBAL (Mongolia) said that his delegation had listened with great interest to the statements (1478th meeting) by Mr. Labouisse, Director-General of UNICEF, Mr. Peterson, UNDP Administrator, and other administrative heads of United Nations bodies dealing with development activities.

29. The increase in the number of countries represented in United Nations bodies dealing with economic and social matters had led to an increase in the financial resources available and to a strengthening of democratic trends in that area.

30. The very rapid expansion of United Nations activities in the economic and social spheres was giving rise to fears that it might divert financial resources and manpower to secondary objectives.

31. In the view of his delegation, every Member State of the United Nations had an obligation to refrain from taking any measure that might deflect the Organization from fulfilling its major function, namely maintaining international peace and security.

32. That did not mean that activities in other areas should be reduced; on the contrary, it presupposed that co-operation would increase, that a strict order of priorities would be established and firmly respected so that the United Nations could concentrate on resolving the key development problems.

33. He felt it was worth restating his delegation's position, since he was speaking for the first time in the general debate in the Second Committee on the agenda item under consideration.

34. Although the appropriation for indicative planning figures was modest, a rational utilization of those resources could be of benefit to all States.

² See A/CONF.58/SR.1 and 2.

35. It was regrettable that basic criteria had not yet been drawn up for determining indicative planning figures.

36. While population and *per capita* income were important in determining the indicative planning figures, it was equally important to take into account factors influencing development, such as access or lack of access to the sea, possibilities of acquiring convertible currencies, the nature of the economic structure of the country, the level of industrialization, and even all the benefits accruing from participation in regional and subregional programmes.

37. He welcomed the intensification of co-operation between the Mongolian People's Republic and UNDP. If the activities of UNDP were to be effective, it would have to adopt different methods to resolve the problems of different countries.

38. Changes should be made to previously adopted programmes without delay. But time was being lost in the implementation of technical assistance and Special Fund projects in reviewing the amounts of expenditures through lengthy correspondence between government departments and the headquarters of the executing agencies involved.

39. It was essential to spend some time in preparing experimental industrial projects and to increase the funds to be spent on industrialization in developing countries.

40. The participation of such a highly developed industrial Power as the German Republic would be of considerable help in solving the many problems posed by development; it would also be in accordance with the principle of universality.

41. His delegation objected to the aid UNDP and other United Nations organizations were providing for the Israeli expansionists, who were following a policy of aggression against Arab States in violation of resolutions adopted by the principal organs of the United Nations.

42. His delegation had serious reservations concerning the statement made by the UNDP Administrator to the effect that he intended to increase co-operation between UNDP and private enterprises. UNDP was an intergovernmental institution and should not co-operate with private agencies, except with the approval of member States. The main task facing UNDP was to protect the national interests of developing countries against any attacks by monopoly capital of the imperialist countries.

43. His Government would continue its efforts to increase co-operation with UNICEF.

44. His delegation had no objections to the establishment of a United Nations Volunteers programme whose activities would be financed from voluntary contributions and would not entail any expenditure by UNDP.

45. Mr. HAMID (Sudan) said that development assistance was far below the targets of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade (General Assembly resolution 2626 (XXV)) and UNDP, as the most important source of multilateral pre-investment and technical assistance, thus had a considerable responsibility in that domain. The figures presented in the report of the Governing Council on its fourteenth session were encouraging, but the assistance furnished was still far from meeting the needs of the developing countries. It was therefore necessary for the major donor countries to increase their contributions, so as to enable UNDP to provide its basic services. However, the Sudanese delegation was cognizant of the fact that recommendations should be based on the availability of resources and that the competition for UNDP resources was becoming more and more intense.

46. He agreed with the assertion of the UNDP Administrator that the developed countries should furnish an over-all level of funds that was sufficient to meet the growing need for UNDP services. Moreover, the recommended growth rate of 9.6 per cent might not be enough by itself to enable UNDP to meet the goal of \$500 million in voluntary contributions early in the latter half of the Second Decade. However, an effort should be made to come close to that goal.

47. With regard to structural changes in UNDP, the new country programming procedure was extremely promising. His delegation also welcomed the move towards decentralization through the establishment of regional bureaux, the measures taken to improve the qualifications and conditions of service of UNDP staff, and the assignment of a more important role to resident representatives. However, it was necessary to study the opinion of some members of the Governing Council concerning the usefulness of resident representatives in ensuring proper co-ordination of multilateral and bilateral inputs at the country level.

48. With regard to reviewing the criteria to be followed in calculating indicative planning figures, his delegation considered that, apart from the variables of population and *per capita* income, only quantifiable variables should be used. As to the timing of the adoption of new indicative planning figures, those who thought that the new system should be applied during the second development co-operation cycle, 1977-1981, agreed that a change should be made in the system of allocation of indicative planning figures as soon as resources grew above the currently foreseen level, so that no country would suffer a reduction in its indicative planning figures. That argument was not devoid of a certain logic. However, a partial application of the new system of calculation for the least developed countries ought to be feasible even during the first cycle. The third session of UNCTAD (resolution 62 (III)) and the Economic and Social Council at its fifty-third session (resolution 1710 (III)) had appealed for revision of the criteria used in respect of the least developed countries. The large external assistance component in the over-all resources of the group of least developed countries, which in some cases amounted to 70 per cent, placed

a heavy responsibility on UNDP. It was therefore gratifying to note that the Governing Council had already decided to increase the resources to be made available to the least developed countries and to help them to make better use of those resources. Indeed, it was becoming increasingly necessary to improve the quality as well as the quantity of the aid provided to those countries. Another possibility would be recourse to the scheme of programme reserves in order to support their most urgent needs. Lastly, he welcomed the fact that certain developed countries had pledged contributions specifically for allocation to the least developed countries.

49. He expressed his country's appreciation of the Governing Council's decision to raise the indicative planning figure for Sudan from \$15 million to \$20 million. That increase was particularly opportune in view of the special effort required of his Government to develop the southern part of the country, which involved a large-scale programme of resettlement and rehabilitation. The example of his country highlighted the need, in some cases, for UNDP to provide for emergency action, which sometimes called for a waiver of the routine mechanics of programming and evaluation. At the same time, the projects connected with the indicative planning system were being implemented far too slowly to keep pace with the needs of the situation following the settlement of the strife in southern Sudan.

50. No improvement had been recorded in the operations of the United Nations Capital Development Fund and that situation would not be changed unless those developed countries which did not contribute to the Fund modified their position. His delegation agreed that the Capital Development Fund could be a very useful instrument for providing priority financing to certain projects for the least developed countries, as recommended by UNCTAD. It was therefore to be hoped that there would be an increase in the level of contributions.

51. Encouraging progress had been recorded in the United Nations programme of technical co-operation. It was gratifying to note the increases in the volume of technical assistance furnished by the United Nations—from \$53.5 million in 1970 to \$61 million in 1971—in the number of experts assigned to developing countries and in the number of fellowships awarded. His delegation was also pleased to note that the programme was now being used for large-scale projects and for projects concentrating on the problems of the least developed countries.

52. His delegation was keenly interested in the United Nations Volunteers programme, and it was convinced that the support provided to that programme by the resident representatives would permit the progressive integration of the Volunteer component into UNDP assistance. However, it should be remembered that Volunteers were not intended to replace qualified experts. It was a matter of satisfaction that the practice of charging the local expenses of Volunteers working in the least developed countries against those

countries' indicative planning figures would no longer be followed. The Volunteers programme deserved support.

53. His delegation noted with satisfaction the efforts of UNICEF to integrate its activities with the operational activities of other United Nations bodies. It was also pleased to note that UNICEF had been shaping its programmes with a view not only to meeting the most urgent needs of the young, but also to helping countries to establish or strengthen their long-term programmes for children. In the belief that UNICEF deserved sustained support, his delegation supported draft resolution A/C.2/L.1242.

54. Mr. MOLINA-DUARTE (Venezuela) said that he was pleased at the way in which UNDP was seeking to ensure strict implementation of the 1970 Consensus. In 1972, Venezuela had been one of the first nations to present its country programme, which had been approved by the Governing Council. Venezuela was keenly interested in the scheme, which was aimed at pooling all the aid received by a country in a single programme, taking account of its national development plan.

55. Although it was indeed necessary to rationalize the criteria followed in the calculation of indicative planning figures, it would be oversimplifying matters to use only one or two criteria. Particular account should be taken of the fact that natural resources were not inexhaustible, especially in countries whose economies were essentially dependent on mineral resources. Account should also be taken of the extent to which the recipient country was endeavouring to establish social justice and promote economic and social development within its borders. International technical assistance should play a catalytic role and help countries to bring about fundamental changes in their structures, and not to maintain the status quo.

56. His delegation agreed that measures should be adopted on behalf of the least developed countries. However, in defining the stage of development reached by countries, it was important not to create several categories of developing countries, for that might discourage countries from national efforts towards improvement. His delegation considered that assistance to the least developed countries should be provided through institutional machinery such as the United Nations Capital Development Fund.

57. Underlining the importance of regional projects, he noted that there was no exact definition of the term "regional project". Consequently, there was a tendency to designate projects which actually served the interests of only a small number of countries as "regional" projects. Moreover, there were no criteria that could be used to evaluate regional projects. Such projects should contribute to the economic integration of the region concerned. Regional projects had the advantage of affecting various countries in the same geographical area which had reached different stages of development and could pool their experience. It was therefore necessary to encourage the adoption of

that type of project and to increase the resources provided for that purpose.

58. Underlining the multiplier effect of technical assistance, he emphasized that some developing countries which had reached a relatively more advanced stage of development could use the assistance they received to help other countries. Venezuela, for example, was providing assistance to other developing countries. Certain countries should not, therefore, be deprived of assistance which, through them, could redound to the benefit of the least developed countries.

59. He supported the recommendations of the *Ad Hoc* Committee on Co-operation between UNDP and UNIDO, and he hoped they would lead to improved co-ordination between the assistance programmes of the two bodies. In particular, he thought that UNDP should increase its support to the programme of Special Industrial Services.

60. Mr. ARUEDE (Nigeria) said that UNDP was a unique instrument for international co-operation since its scope extended to many sectors and it was supported by many different countries and international organs. General Assembly resolution 2688 (XXV), to which the provisions of the Consensus were annexed, had had a decisive influence on UNDP activities. It had introduced into the system the two concepts of country programming and indicative planning figures. Country programming made it possible to adapt assistance to the exact requirements of the recipient countries, while the indicative planning figures made it possible for countries to draw up their programme knowing what resources would be available to them. Respect for those two principles, however, should not become a hindrance, and each country must be able to formulate its programme freely, while remaining within the limits of its indicative planning figure.

61. Turning to the problem of the criteria for drawing up the indicative planning figure for each country, he pointed out that those criteria had been selected rather hastily because UNDP had wished to make a start on country programming as early as possible. As a result there were disparities, and the Governing Council had rightly decided to rectify the situation. Whatever defects those data might have, *per capita* income and total population were undoubtedly the best criteria available. Although that did not exclude the use of additional criteria, their selection called for great prudence if the Governing Council was to avoid making subjective judgements on the national policy of certain countries.

62. The 1970 Consensus had entailed a sweeping reorganization of UNDP which, in consequence, needed \$500 million by the beginning of the latter half of the Second Decade. However, if the annual rate of increase of 9.6 per cent was maintained, UNDP would fall short of its target by almost \$100 million. Like the Administrator of UNDP, he hoped that Governments would be able to increase their contributions by about 15 per cent per annum. At the 1972 Pledging Conference on

UNDP, many rich countries had merely increased their contributions by some 9.6 per cent. On the other hand, the donor countries included countries that were classified as least developed among the developing countries. It would be unreasonable to expect those countries to raise their contribution by 9.6 per cent annually; therefore, in order to maintain the annual rate of increase of even 9.6 per cent, the rich countries should make an effort to exceed that percentage by a wide margin.

63. With regard to recruitment, the Administrator had stated that UNDP had based itself on Article 101 of the Charter, but his delegation believed that it could go further than Article 101, without in any way violating the spirit of the Charter, and apply the recommendations of the Consensus that in every case, where potential recruits were equally qualified, an effort should be made to observe the principle of equitable geographical distribution.

64. In conclusion, he noted with satisfaction that certain factors made it possible for the least developed among the developing countries to view the future more optimistically. At the third session of UNCTAD at Santiago, it had been proposed (resolution 62 (III)) that those countries should receive special assistance. Moreover, the channelling of part of the resources of the United Nations Capital Development Fund to assist the least developed countries would perhaps encourage some Governments which had previously been unfavourable to the Fund to review their position and, finally, the appointment of Mr. Farah to the post of Commissioner for Technical Co-operation gave grounds for hope that the United Nations Technical Assistance Programme for the least developed countries would be expanded.

65. Mr. GATES (New Zealand) said that if the consideration of UNICEF's activities had not aroused much controversy, that was because, on the whole, there was every reason to be satisfied with its work. New Zealand intended to vote in favour of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1242 concerning UNICEF.

66. Over the previous three years, New Zealand had increased its annual contribution to UNDP by 10, 20 and 30 per cent respectively. The main problem which UNDP had to tackle appeared to be the need to cut down administrative expenses. In fact it was essential to streamline the administration of UNDP, since every dollar saved in that sector could be used on behalf of the developing countries.

67. New Zealand was not a member of the UNDP Governing Council, but generally supported its recommendations. A review of indicative planning figures would be timely because there were considerable disparities and the least developed countries especially were being affected adversely. That review was not only necessary but a matter of urgency, because if vested interests were allowed to become involved, it would subsequently become impossible to rectify the situation.

68. Paragraph 39 of the report of the Governing Council on its fourteenth session (E/5185/Rev.1) had surprised and disturbed New Zealand. It was true that Sudan was receiving an increase of \$5 million in its indicative planning figure, and that the increase was perfectly justified, since it was one of the least developed countries; but on the other hand, in order to increase the figure for some countries, that of many others, with the exception of Bangladesh of course, had been reduced. Thus, the Governing Council had "taken from Peter to pay Paul". It was important that those countries represented on the Governing Council should be fully aware that their decisions affected countries not so represented, and which were therefore not in a position to defend or pursue their legitimate interests. His delegation hoped that the decision would be reviewed in the near future and that the previous indicative planning figures would be re-established.

69. In conclusion, his delegation thanked the Commissioner for Technical Co-operation and the Co-ordinator for the United Nations Volunteers programme for their statements (1478th meeting) and said that it had nothing to add to what other delegations had said with regard to those statements.

70. Mr. BAROODY (Saudi Arabia) welcomed the harmony and co-ordination existing between UNICEF and UNDP in view of the importance of children and young people for the future of the world.

71. No illusions should be harboured with regard to development matters. Development would lag behind as long as the commodities produced by the developing countries were the cheapest component in the goods manufactured by the industrialized countries, as long as the latter had a trade gap, as long as inflation continued to be rampant and currencies were not realigned. The Administrator of UNDP had stated that if countries did not increase their contributions by 15 per cent per annum, UNDP would fall \$100 million short of its target of \$500 million at the beginning of the latter half of the Second Decade. He would propose another remedy along the same lines, namely that any country which called upon UNDP should pay the cost of the services of the expert assigned to carry out preliminary studies. That expenditure was not beyond the means of even

the least developed countries. The dispatch of a team by UNDP to carry out pre-investment work would form a loan which the recipient country would repay from the profits earned by the project. If the project was not expected to produce actual profits, the country concerned would make a payment to UNDP. He was aware that his proposal might not find favour, but it should be borne in mind that resources made available without due care to a bureaucracy—and a Government was a bureaucracy—would disappear without trace. Countries which requested aid must therefore make the first step, in order to show their goodwill.

72. He then turned to a question of deep concern to him, namely the mines laid during the last world war by the warring troops in certain African countries, particularly the Libyan Arab Republic. So far the mines had killed or injured 2,000 persons; and they were a considerable obstacle to development since, in particular, they frustrated attempts to drill for oil. At the very least, the countries responsible for that situation should send demolition experts to the areas concerned in order to put an end to the fears and suffering of the inhabitants of those countries.

73. Mr. DIALLO (Upper Volta) said, in exercise of his right of reply, that he believed that the New Zealand representative had referred in his statement to a country whose indicative planning figure had been increased. He thought he knew which country the New Zealand representative was referring to, and regretted that he had made such a comment. It should not be thought that because a country was a member of the Governing Council, its wishes were granted. The figures had been changed on the recommendation of the Administration, not on that of a member of the Governing Council. The observation by Mr. Gates was particularly unwarranted since Upper Volta, whether in UNDP or in the Economic and Social Council, was the last country which could be accused of defending narrow national interests. Nevertheless, New Zealand—which defended whenever and wherever it could the interests of Papua-New Guinea—should allow Upper Volta to defend the interests of the least developed countries even if, unfortunately, it was one of them.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.