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MEETING**

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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
(A/8703, CHAP. VII, SECT. D)**

AGENDA ITEM 46

Operational activities for development: reports of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme (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. LABOUISSSE (Executive Director, United Nations Children's Fund) said that over the years, in accordance with General Assembly resolutions, UNICEF had been shaping its programmes so that they not only helped meet some of the immediate needs of the young but also helped countries establish and strengthen their long-range services for children, particularly those relating to health, nutrition and primary education. Those services had come to be recognized as essential parts of over-all development efforts. Consequently, it was logical and timely that UNICEF's work should now be considered by the Committee under the item "Operational activities for development". While that work had lost none of its traditional humanitarian impulse, it had gained an additional dimension both in fact and in recognition.

2. The needs of children were important not only in themselves; the degree to which those needs were met crucially affected the child's progress from infancy to adulthood. Moreover, some needs were closely linked to each other, as were the possibilities of action. Consequently, one of UNICEF's main functions in the United Nations system was to be responsive to the needs of children as a whole.

3. To that end, UNICEF provided essentially three types of assistance. First, it worked with Governments to help them develop plans and programmes to meet the needs of children in a coherent and comprehensive way. Secondly, it provided material aid in the form

* Resumed from the 1465th meeting.

of a wide variety of supplies and equipment for basic children's services. Thirdly, it provided financial aid to help meet some of the local costs of developing those services, particularly in the form of stipends for the training of local personnel.

4. Concerning the first of those types of assistance, UNICEF believed that one of the most effective long-term contributions it could make was to help countries clarify and elaborate national policies for children and youth. UNICEF had been the main sponsor of two conferences on children in national development held in 1972: one in May at Lomé, at which eight West African countries had been represented, and one in August at Guatemala City, at which six central African countries had been represented. The meetings had been attended by persons representing a broad spectrum of interests, including Ministers of planning, health, education and social welfare, and representatives of international organizations, bilateral aid agencies and non-governmental organizations. Each country had prepared an analysis of the situation of its children and youth and proposals for action, which had emerged as specific recommendations for action by the countries, bilateral aid agencies and the agencies of the United Nations, including UNICEF.

5. The exercise of programming UNICEF assistance on a country-by-country basis provided the occasion for discussions between sectoral Ministries and government officials concerned with over-all planning. UNICEF also gave some support for surveys and the testing of different patterns of services which a country might extend on a wider scale in its next development plan. That aspect of its work could be regarded in a sense as technical assistance in the formulation of national policies and programmes beneficial to children and their development.

6. The other aspects could be considered more as economic aid to further such policies and programmes. Many UNICEF projects were multipurpose, and the various types of activity were designed to reinforce one another. Assistance in the field of health, for example, might include programmes for better nutrition, and school activities might encompass both health and nutrition education. He stressed that although UNICEF's resources were relatively modest—current regular income was in the range of \$65 million to \$70 million—the expenditures often provided the kind of catalytic effect required to enable a country to expand its services for children and try out new approaches to meeting children's needs.

7. It was unfortunately still true that only a small percentage of children in developing countries received

even rudimentary health care. Consequently UNICEF's major target was still that of strengthening and expanding basic health services, especially for maternal and child health. In 1971 more than 46 per cent of its expenditures on programme aid had been devoted to that purpose in 96 countries, including support for immunization and other disease control programmes such as BCG vaccination against tuberculosis and the provision of clean drinking water for rural communities, which had a direct bearing on the well-being of children. During the same year, equipment and supplies had been provided to more than 16,000 health centres, paediatric hospitals and maternity wards, and grants had been given to train over 18,000 health personnel. All UNICEF's work in the health field was co-ordinated closely with WHO.

8. A growing number of countries were recognizing the profound influence of family size and the spacing of births on the health and welfare of children and families and were accepting the view that family planning was most effective when maternal and child health services and other social services were also available. That view had been the basis of the decision adopted by the UNICEF Executive Board in 1967 that the Fund, when so requested by a Government, might assist family planning as part of national maternal and child health services. That was being done with significant support from the United Nations Fund for Population Activities and in co-operation with WHO.

9. UNICEF was perhaps best known for its long-standing concern for child nutrition, a concern that was increasingly shared within the United Nations system and particularly in the developing countries themselves, in the light of the recognized adverse effects of malnutrition—many of them practically irreversible—on the future physical and mental development of the young child. UNICEF followed two main approaches, based to the greatest extent possible on indigenous resources: the processing and distribution of new types of protein-rich weaning foods, and village programmes—generally referred to as “applied nutrition” activities—which encouraged rural people to grow and consume the food their families needed. Naturally, UNICEF worked closely with FAO and WHO. Nearly 13 per cent of UNICEF programme aid had been invested in 1971 in projects specifically designed to attack the causes of malnutrition in some 60 countries. Many other projects in health and education also had a nutrition component. In addition, UNICEF had been one of the three original sponsors of the Protein Advisory Group.

10. The new high-protein cereal-legume weaning food mixtures being formulated were an especially promising approach. They could be produced indigenously from a wide variety of domestic raw materials. The processing and the end products had proved most successful in a number of countries, although some problems remained to be overcome in bringing about wider distribution and use.

11. Applied nutrition programmes covered a wide range of activities: nutrition demonstration centres,

community and school gardens, poultry farms, fish hatcheries, etc. While the degree of success varied from country to country, one thing was quite clear: a successful programme—that is, one which resulted in more nutritious food being consumed by undernourished children—required time and patience. The natural desire to increase cash income by selling in the markets of the modern sector usually assumed first priority ahead of the needs of the nutritionally deprived child. However, through increased production of foods and well-directed health and nutrition education, important advances had been made. UNICEF provided stipends for training nutrition field workers to teach parents and young people how to grow and cook high-protein foods.

12. Severe vitamin A deficiency, a cause of child blindness in many developing countries, could be eliminated by administering large doses of vitamin A twice a year to children from three months to six years of age. The groundwork for programmes to prevent nutritional blindness by distribution of vitamin A had begun to be laid in Indonesia, India and the Philippines.

13. Turning to education, he said that in many developing countries, although a substantial proportion of the children might be enrolled in primary school, not more than half completed the fourth year. Consequently, half or less of the future adult population might grow up without—or might not retain—basic literacy and the minimum educational standards required for their personal development and contribution to society.

14. In the past year, close to 30 per cent of UNICEF's total programme aid had been spent on assisting educational services in 83 countries, in close association with UNESCO. The emphasis had continued to be on curriculum reform, better preparation of teachers and the introduction of practical training to prepare young people for work. Equipment and supplies had been provided for some 14,000 primary and secondary schools and teacher-training institutions, and for some 1,000 pre-vocational training institutions for young people, and training grants had been given to approximately 42,000 teachers.

15. The critical shortage of trained workers in the developing countries was one of the most serious obstacles to improving and expanding services for children. Training of national personnel was at the core of most UNICEF-aided projects in all fields. In 1971, a total of 172,000 persons had received UNICEF training stipends. About one third of UNICEF programme assistance was devoted to training personnel within the developing countries at all levels of work—planning, directing, teaching, professional, supervisory and auxiliary, with the greatest emphasis on middle-level and auxiliary staff.

16. Although UNICEF had for many years directed its efforts primarily at helping countries establish and expand permanent services for children, it had naturally continued to provide emergency aid for children in situations of disaster, whether natural or man-made. It had an experienced staff, an established system of

international procurement with a warehouse and packing centre at Copenhagen, and a pipeline of supplies and equipment for on-going programmes in many countries, all of which made it possible to respond rather quickly where emergency help was urgently needed. However, when sufficient aid from other sources was available for immediate relief, UNICEF preferred to concentrate on the rehabilitation phase. In 1971, it had provided relief or rehabilitation aid to over 20 countries. The greatest challenge had been on the Indian subcontinent. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees had co-ordinated the efforts of UNICEF and others in the monumental task of providing emergency relief to refugees from East Pakistan, and UNICEF was now working with the United Nations Relief Operation in Dacca to assist the Government of Bangladesh with a temporary child feeding programme and with the rehabilitation and extension of schools, health facilities and village water supplies. In future, UNICEF would co-ordinate its work fully with the new United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, and had already contributed the services of one staff member to his office.

17. UNICEF regarded its work as part of a world-wide partnership of Governments, international organizations and the public. Naturally, the major partner was the assisted country, and its Government made the largest contribution to any UNICEF-assisted project. The specialized agencies—particularly WHO, FAO, UNESCO and the ILO—as well as the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, had always shared with UNICEF a common interest in the well-being of children. The agencies provided technical guidance in their fields of competence, including, where applicable, the services of experts, while UNICEF provided a wide variety of material aid and funds to help Governments meet local training costs. The preparation of policy guidelines, planning of programmes, implementation and evaluation of projects were, whenever applicable, a joint endeavour with the agency or agencies concerned.

18. With the growing interest in the human side of development, a closer relationship had developed between UNICEF and other organizations in the United Nations system sharing similar concerns, the objective being to exchange experience, assess priorities and provide assistance in a complementary manner. For example, UNICEF consulted with IBRD concerning a number of fields to which the latter was increasingly turning its attention, such as education, nutrition, family planning and the improvement of living conditions in slums and shantytowns. UNICEF was turning increasingly to the United Nations Volunteers as a source of assistance to supplement arrangements with some non-governmental organizations with which UNICEF had already been working before the establishment of the United Nations Volunteers programme. Those young people provided valuable assistance—both in emergency aid and in long-range programmes—where it was needed most, at the village or local level. Finally, and particularly important, UNICEF consulted with UNDP on all projects of mutual interest and was participating in the UNDP country programming exercise.

19. Country programming was the natural culmination of the "country approach" policy which UNICEF had been following for the past 10 years, whereby aid was made available in accordance with priorities worked out with the assisted Government on the basis of the needs of its children, and taking into account other sources of assistance. To that end, UNICEF had been sponsoring a series of regional and, more recently, country conferences for the purpose of identifying needs and clarifying effective means of action.

20. One group which would receive increased attention and resources in the immediate future as a result of discussions in the Executive Board were the children of poorest population groups. Social inequity in the distribution of income affected children in particular. Moreover, raising the level of welfare and development of children of the lowest income groups might be one of the best ways to reduce inequality as they became of working age. UNICEF had long directed its assistance policy to children's services in rural areas. In 1971, the Executive Board had reviewed what more could be done to help countries improve the situation of children in slums and shantytowns. UNICEF help in that field had been expanded with the technical support of the Centre for Housing, Building and Planning.

21. At the 1972 session of the Executive Board,¹ a review of assistance policy in education had established that UNICEF should concentrate increasingly on helping countries attain minimum basic educational objectives for children and adolescents who were or had been educationally deprived at the primary level. A study being carried out for UNICEF was exploring ways to improve and strengthen non-formal educational opportunities for rural children and adolescents.

22. At the 1972 session the Executive Board had also reviewed assistance in child nutrition in the light of the report² of the Panel of Experts on the protein problem confronting developing countries which had been before the General Assembly in 1971, and attention had again been directed to the lowest socio-economic group. UNICEF would be directing its assistance more specifically to children under five years of age, in collaboration with WFP, FAO and WHO. However, he emphasized that the problem could not be solved with the present level of national and international resources.

23. Lastly, as for basic maternal and child health, which was closely related to responsible parenthood, the twentieth session of the UNICEF/WHO Joint Health Policy Committee would consider alternative approaches to expanding services in areas at present grossly underserved.

24. The least developed countries were another major concern. Of the 25 countries listed as the least developed among developing countries³, 23 already

¹ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 9*.

² *Strategy Statement on Action to Avert the Protein Crisis in the Developing Countries* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.71.II.A.17).

³ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 7, para. 66*.

had projects assisted by UNICEF. Projects of 14 of those countries had been reviewed at the 1972 Board session, and the level of commitments approved in relation to child population had been double that in other countries assisted. In its future assistance programme, UNICEF planned to direct more of its resources towards the least developed countries.

25. Although infant mortality had decreased substantially in developing countries, deaths between the ages of one and five remained 20 to 40 times higher than the level in industrialized countries. There were still many serious gaps in knowledge of how best to help parents and others meet the entire range of needs for the young child, including not only health and nutrition requirements but also emotional development and preparation for schooling. UNICEF was continuing its search for better ways to tackle those problems and was helping a few countries to introduce experimental programmes which, it was hoped, would provide some of the answers.

26. One of the most encouraging aspects of the kind of programmes UNICEF assisted was that they brought into play the energies, time and imagination of the people who were directly involved. He had seen examples of that countless times all over the world, most recently in Indonesia. But how much UNICEF could do obviously depended on the contributions it received. A very real demand existed in the form of specific programmes ready to be financed that far exceeded UNICEF's present income. As it was not an executing agency of UNDP, it depended entirely on direct voluntary contributions. Currently, some 70 per cent of UNICEF funds came from Governments and the balance largely from the general public, particularly through UNICEF national committees. In 1971, 138 Governments and Territories had contributed to UNICEF, a remarkable indication of the breadth of support its work enjoyed. The majority had been Governments of developing countries, and their contributions had been in addition to what they spent on national projects.

27. For several years the Executive Board, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly had supported UNICEF's income goal of \$100 million by 1975. Funds available for use in UNICEF's normal type of activities would amount to approximately \$70 million in 1972.

28. In 1971, UNICEF had handled a record volume of funds—some \$90 million, of which over \$20 million had been special contributions for the emergency on the Indian subcontinent. That was a fairly good indication of its capacity to handle more funds.

29. UNICEF should remain relatively small so that it could retain its capacity for flexibility and innovative response. However, it did have to grow. Economies of scale in staffing and administration could be achieved at higher income levels. More important, the needs of children were enormous, and increased funds would permit UNICEF to meet more of them immediately. Many projects were ready for implementation and

some had been approved by the Board subject to the receipt of the necessary funds. He therefore earnestly hoped that all representatives—particularly those of Governments that were not yet supporting UNICEF at levels consistent with their capacity—would lend their voices of support in the councils of their capitals.

30. Mr. PETERSON (Administrator, United Nations Development Programme) welcomed the opportunity to address the Committee, for its members met to consider truly common problems and deal with matters of international concern. During the past year a number of serious concerns about the pace and impact of worldwide development progress had been voiced in the United Nations and other forums. Paraphrasing his predecessor's presentation of the gravest development problems, he said that high infant mortality, serious malnutrition and poor educational and job opportunities suggested that the prospects for children of the world's low-income nations were gloomy indeed. That was not only a human tragedy, but also a senseless wastage of the seedstock of the future. The President of the World Bank Group, in his statement to the Economic and Social Council on 18 October 1972 (1841st meeting), had painted a sombre picture of what the future would be unless radical changes were made: by the end of the century, the developing world would comprise 2,250 million people earning less than \$200 annually. It must be asked how any conceivable social structure could stand up under the weight of so much human misery.

31. In addition to the gap between the rich nations and the poorer ones, there was now a gap among the developing countries themselves, owing to the uneven rate of their economic growth. More serious still, a third gap was widening between the few individuals in those countries who had reached a reasonable level of well-being and the many who remained mired in the ancient morass of poverty. In fact, those whose needs were greatest had made the smallest gains.

32. That situation presented at least two paradoxes. First, the world-wide war on want had suffered from those discouraging shortfalls at the same time that it had produced encouraging gains in gross national product, industrial and agricultural output and infrastructure building. Secondly, despite clear present needs and equally clear opportunities for future achievement, the flow of development assistance from the richer to the poorer countries was far more meagre than called for by the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade (General Assembly resolution 2626 (XXV)).

33. Moreover, some apprehension had also been expressed in the United Nations about the development machinery of the Organization itself, focusing on what several Governments regarded as a "population explosion" in the number of United Nations development agencies, the seemingly slow progress of efforts to co-ordinate their work and the need further to improve its quality and relevance.

34. It was therefore essential to speed up the pace of over-all economic development, particularly in the

poorest nations, and to prevent so many hundreds of millions of people from being left behind even as their countries moved ahead. To that end, it was necessary, as the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs had pointed out at the 1449th meeting, to provide not only enough development assistance, but enough of the right kind, taking into account the fact that both the needs and capabilities of many developing countries differed considerably from what they had been just a few years earlier.

35. UNDP had a major, and in some respects unique, responsibility for helping to deal with those challenges, in part because it was the world's largest source of multilateral pre-investment and technical assistance. It was the nature of that assistance, rather than the volume of aid—which would always be relatively modest—which gave UNDP's work its particular significance. Such assistance was absolutely crucial in helping the developing countries to tackle many of their difficulties. Together, its five basic services—locating growth resources, attracting growth capital, training people, disseminating technology and building essential development institutions—could help lay the groundwork for steady increases in productivity and a steadily wider sharing of the benefits of productivity, both of which were prerequisites for improving the human condition.

36. With a view to making UNDP capable of producing greater results at lower cost in a shorter period of time, he had given the highest priority during the past 10 months to ensuring the soundness of the Programme's management. Accordingly, emphasis was being placed on efforts to carry out the reforms deriving from the Consensus adopted by the Governing Council at its tenth session, in June 1970,⁴ and endorsed in General Assembly resolution 2688 (XXV) of 11 December 1970. The most important step had been the introduction of country programming, permitting more coherent long-range planning and a sounder allocation of limited resources and ensuring that aid requirements were determined where they were best understood: in the developing countries themselves.

37. With regard to structural changes, UNDP had endeavoured to achieve the maximum amount of decentralization compatible with retaining adequate management controls. The establishment of four regional bureaux—backed by strong administrative, technical and financial support services—and the enlarged responsibility and increased authority given to the resident representatives had been major moves in that direction. UNDP was also seeking to infuse the new machinery with steadily growing dynamism by raising the calibre of its personnel, increasing their skills and improving their conditions of service. Its recruitment efforts were guided by Article 101 of the United Nations Charter. Staff was recruited on a world-wide basis not just as a matter of equity but to ensure greater freedom of choice. Staff at headquarters and in the field received work-oriented training closely related to the practical needs of individual job assign-

ments. Fresh efforts were being made to provide all staff with improved day-to-day and long-term incentives.

38. The common purpose of the many changes undertaken was to increase the impact and speed up the delivery of UNDP's development co-operation services. He would continue to seek improved co-operation among the executing agencies, particularly in country programming and in carrying out the growing numbers of projects which required an interdisciplinary approach. Some difficult problems were involved, not so much of goodwill but of working out the practical arrangements, which were often extremely complicated. Furthermore, the authority for project approval delegated to him and the resident representatives by the Governing Council should progressively improve the quality and the speed of UNDP's response to low-income country needs. The new computerized management information system and the new review and reporting procedures would make it possible to monitor projects and, most important, to detect deficiencies before they became critical. In sum, UNDP had carried out the major recommendations of the Capacity Study⁵ and had gone several steps beyond it.

39. Two considerations would determine how UNDP proposed to continue improving its usefulness as an instrument in the global development drive: the fact that some developing countries had made considerably greater progress than others, and the fact that within most developing countries the reasonably prosperous were far outnumbered by the very poor.

40. UNDP must act decisively to ensure that the differing needs of different groups of countries were adequately served. A number of steps in two complementary directions were being taken with regard to the 25 least developed countries. The first involved increasing the amount of UNDP resources available to them and, following a request by the Governing Council (see E/5185/Rev.1, para. 99), the criteria used to establish indicative planning figures for their country programmes were being reviewed. The objective was to double the current volume of UNDP assistance to those countries between 1977 and 1981, provided, of course, that total resources made that possible. The Governing Council had also instructed (*ibid.*, para. 137) that \$15 million over and above their current indicative planning figures should be made available to the least developed countries from future savings in agency overheads and the Programme reserve. In addition, it was hoped that, when all the pledges for 1973 were finally made, it would be possible to allocate \$30 million to the least developed countries.

41. Secondly, UNDP was concerned with measures to help the least developed countries to make continually better use of all the resources at their command. To that end, positive measures had been submitted to Governments and resident representatives which, in turn, had been strongly endorsed by them.

⁴ *Ibid.*, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 6A, para. 94.

⁵ *A Study of the Capacity of the United Nations Development System* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.70.I.10).

42. One of the most important of those measures revolved around the co-ordination of external aid. It was hoped that eventually a good part of all such aid would be integrated with UNDP's country programming. As a preliminary step, a joint study of the priority needs of three of Africa's least developed nations had been undertaken with several bilateral donors. Furthermore, many Governments had expressed the desire that UNDP should help them to establish local consultative and co-ordinating machinery on a permanent basis with which they could work to assess their over-all requirements for development assistance and, most important, to enable them to plan its best possible use. Meanwhile, in order to improve further the co-ordination of external aid resources, it was planned to place in the least developed areas the best management talent and the most knowledgeable, skilled and experienced resident representatives.

43. UNDP had also been called upon to implement a proposal for a reduction in counterpart requirements which the least developed countries were often quite unable to meet. With the agreement of the Governing Council, local assessment costs for all those countries had already been waived. The possibility of establishing sliding scales for project cost-sharing would be carefully examined. Under such a system, counterpart commitments to each project would start at a minimal level and gradually increase to the point where the Government concerned would assume full financial responsibility.

44. A further proposal involved a special effort to increase intercountry projects in such fields as road, rail, river and air transport. The majority of the least developed nations were land-locked or otherwise isolated by geography or terrain. Such projects could provide a new opportunity of earning foreign exchange from trade and tourism and would also open up new opportunities for strengthening economic integration in the least developed areas.

45. At best, progress in a considerable number of other low-income nations had been modest. Those countries would continue to require UNDP assistance in determining their basic development priorities, assessing the resources available to meet those priorities, equipping their people with productive skills, and building economic and social institutions. To that end, UNDP would have to continue to assign a large number of its experts on a long-term basis.

46. The more richly endowed and more quickly developing nations' major need was for assistance in solving specific, rather than general, problems and in making their already established institutions serve more of their citizens more effectively. For UNDP that meant the assignment of a different type of expert who could work, on a relatively short-term basis, with trained national personnel, in carrying out highly complex and sophisticated development activities such as the demonstration and application of techniques that had helped stimulate economic growth and social progress in industrialized nations.

47. At the individual level, UNDP was called upon to help the Governments of all the developing countries in opening up new opportunities for those vast segments of their population which remained virtually disinherited. In his view, the major contribution UNDP could make was to work with all other development assistance organizations, public and private, on critical problems for which neither proven solutions nor clear-cut answers were as yet in sight. They included finding productive and rewarding work for the growing millions of unemployed and underemployed, stemming the tide of the too rapid growth in population, disseminating science and technology without disrupting deep-rooted cultural patterns or seriously damaging the environment, providing education and training that would serve both economic and human needs and combating malnutrition and other mass killers and cripples.

48. The "global projects" were one example of the broad and diversified co-ordinating role of UNDP. The first global project had been approved by the Governing Council in 1970 and concerned the development of high-protein maize, and a significant breakthrough had recently been achieved by producing a strain with a hard, lustrous kernel which should be more universally acceptable than any previous variety. Two other global research projects were now under way and four more were being considered for submission to the Governing Council in January 1973. However, promising as such projects seemed to be in dealing with a number of critical areas in agriculture, industry, health, housing and environmental improvement, they still contained a large number of unknowns. Hence, they must be very carefully planned with scrupulous attention paid to management control. Equal attention must be given to disseminating the findings of those projects so that they could be applied at the eventual point of pay-off, the grass-roots level of the low-income countries themselves.

49. The co-ordinating function of UNDP could also be expressed in the expansion of intercountry projects, particularly those which involved a better use of shared natural resources. UNDP could help to achieve intercountry agreements on the use of such development assets as lakes and rivers cutting across national boundaries. UNDP-supported regional projects could also help to establish what might be called "productive priorities". Under such projects, each country in a given region might work to develop those industries it was best equipped to develop on the basis of available raw materials and marketing prospects, while its neighbours developed complementary rather than competing productive facilities.

50. There was also the consortium-financing approach, as already undertaken in co-operation with IBRD, FAO and a number of Governments and foundations, to establish a consultative committee for basic agricultural research. That kind of attack, which called for team effort by experts from both rich and poor countries, might well provide an effective opening wedge for tackling some of the more obstinate problems referred to earlier.

51. In the same general area, there was an encouraging trend towards integrating bilateral assistance into

the framework of UNDP country programming. That source of development co-ordination could significantly increase the returns from the commitment of UNDP resources and could also have a synergistic effect on all development efforts. That topic had been thoroughly discussed at the regional meetings of the resident representatives for Asia, Africa and the Americas and at the thirteenth session of the Inter-Agency Consultative Board.

52. Finally, UNDP intended to work for increasing co-ordination of its activities with the development assistance efforts of non-governmental organizations, efforts that were almost at the annual level of \$1,000 million. It also planned closer co-operation with private enterprise organizations to stimulate the kind of follow-up investment which, under properly controlled conditions, could make a valuable contribution to low-income country economic growth and to the attack on mass poverty, and pre-investment studies and analyses were being oriented towards that end.

53. The months and years ahead would provide a final judgement on the impact and effectiveness of the policy of "continuity enlivened by innovation" but, if UNDP was to fulfil its mandate effectively, it must have adequate support from both donor and recipient countries: both must provide clear policy guidance by speaking with one and the same voice in the various bodies that governed the operations of the United Nations development agencies. Furthermore, in drawing up their country programmes, recipient countries, for their part, must request assistance in line with their highest priority needs that could not have been met from any other sources. That was particularly vital if UNDP was to be able to set aside sufficient resources for critically needed global and regional projects. The lower-income countries must also, to the best of their ability, meet their counterpart commitments to their own projects; and what they had done and were doing in that regard was encouraging for the future.

54. Much responsibility also rested with the major donor nations, for they must make available to UNDP an over-all level of funding adequate to the growing need for its services and commensurate with its growing capabilities of providing those services. The results of the 1972 United Nations Pledging Conference on UNDP⁶ had provided an encouraging reassurance that most major donor countries were conscious of their responsibilities. However, the annual 9.6 per cent increase rate of recent years would not allow UNDP to meet its goal of \$500 million in voluntary contributions early in the latter half of the Second United Nations Development Decade, and would, in fact, fall short of the goal by almost \$100 million. Therefore, it was to be hoped that, as Governments noted a steady improvement in UNDP operations, they would think in terms of raising their contributions to UNDP closer to 15 per cent yearly. That alone would allow UNDP to make a fully effective use of the strengthened development machinery it had built in line with the express mandates of Governments.

55. He firmly believed that never could more be purchased by and for so many with so small an

increased investment of international resources as was sought for UNDP. Moreover, one of the things which that investment could buy was a measurable enlargement of the dimensions of human hope. In an era of increasing frustration and violence, and of decreasing concern for human life, well-being and involvement with other human beings, a renewed commitment to the economic and social activities of the United Nations could bring about a revival of the oldest and best humanitarian traditions. There was perhaps no single goal of greater urgency or importance.

56. Mr. FARAH (Commissioner for Technical Co-operation) said that in 1971, the last full year for which statistics were available, the financial value of the assistance provided by the United Nations from all financial resources totalled \$61 million, as compared with \$53.5 million in 1970 and \$41.9 million in 1969. As in recent years, the increase in resources was due mainly to the growing number of Special Fund-type projects for which the Secretary-General was responsible, the United Nations being the participating and executing agency for UNDP. In that capacity he was responsible for 264 approved projects, with UNDP Governing Council allocations totalling \$264.8 million at the end of April 1972.

57. The largest expenditures were in natural resources and transport; development planning, projections and policies; public administration; housing, building and planning; statistics; international trade; social development; population; and public finances and financial institutions, in that order.

58. Two thousand three hundred and thirty six experts had been assigned by the United Nations to new developing countries, while 2,044 fellowships had been awarded to nationals of 119 different countries and territories for study in 108 countries.

59. In 1972, the regular programme of technical co-operation had entered a new phase, and its activities now consisted of comprehensive projects concentrated in a limited number of countries, almost all of which belonged to the list identified by the General Assembly in resolution 2768 (XXVI) of 18 November 1971 as the 25 least developed. They were designed to deal with critical problems of development in the areas of concentration of the regular programme.

60. As a result of General Assembly resolution 2803 (XXVI) of 14 December 1971, a separate section had been established in the United Nations budget to provide for a unified system of regional and subregional advisory services earmarked for the operations of the regional economic commissions and the United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut. The General Assembly had appropriated the sum of \$1,825,000 under the new section of the budget, while the continuing regular programme had been maintained at the stabilized level of \$5.4 million. General Assembly resolution 2803 (XXVI) further provided, in line with the reorientation of the regular programme, that the operations of the programme would be concentrated substantially to support country programmes of the least developed among the developing countries

⁶ A/CONF.58/SR.1 and 2.

as well as regional and subregional programmes of special interest to those countries.

61. The fields in which technical assistance was provided had not changed as a result of the redirection of the regular programme. They still related primarily to social development; public administration; development planning; and housing, building and physical planning. The majority of the least developed countries were deficient in basic institutional infrastructure in the field of plan formulation and development administration; their administrative institutions were weak and their absorptive capacity for financial assistance limited. Most were engaged in restructuring outmoded social and economic structures, selecting regions and subregions for rapid growth and thereby bringing neglected areas and neglected sections of the population into the mainstream of the national economy.

62. 1971 had marked the introduction of country programming, and accordingly an important part of United Nations technical co-operation activities had been directed towards providing assistance in country programming, usually in the form of a thorough review of continuing activities in sectors of concern to the United Nations and identification of the assistance needs in those sectors over the programming period and within the framework of the development objectives or priorities of the Government. United Nations assistance to country programming took the form of country briefs for the preparation of background papers, comments on background papers, comments on draft country programming and the provision of the services of experts in the areas of substantive responsibility of the United Nations who participated at the country level in the preparation of background papers and draft country programmes. The contributions made by economists, who were expert in development planning and provided by the United Nations to assist resident representatives and Governments in taking an over-all view of the various sectoral analyses and proposals, had been of particular significance.

63. Another interesting and important development in 1972 had been the promulgation of a "young countries" programme financed under the regular programme of technical co-operation. The role of trained personnel in carrying forward the economic and social advancement of developing countries was evident, and the gap between the need for well-trained planners and statisticians and the ability to fill the requirement for them was likely to continue for many years, owing to the time required to establish and develop academic and training institutions. The Secretary-General had given consideration to the problem and had decided to launch a new programme financed from the resources of the regular programme and designed to place at the disposal of the least developed countries a cadre of highly qualified young economists. The candidates were being carefully selected on the basis of professional skills, languages, adaptability to field work, dedication to the ideals of the United Nations, capacity to understand and appreciate different cultural values, and ability to communicate constructively. As a result of advertisements and support from national

committees and resident representatives some 1,200 applications had been received, from which 10 individuals would be selected for the first year's programme. Initial appointments would be for one year with the possibility of extensions for three additional years. The first year would include an intensive orientation and training period at Headquarters. Further training would be in the form of workshops at the several regional institutes for economic development planning, to be followed by carefully planned assignments in the least developed countries. It was believed that the programme would assist Governments in meeting the problems they encountered in formulating development plans, establishing a planning infrastructure and identifying other conditions which needed to be met in order to implement development plans successfully.

64. He also drew the attention of the Committee to a few examples of successful large-scale projects currently under way, in order to illustrate the type and quality of the projects for the implementation of which the Secretary-General was responsible. For example, under the regular programme of technical assistance, a project for improving the condition of life of the nomads in the northern part of Niger was now in operation. The project aimed at upgrading livestock and agricultural production as well as social conditions, and high-level consultants and experts from the United Nations, FAO and WHO were working in close co-operation with Government agencies and representatives of the local people.

65. In the Central African Republic, a social development project was under way to assist the Government in the integration of social development activities into economic development. Similarly, a trade promotion project, designed to promote exports and broaden the range of markets, was already in operation in Nepal. The project was expected to assist the Government in overcoming the limitations imposed on the country by its land-locked nature. The United Nations was implementing a project in Haiti to provide low-income housing for the urban population.

66. In West Africa, a subregional project to assist the Liptako-Gourma authority had been implemented to develop an area of 400,000 square kilometres bordering the Niger River. A public finance demonstration and training project was being implemented for the least developed countries of the regions served by the United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut to develop, in the field of public finance administration, an adequate and qualified local cadre for the Sultanate of Oman, the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen and the Yemen Arab Republic.

67. In conclusion, he assured the Committee that its views would be taken into account with a view to improving planning and programming procedures, implementing the United Nations programmes of technical co-operation, and seeking new and improved ways of serving Governments. He looked forward to co-operating with the Committee and Governments in order to ensure that the United Nations programme made the greatest possible impact on the economic and social development of the developing countries.

68. Mr. SADRY (Co-ordinator, United Nations Volunteers programme) said that the United Nations Volunteers programme had been operational for over one year. The initial period had been devoted essentially to establishing a suitable administrative and organizational structure for the programme and, while the early phase of its activities had not been without its due share of difficulties, it was now a living entity, in a position to respond to requests from Governments for United Nations Volunteers and able to provide significant technical assistance at the intermediate level as an integral part of the development projects of the United Nations system.

69. The delicate task of initiating formal requests for United Nations Volunteers from Governments of developing countries had been a primary preoccupation of the programme in the early phase of its operational activities. However, the growing recognition of the potential of the Volunteer component by many developing countries and the support of UNDP resident representatives and of several agencies and organizations in the United Nations system had led to a total number of 224 Volunteer requests from 24 Governments of developing countries. A further 140 Volunteer requests were under consideration. The requests were generally the outcome of careful planning and programming at the field level with due emphasis given to ascertaining the need for "manpower" in given projects. The programming of the Volunteer input called for a reconciliation between the actual technically qualified manpower requirements within the project and the fact that the motivation or commitment, which in the first instance attracted the Volunteer to dedicate himself to development work, was sustained by the nature of the work he was asked to accomplish.

70. The project activities which could benefit from the assignment of Volunteers ranged from the extension and demonstration or advisory work at "grass-roots" level, in very close co-operation with local people, to more immediate support for an expert. In the first case, the Volunteers were called upon to extend and transmit the knowledge and skills of experts to far wider sectors of the population than the experts themselves could cover. In the case of Volunteers working at the project office level, the greater part of the work consisted of relieving the expert of the time and energy-consuming tasks which would otherwise prevent him from giving full attention to more essential activities, such as training of local personnel. With tact and diplomacy, Volunteers could, in most assignments, do much to help adapt local attitudes in accordance with realistic development needs. Indeed, the early reports from field officers revealed that United Nations Volunteers were making a notable contribution in the furtherance of project objectives.

71. So far, 94 United Nations Volunteers from developed and developing countries had taken up their respective assignments in 10 developing countries. While that figure did not fulfil early expectations, it nevertheless gave sufficient cause for satisfaction when viewed in the context of existing realities. Recipient Governments and all those concerned with the formula-

tion of the Volunteer request had indeed, with justification, set a high standard of qualifications required for Volunteers which, in turn, gave rise to longer intervals for recruitment. The programme undoubtedly had to exercise care against indiscriminate recruitment. Furthermore, under existing procedures, the programme recruited primarily through volunteer-sending organizations via the International Secretariat for Volunteer Service (ISVS) and the Co-ordinating Committee for International Voluntary Service. However, the difficulties experienced during the past year by a number of sponsoring organizations had restricted a fuller participation by them in the programme. With the increasing number of requests, a greater recruitment effort in countries and institutions equipped to provide qualified persons would be necessary. Notwithstanding the commendable effort by ISVS which, so far, had provided the great majority of Volunteers in service, it was becoming clear that exclusive reliance on existing arrangements might not be adequate for prompt and efficient recruitment in the future. New sources of qualified young persons, in particular in the developing countries, needed to be tapped and developed to a greater degree.

72. In that context mention might well be made of Economic and Social Council resolution 1673 (LII) on natural resources, which envisaged a scheme for using young specialists from developing countries as assistants to experts in order to enable them to broaden their experience in the light of their national needs while at the same time contributing to the projects.

73. The strengthening and progressive growth of the programme was dependent to a large extent on the financial resources available to support its activities and, with the present structure, there were a number of financial constraints upon its operation. United Nations Volunteer requests were based on the recipient Government's willingness to accept its indicative planning figures to meet the local or in-country costs of Volunteer assignments. However, in view of the relatively modest cost of such assignments, by comparison with the high cost of experts, a number of Governments of developing countries had viewed them favourably as a saving in their indicative planning figures.

74. United Nations Volunteers relied on sponsoring organizations to provide external costs for all nationals of developed countries. Thus, no candidate from a developed country could become a Volunteer unless a suitable sponsor could be found to finance the external costs, which included, among others, the cost of round-trip travel to the country of assignment. Therefore United Nations Volunteers might in some instances be prevented from tapping additional skills and talents from countries which were uniquely able to provide them.

75. The Special Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Volunteers was available primarily to ensure the participation of nationals from developing countries. The total sum pledged so far amounted to \$321,505. The Fund was an essential support for the

activities of the programme, providing the external costs of nationals of developing countries and assistance to recipient countries which merited it. He therefore appealed for more intensified support on the basis of regular annual contributions which could transform the Fund into an effective instrument for the planning and promotion of the programme's activities.

76. United Nations Volunteers played a valuable role in providing assistance to the least developed countries where manpower resources were scarce and many of those countries were requesting Volunteers assistance. At the same time, under the special measures taken by the UNDP Administrator to give assistance to the least developed countries, funds from the UNDP reserve were being made available to help meet the local and in-country costs of Volunteers, thus imposing no financial burdens on those countries.

77. The United Nations could no longer remain indifferent to the aspirations of young persons throughout the world to play a positive role in various aspects of human activity. Efforts to improve human life called for a dynamic and conscious participation of youth in the task of development. Those two basic precepts had led to the creation of the programme and, viewed in that broader perspective, the active and full support of Member States assumed special significance.

78. In conclusion, he assured the Committee that the overriding objective of the programme would be to respond effectively to the needs of the developing countries. In implementing its programme, United Nations Volunteers would be guided by the fundamental principles laid down in the fourth preambular paragraph of General Assembly resolution 2659 (XXV), by which the programme was established.

79. Mr. KLACKENBERG (Sweden) said that the discussion of United Nations operational activities for development was taking place against a background that gave rise to serious doubts concerning the partnership concept of development co-operation. The mid-term review of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade would take place shortly, but the developed countries as a group were not moving towards the target of an allocation of 0.7 per cent of their gross national product for official development assistance. The fact that some of the smaller industrialized countries were approaching the target could not outweigh the negative development in the major countries.

80. It might be extremely difficult to sustain even the moderate minimum yearly increase of 9.6 per cent agreed upon by UNDP for present planning purposes, since some of the traditionally larger contributors had not found it possible to comply with the proposed increase. The resulting situation could endanger the basis for UNDP's long-term programming and raised the question of whether projects which were crucial for the development of all countries would be implemented. It also drew attention to the concept of burden-sharing: the failure of some contributors to comply with the agreed long-term financial plan for UNDP activities might affect others.

81. The situation with regard to UNICEF was similar. Despite substantial increases from some countries, the general increase had been moderate. Sweden had increased its contribution from 20 million crowns to 45 million in 1974, i.e. the equivalent of about \$9 million. It was well known that the regular United Nations programme of technical assistance had been constant for many years, with two moderate exceptions, and was consequently eroded by inflation. There had been more positive developments in policies and deliveries which could further emphasize the unsatisfactory situation with regard to contributions. For UNDP, 1972 had been a very active year. Working under an extremely tight time-schedule, the UNDP system was now engaged in a far-reaching process of reorientation and improvement, in accordance with the recommendations contained in the Capacity Study. The first set of country programmes had been adopted; the organization had been overhauled and geared to the new country programming approach; and the distribution of UNDP resources was at last being thoroughly discussed with a view to reaching agreement on a set of relevant criteria for the calculation of new indicative planning figures. All members were aware of the key role that technical assistance could play in accelerating the development process of the least developed countries. His Government therefore considered the action taken by the UNDP Governing Council to find ways to channel more resources to the least developed countries both wise and far-sighted.

82. In such circumstances his country had decided to pledge a special contribution of \$3 million to UNDP activities in that field. Several other countries had announced similar contributions, and UNDP would therefore be in a position to meet at least some of the more immediate needs for technical assistance in the poorest nations. He hoped that in view of the increased resources the Administrator would make practical proposals for a concrete action programme to that end.

83. The major policy matter for decision was the revision of the criteria for the distribution of UNDP resources. It was important to reach a solution whereby UNDP resources could be effectively channelled mainly to the developing countries. The more developed countries with higher *per capita* incomes which received UNDP assistance should, in his delegation's view, bear a considerably larger share of their project costs, thus enabling them to maintain the same number of projects despite frozen or reduced indicative planning figures. High administrative costs also affected operational activities. As had been underlined by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in its report (A/8648), such costs would soon absorb about one third of the resources allocated to UNDP activities. Obviously, the delivery of technical assistance was very expensive and it was difficult to define administrative costs as compared with programme costs. However, it was essential that the Administrator should give closer attention to the problem; otherwise the developing countries might wish an increasing part of external aid in the field of technical assistance and pre-investment to be extended through less expensive intermediaries.

84. The first experience in country programming appeared to be very positive. It was the responsibility of UNDP and the participating organizations to help countries to attain the objectives of the Second Decade. The entire United Nations system, and not least UNDP, had an obligation to assist effectively in the economic and social transformation required for the struggle against under-development and social injustice to succeed. As the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs had stated (1449th meeting), that might well call for changes in the methods and machinery for financial and technical assistance. The specialized agencies in the development co-operation cycle played an important role in promoting the efficiency of the United Nations system. Greater attention should be given to their role and functions than in the past, particularly with regard to their rate of project implementation and their rapidly increasing workload as executing agencies.

85. Basic information on practical steps to strengthen the functions of the agencies in the UNDP system was still lacking. For example, little was known about the implementation of the Economic and Social Council's recommendation of 22 July 1970⁷ that the agencies should take internal measures to increase their delivery capacity substantially. In his delegation's view, therefore, the Assembly should consider the possibility of drafting a recommendation to the agencies to the effect that their UNDP-financed field activities should be periodically discussed and kept under review in their respective legislative organs, taking into account the various reforms on the matter adopted by the UNDP Governing Council, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. The agencies must give UNDP activities the priority they deserved and allocate the resources needed to strengthen their function as executing agencies. Such a recommendation could also aim to provide for periodical reports from the agencies on the programming and implementation of their technical and pre-investment activities which were largely financed by UNDP. The reports could be considered in the Governing Council together with the comments of the Administrator. His delegation would be prepared, in the light of comments from other delegations, to submit a draft resolution on the matter.

86. His delegation appreciated the efforts already undertaken by UNICEF to find appropriate ways to integrate its activities in UNDP country programmes. In his view, such integration could take place without UNICEF losing its identity, because it had a distinct field of work and its own specific tasks. UNICEF formed a natural part of United Nations operational activities for development. The transfer of discussions on UNICEF from the Third to the Second Committee was a logical step which took into account the fact that UNICEF was no longer mainly concerned with emergency assistance in post-war Europe but deeply involved in the economic and social development of the developing countries.

87. His delegation had noted the very encouraging developments in the direction of the activities of the

regular programme of technical assistance. The programme now concentrated its efforts mainly on the least developed among the developing countries. It was essential that such activities should continue and receive adequate financial backing.

88. Before concluding, he wished to take up a matter of great concern to all members. After years of devastating war, the nations of Indo-China might at last be approaching peace and independence. The international community, and above all the developed nations, had an overwhelming obligation to relieve suffering and assist in reconstruction. It would be an enormous task to build up what the most advanced technology had torn to pieces. Generous international assistance must be provided with the sole aim of helping the countries concerned to reconstruct and develop their societies independently and in accordance with their own plans and priorities. It was to be hoped that the United Nations and its agencies would apply all available resources for the lasting social and economic development of all parts of Indo-China. Planning for such activities should begin immediately, even though the peace settlement might take some time to arrange.

AGENDA ITEM 47

United Nations Conference on the Human Environment: report of the Secretary-General (*continued*)* (A/8688, A/8691, A/8703/Add.1 (Part II), A/8783 and Add.1; A/CONF.48/14 and Corr.1; A/C.2/L.1227, A/C.2/L.1228, A/C.2/L.1229/Rev.1, A/C.2/L.1230-1235, A/C.2/L.1236 and Rev.1, A/C.2/L.1237, A/C.2/L.1240 and Corr.1)

89. Mr. GALLARDO MORENO (Mexico) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/L.1240 on behalf of the sponsors and pointed out that Australia had been omitted from the list of sponsors and Honduras had been included in error.

90. His delegation had sought the support of other delegations through informal consultations with a view to drafting a text which made it perfectly clear that principles 21 and 22 of the Declaration on the Human Environment (A/CONF.48/14 and Corr.1, chap. I) had not been weakened. It also showed that the votes in favour of the General Assembly resolutions on those principles could neither prejudice nor restrict bilateral or regional agreements or commitments between Member States. The draft resolution was self-explanatory and he hoped that it would be adopted by a consensus.

91. Mr. PANYARACHUN (Thailand), speaking as Chairman of the Asian group for November, said that many members of the Committee had been disappointed by the distribution of seats to regional groups in the proposed Governing Council for Environmental Programmes. The Asian, African and Latin American groups had established contact groups to discuss and decide upon the size and composition of the Governing Council. The African and Asian contact groups had decided that the Governing Council should be

⁷ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 1, p. 17.*

*Resumed from the 1474th meeting.

expanded and that the additional seats should be given to their regions. He would not elaborate on the reasons for their decision, since it was enough to say that, if the environment was to become a world issue, all countries, including the developing countries, should be equally involved.

92. The African group had not yet been fully informed of the decision but, on behalf of the Asian group, he wished to submit an amendment to paragraph 1 of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1228, which was supported in principle by most of the 33 Asian States. He read out the list of co-sponsors and the amendments⁸ to paragraph 1 of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1228.

93. He asked whether it would be possible to postpone the vote on draft resolution A/C.2/L.1228 for one or two days in order to give members of other groups time to consider his amendment in detail. He did not expect it to present any difficulties and would be prepared to participate in consultations with a view to reaching a consensus on paragraph 1.

94. Mr. AKRAM (Pakistan) said that the examination of environmental issues at Stockholm had demonstrated the vital interdependence between concern for the environment and the desire for development. That relationship had perhaps been best expressed by the representative of China, when he had said at the 1472nd meeting that development and environment constituted a unity of opposites. It had been repeatedly stated that efforts to improve the environment must be aligned and complementary to efforts to advance economic and social development.

95. However, it was possible that the two concepts could give rise to conflict if States lost their sense of proportion and confused the means with the end. The ultimate end of all United Nations endeavours was to raise the level of living of the people of the world. The primary means of achieving that end continued to be rapid and real development in agricultural and industrial production, and scientific and technological improvement and advancement. Even the special environmental problems faced by certain advanced countries as a result of excessive and unplanned exploitation and consumption of resources, could best be solved by attacking the fundamental inequalities in the world pattern of distribution and consumption of resources.

96. Draft resolution A/C.2/L.1236/Rev.1 on development and environment was intended to maintain a rational relationship between those two interdependent, but potentially competitive, concepts. Paragraph 1 sought to underline the unity and interdependence of development and environmental actions. The most beneficial environmental programmes would be those which also contributed to the development process in the developing countries. For instance, it was important to formulate technologies which, while being non-polluting, were also designed to increase production in accordance with the special conditions in developing countries. Thus, the formulation of such technologies should have a higher priority, in both the operational and non-operational activities to be

⁸ Subsequently circulated as document A/C.2/L.1243.

initiated by the Governing Council for Environmental Programmes, than projects designed merely to prevent pollution. Moreover, while the affluent societies possessed the resources and technology to eradicate their own problems, the developing countries must start almost from scratch in meeting the needs of both development and environment.

97. Paragraphs 2 and 3 of the draft resolution stressed the need to ensure compatibility and complementarity between environment and development policies and programmes and higher priority for development requirements. In the opinion of the sponsors, there was no conflict between paragraph 2 and the provisions of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1234. The role contemplated for the Economic and Social Council in paragraph 3 was neither more nor less than that expressed in the United Nations Charter and it was not intended to diminish the supremacy of the General Assembly on all matters pertaining to economic and social development. Paragraph 4 sought to clarify the principle of additionality already accepted at Stockholm.

98. Paragraph 5 was inspired by a concern which went beyond the immediate question of the relationship between environmental and developmental policies and priorities. In recent years the developed countries had placed increasing emphasis on assistance channelled through voluntary contributions. There was also a trend for voluntary funds to be more readily available for purposes which were of interest to the donors themselves, such as the United Nations Fund for Population Activities and probably now the Environment Fund. However, the availability and flow of resources for activities which were of primary interest to the developing countries had suddenly diminished, the latest example being the United Nations Capital Development Fund. The question to be examined was whether, and to what extent, the selective policies of voluntary contributions by donor countries affected or distorted the over-all development priorities of the developing countries. The idea that the policies and priorities of the developing countries must dictate the distribution and utilization of development assistance had finally been embodied in the country programming system. The existence of numerous and, at times, competing funds unquestionably distorted the priorities established in the country programme exercise. Appropriate measures must be taken to remedy the situation in the near future.

99. Certain delegations had expressed doubts about the original text of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1236 and the sponsors, in a spirit of compromise, had reached agreement on the revised text in A/C.2/L.1236/Rev.1. He hoped that it would be adopted unanimously.

100. The CHAIRMAN announced that Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana had asked to be included in the list of sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1230 and that the Syrian Arab Republic had asked to be included as a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1236/Rev.1. A decision on the proposed postponement of the vote on draft resolution A/C.2/L.1228 would be taken later.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.