



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 21st MEETING

Chairman: Mr. OUDOVENKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic)

CONTENTS

AGENDA ITEM 82: DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION  
(continued)

- (c) EFFECTIVE MOBILIZATION AND INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT: REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)
- (e) ENVIRONMENT (continued)
- (f) DESERTIFICATION AND DROUGHT (continued)
- (g) HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (continued)
- (h) SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT: REPORT OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT (continued)
- (i) NEW INTERNATIONAL HUMAN ORDER: MORAL ASPECTS OF DEVELOPMENT: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)

\*This record is subject to correction. Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned *within one week of the date of publication* to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, room DC2/50, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

17p.

The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 82: DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (continued) (A/42/3, 178, 313, 344, 352, 354, 357, 359, 381, 386, 407, 410, 411, 417, 474, 477, 549, 603, 604 and Corr.1, 605)

- (c) EFFECTIVE MOBILIZATION AND INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT: REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/42/273 and Add.1, 508; E/1986/24)
- (e) ENVIRONMENT (continued) (A/42/25, 427 and 514; A/C.2/42/L.3)
- (f) DESERTIFICATION AND DROUGHT (continued) (A/.2/501 and 635; A/C.2/42/L.2, L.8 and L.10)
- (g) HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (continued) (A/42/8, 183 and 378)
- (h) SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT: REPORT OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT (continued) (A/42/37)
- (i) NEW INTERNATIONAL HUMAN ORDER: MORAL ASPECTS OF DEVELOPMENT: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/42/57)

1. Mr. ARSEENKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic), speaking on agenda item 82 (e) commended the report entitled "Our common future", which had underscored the negative effects on the environment of the arms race and the production and accumulation of other kinds of weapons of mass destruction. The Ukrainian SSR supported the special programme entitled "Peace, arms race and the environment", which was part of the current system-wide medium-term environment programme. A similar programme should be included in the UNEP medium-term plan for the period 1990-1995.

2. Major industrial accidents posed a constant threat to the environment, and the international community should take decisive measures to prevent them, bearing in mind the recent nuclear accident of Chernobyl as well as other no less serious non-nuclear accidents at a number of Western enterprises. His delegation was prepared to engage in concerted action to develop a global strategy in the field of environmental protection and the rational use of natural resources. UNEP should play a co-ordinating role in developing and implementing that global programme, in close co-operation with other bodies and specialized agencies of the United Nations system. In the joint search for ways and means to solve environmental problems, full use should be made of the positive experience of other bodies, such as the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE). As a member of ECE, the Ukrainian SSR considered the completion of work on the environmental strategy for Europe to the year 2000 and beyond to be an essential element in the building of a "common European home".

3. His delegation commended the work of the UNEP Governing Council at its fourteenth session. The Ukrainian SSR would continue its active support for UNEP activities aimed at solving environmental problems on the basis of universal

(Mr. Arsenko, Ukrainian SSR)

international co-operation. However, certain proposals contained in the UNEP Governing Council's draft resolution on the solution of environmental problems and sustainable development, in particular the mobilization of the United Nations system to ensure sustainable development, would result in the unjustified broadening of the UNEP mandate.

4. Turning to agenda item 82 (g), he said that the Ukrainian SSR, having experienced a housing shortage in the Second World War, sympathized with the needs of other countries, particularly the developing countries, in which millions of people were either homeless or forced to live in slums. As a member of the United Nations Commission on Human Settlements (UNCHS), the Ukrainian SSR participated in the activities related to the International Year of the Homeless. The experience of the Soviet Ukraine in solving the housing problem and in developing settlements could be of practical interest to many countries.

5. With respect to item 82 (h), the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development had considered at its ninth session a number of important questions related to the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action and to the development of the economies of the developing countries. The Centre for Science and Technology for Development did not limit its activities to drafting general recommendations but sought to transform them into concrete programmes for developing science and technology at the national and regional levels. The work of the Advance Technology Alert System had been commended, and proposals had been made on the need to ensure the continuation of that system, established three years ago on an experimental basis. However, the Centre's two-year programme did not reflect all areas of the Vienna Programme of Action. For example, it did not include the transfer of technology, which was of crucial importance if the developing countries were to develop their own potential in the field of science and technology. The Centre should increase its efforts to ensure favourable conditions for the international exchange of information in the fields of science and technology as well as environmental protection. His delegation wished to reaffirm its view that the Intergovernmental Committee should maintain its mandate and structure but should improve its methods of work and co-ordination with other international bodies.

6. Mr. COKER (United States of America), speaking on agenda item (c), welcomed the Secretary-General's efforts to incorporate activities related to women into the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989. His delegation supported the system-wide medium-term plan for women and attached considerable importance to the reviews of the implementation of the plan as noted in paragraph 14 of the Secretary-General's report. The United Nations could not present itself as a principal advocate of women's advancement unless women were visibly involved in its activities at high levels of responsibility, and his delegation called for expanded efforts by the United Nations to continue to place qualified women in policy-formulation positions.

7. UNDP, UNICEF and UNFPA had made commendable efforts to integrate women in development, and his delegation urged resident co-ordinators to expand their efforts to further that process. Co-ordination at the operational level was vital in that respect. United Nations agencies must continue to explore opportunities

(Mr. Coker, United States)

for co-ordination and co-operation in staff training, the development of up-to-date data systems and the establishment of monitoring and evaluation systems - all of which were essential for the integration of women into the mainstream of development activities.

8. Turning to item 82 (g), he said that the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless had highlighted the essential issue of policy and implementation. In that framework, the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development had launched a special effort entitled "Housing America: Freeing the Spirit of Enterprise" and hundreds of projects and activities related to the International Year had been organized by local groups and private associations. The affordable housing programme had demonstrated the feasibility of relaxing regulations and lowering building standards. Self-sufficient projects had demonstrated the effectiveness of assisting the poor. Some public housing was also being sold to low-income residents.

9. The United States Agency for International Development played a leading role in human-settlements-related assistance to developing countries, helping them determine the minimum appropriate standards for shelter, which, along with the use of low-cost local building materials and appropriate technologies, helped to ensure affordable housing. The United States, through its housing guarantee programme, had authorized over \$2 billion in loan guarantees, and had contributed almost \$800,000 to the Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation in support of the Year.

10. Experience showed that much could be accomplished by relying on the private sector within the framework of a public/private partnership. The United States Government should ensure the availability of land with secure tenure and basic infrastructure, as well as credit. Tenure was vital, as it encouraged householders to invest in home improvements.

11. The private sector in the United States had also been active in dealing with the world-wide shelter problem. Two international shelter conferences convened by the National Association of Realtors had produced the Vienna recommendations, which recommended creating national shelter coalitions to bring public and private resources to bear on the problem efficiently. Those ideas now imbued the resolutions of the HABITAT Commission and its future work programme.

12. Turning to item 82 (h), he reiterated the views expressed by his delegation at the recent meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development (IGC), to the effect that the Committee should undertake a systematic evaluation of its work, with a view to refocusing together with the Centre for Science and Technology for Development on a few specific areas likely to yield concrete results. His delegation supported the full and prompt implementation of the recommendations of the Group of 18 which were relevant to the Committee and the Centre, as well as of the recommendations of the Committee on Programme Co-ordination (E/1987/5). While some progress had been achieved at the ninth session of the Intergovernmental Committee, much more remained to be done, as its work and that of the Centre had not been of major value in the past.

(Mr. Coker, United States)

13. However, the two bodies could possibly become an effective multinational forum in the United Nations system for science and technology co-operations. What was required was not far-reaching initiatives or additional funding, but rather a clear view of how the Committee and Centre could act in the future as effectively as possible. The first step would be to undertake a systematic examination of their work with a view to eliminating duplication with other United Nations bodies or activities of only marginal value. His country was prepared to make an active contribution to such an examination.

14. His delegation had strong reservations regarding the proposed programme on science and technology for development as contained in the medium-term plan for 1990-1995, and could not agree to the plan until revisions were made and it was resubmitted for further review by Member States. The United States had joined the consensus on the five resolutions and one decision adopted by the Intergovernmental Committee at its ninth session, but had serious misgivings regarding the concept of automatic funding, and especially the specific fund-raising methods suggested. He reserved the right to comment further on that issue at a future meeting.

15. Mr. MOHIUDDIN (Bangladesh) said that the interrelated issues of the environment and human settlements (items 82 (e) and (g)) had vital implications for the development of developing countries in particular, and the future of mankind in general.

16. Until recently, man had been largely oblivious of such environmental consequences of his actions as desertification, deforestation, acid rain, carbon dioxide accumulation, toxic waste and the nuclear fallout. The emerging awareness of global environmental issues was thus a welcome development, and the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development and the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond were of immense importance in that respect. The former clearly identified poverty as the principal cause and effect of environmental degradation. His delegation agreed with the World Commission that if current patterns of development were continued, they would exacerbate national and global imbalances and threats to the environment, and that immediate national and global action was required on the interdependent issues of environment and development.

17. His delegation was pleased to note that the programme of activities of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless had so far been implemented satisfactorily. However, the basic conditions that had led to the proclamation of the Year still existed, and the awareness if generated would have to be converted into co-ordinated action at national and global levels. In that context the global strategy for shelter to the year 2000 would serve as an important guideline for policy-makers.

18. Dame BARROW (Barbados), speaking on agenda item 82 (e), said that the report of the World Commission and the Environmental Perspective made it clear that, despite mankind's best efforts, threats to the environment had multiplied and thus had more serious implications for growing numbers of people throughout the world. The reports also identified the link between environmental concerns and national economic and social development efforts. There was no disputing the fact that

(Dame Barrow, Barbados)

economic underdevelopment led to environmental deterioration, since people who were locked in a daily struggle for basic necessities had no time and little inclination to take measures to preserve their environment. Moreover, given the critical situation of international trade, developing countries were inclined to view environmental preservation as a relatively minor concern. But environmental deterioration was not caused exclusively by the developing world: such problems as acid rain, toxic waste and nuclear contamination were associated with economic development and industrialization, even though their effects were not limited to the developed countries.

19. It was obvious that environmental problems were the result of man's insensitivity to the delicate ecosystems in which he lived and worked. Unless new attitudes towards the environment and its relationship to development were cultivated, all efforts to cope with environmental problems would have a short-term impact at best. Environmental strategies must therefore emphasize education and, at the national level, should involve the public and private sectors and non-governmental organizations. States must intensify regional co-operation to tackle problems with regional implications, as was being done under the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme.

20. Transnational corporations which exploited natural resources that were potentially harmful to the environment had a major responsibility for environmental protection. The home countries of those corporations must seek to persuade them to apply the same environmental policies in their overseas operations that they followed on their own territories. Multilateral development agencies, too, must integrate environmental concerns more fully into their programmes. Her delegation welcomed the World Bank's efforts to integrate environmental considerations into its lending and policy activities, but hoped that new orientation would not impose new conditions on developing countries seeking access to Bank resources.

21. Given their hostile environmental conditions, the developing countries would not find it easy to reflect environmental considerations in their economic development programmes. Nevertheless, there were times when the common good must take precedence over individual aspirations, and environmental issues currently called for such an approach.

22. UNEP must be strengthened if a new approach to environmental conservation was to be developed and followed. The Programme had an established record of assistance in developing environmental protection policies and was well placed to promote exchanges of information and to co-ordinate environmental policies and programmes. UNEP also required greater financial support if it was to fulfil its mandate, and Barbados would strive within its means to fulfil its responsibilities to the Programme.

23. Miss GLYNN (Honduras), speaking on agenda item 82 (c), welcomed the fact that the preparatory work on the first regular update of the world survey on the role of women in development had taken into consideration the deliberations of the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-second session, and that the update would suggest innovative policies instead of merely describing the global situation

(Miss Glynn, Honduras)

of women. At a time of economic crisis it was important to act creatively in order to speed up women's integration in development. She also welcomed the update's attempt to identify both sectoral and cross-sectoral issues and to highlight the need for harmonized policies and concerted actions at the local, national, regional and international levels. The chapter of the update on women in the informal sector was also important, as adequate attention had never been paid to that sector in general, must less to its link to the labour market. The information to be provided on the definition of an action programme was also very important.

24. Women's multiple roles and their actual and potential contributions to national development were recognized in Honduras. The Honduran Government had consequently taken steps to enable women to enjoy equal rights in all areas. Honduras was a party to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. Women's rights were protected in the new Criminal and Family Codes and in the Labour Code. The national Agrarian Reform Act sought to integrate women in the agricultural sector, and many agricultural projects in Honduras were in fact run by women's groups. Nevertheless, as in all developing countries, rural women in Honduras had yet to be fully integrated into the development process for economic and cultural reasons.

25. Turning to agenda item 82 (e), she drew attention to the need to harmonize development processes with efforts to maintain an ecological balance and environmental quality. After reviewing the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development, her delegation was more convinced than ever of the urgent need for joint efforts to find new patterns of behaviour that would benefit everyone. The importance of multilateralism in harmonizing environmental and development policies could not be over-emphasized.

26. In developing countries like Honduras, closer ties between the agricultural and industrial sectors were a key element in the structural transformation of their economies. Their development projects must not harm the environment, but co-operation from the international community, in the form of resources and adequate knowledge about the environment, was required to that end. Honduras's environmental policy had a component for the protection of forests, but current efforts were inadequate to cope with the devastation of forest areas by the influx of refugees. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees had been requested to carry out, in collaboration with UNDP, FAO and regional organizations, a study of reforestation programmes in refugee host countries from which it was to be hoped that Honduras might benefit. She thanked the European Economic Community for the financial assistance it had provided to the Honduran environment programme.

27. Mr. CHENAUX-REPOND (Observer for Switzerland) commended the agreement on the part of the international community reflected in the Environmental Perspective the Year 2000 and Beyond. Governments and international organizations must now begin to implement the steps recommended in that study. The concept of sustainable development as the principle underlying environmental and development activities implied a new responsibility for Governments in the rational management of limited resources.

(Mr. Chenux-Repond, Observer,  
Switzerland)

28. Switzerland had been quick to support the work of the World Commission on the Environment and Development and was thus highly interested in the implementation of the main proposals in its report. The Commission's views on survival and socio-economic structures should be taken very seriously; economic imbalances and poverty aggravated environmental problems and delayed their solution. Two facts merited greater emphasis than they had received in the Commission's report. First of all, more than 20 per cent of the world's population lived at the subsistence level and had limited opportunities to engage in economic activity; the measures proposed by the Commission did not necessarily apply to people living in such vulnerable systems. Secondly, the destruction of individual ecosystems would inevitably destroy the economic systems based on them.

29. In general, however, the solutions and strategies proposed by the Commission were convincing, although there was no doubt that some objectives were somewhat idealistic and tended to overlook certain realities which governed the market economy. The proposed strategies also contained certain risks and contradictions which should not be overlooked.

30. Many of the Commission's proposals concerned United Nations bodies and agencies. He supported the proposal to strengthen the role of UNEP as the world's environmental conscience and as a catalyst and co-ordinator of environmental issues within the United Nations system. A substantial increase in contributions to the Environment Fund and a revitalization of the UNEP Governing Council were necessary. For its part, Switzerland had increased its voluntary contribution to the Fund.

31. The report's recommendations and proposals should be ranked in order of priority, with the Secretariat carrying out that task in the case of measures applying to the United Nations system. With regard to legal provisions, his delegation would welcome the drafting by the Assembly of a universal declaration and convention on environmental protection and sustainable development. He also endorsed the Commission's appeal to Governments to become party to existing agreements in the field of the environment. In that connection, he was pleased to note that the UNEP Governing Council had decided, in its decision 14/30, to pursue negotiations on a global convention on the control of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes, and he urged all Governments to take part in that work.

32. Ms. NIEMANN (Canada) said that the Second Committee's deliberations on the environment during the current session would be of special significance since they would determine how effective the work of the World Commission on Environment and Development would be. In that connection, her delegation supported UNEP Governing Council decisions 14/13, on the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond, and 14/14, on the Brundtland Commission's report, particularly paragraphs 8, 9 and 18 of the annex to the latter decision, which she hoped the General Assembly would adopt by consensus.

33. Some delegations had expressed concern that the Brundtland report introduced a new form of conditionality for development assistance. Her delegation did not



(Ms. Niemann, Canada)

interpret the report in that light, but was convinced that bilateral and multilateral donors must and would help developing countries achieve the goal of sustainable development. At the same time, every nation had a responsibility to make its own development policies and efforts consistent with that goal.

34. The consensus that had been achieved during the fourteenth session of the Governing Council on the Environmental Perspective should be maintained so that draft resolution contained in the annex to Governing Council decision 14/13, too, could be adopted without modification.

35. UNEP must play an important role in monitoring and reporting on progress in the implementation of sustainable development throughout the United Nations system. It was to be hoped that the draft resolution on UNEP activities would reflect the decisions taken and priorities identified by the Governing Council at its fourteenth session. She urged that an international conference on environment and sustainable development should be held in 1992 and welcomed the signing at Montreal of the first global Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, which constituted an important advance in multilateral co-operation.

36. Turning to agenda item 82 (g), she noted that, despite the efforts of government and international organizations, more than 1 billion people continued to live with substandard or no shelter. No progress could be made in that area unless the vital importance of self-help efforts, and the multiplier effects of the mobilization of the effects of local resources, and the importance of those effects on broader economic development were realized. The agencies concerned must adopt an ongoing, co-ordinated and broad-based strategy to deal with the problem of shelter.

37. Her delegation supported the holding of a special session of the United Nations Commission on Human Settlements in 1988 to discuss the implementation of a global strategy for human settlements. It also endorsed the adoption of a thematic approach to future sessions, and suggested as a possible theme "Maintenance of buildings and infrastructure and its financing and cost recovery". Most important for the work of the Second Committee, however, was Commission resolution 10/1, on a global strategy for shelter to the year 2000. It was to be hoped that the General Assembly would agree on the principle of such a strategy and the need for the Commission to prepare a plan of action for its implementation, monitoring and evaluation. All Governments should commit themselves to the objectives of the strategy by adopting and implementing national shelter strategies in accordance with the guidelines contained in the annex to decision 10/1.

38. Where agenda item 82 (c) was concerned, the participation of women was central to economic growth and development, including such key issues as the environment and human settlements. Her delegation strongly supported the Brundtland report's equality between women and men. Regrettably, a number of key United Nations policy-making bodies, including the UNEP Governing Council had not yet begun to implement the mandates entrusted to them in chapter II of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies.

(Ms. Niemann, Canada)

39. The Second Committee had a leading role to play in ensuring the effective mobilization and integration of women in development. Neither Governments nor multilateral institutions could continue to view women as contributing little to economic growth and development. It was now apparent to all that failure to credit women's participation in the economy had resulted in imprecise national accounts, leading to serious miscalculations of GNP.

40. The document entitled "Strengthening United Nations work on women in development" (A/42/273 and Add.1) was intended to provide information which would help bring order and due process into the way in which the United Nations promoted the integration of women into economic activities. The version of the document submitted to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1987 had been unsatisfactory, and, while it was gratifying to see that the relevant recommendations from World Conferences had now been provided, the half-hearted attempts to compile relevant mandates from intergovernmental bodies were still disappointing. There were serious omissions, such as resolutions 40/181 and 1987/90 on food and agricultural problems, and critically important information on the mandates of other intergovernmental bodies remained incomplete while the statement that a "full" compendium required additional resources added insult to injury.

41. The proposed update to the World Survey on the Role of Women in Development - a unique document, many years in the making - was doubly welcome for its continuing focus on women's economic role. Also commendable was the central place given to the issues of international debt, a statement and women. The structure of the update should, however, be tightened and the focus on economic questions intensified. Chapters IV, V and X should be deleted, since they were not strictly within the economic sector, and did not form part of the terms of reference as defined in Economic and Social Council resolution 1986/64. Her delegation also requested assurances that work by UNICEF, the World Bank and the Commonwealth would be taken into account.

42. Mrs. MBOYA (Kenya) commended the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development. Her delegation hoped that the concept of sustainable development would serve as a guiding principle for all countries in their joint efforts to manage the environment and resources of the planet. The current state of the environment remained far short of the targets established when, over a decade ago, UNEP had been given a mandate to monitor the world environmental situation.

43. The signing, in September 1987, of the Protocol on Chlorofluorocarbons to the 1985 Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, had been a significant measure for the protection of human health and the environment. Environmental problems were a universal concern and could be solved only through concerted international action.

44. Kenya commended the efforts which had been made in the United Nations system, in particular by UNEP, to implement the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification. Aware of the effects of desertification and drought on their economies, African Governments had spared no efforts in dealing with the problem both individually and

(Mrs. Mboya, Kenya)

collectively. There was a need for increased bilateral and multilateral assistance to the affected countries. The most affected countries required: improved early-warning systems; financial resources on a reliable and sustained basis; research capabilities to develop drought-resistant seeds and animal species; and scientific and technological know-how in the areas of forestry, water development and irrigation. The Second Committee should not lose sight of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Recovery and Development 1986-1990, in particular the chapter dealing with follow-up action, at both the national and international levels, related to desertification and drought. Kenya thanked the donor countries which had assisted the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development, particularly the States members of the European Economic Community, and appealed to other States which were in a position to do so to provide assistance.

45. Kenya supported the recommendations contained in the report of the United Nations Commission for Human Settlements (A/42/8), and hoped that the Special Commission of the Economic and Social Council would endorse the recommendation that institutions in the field of human settlements should be strengthened to enable them to take on the additional responsibilities arising from the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter. The General Assembly should take due note of the need for attaching greater priority to human settlements in the allocation of resources to its various programmes.

46. Her delegation believed that, in order to strengthen co-ordination of agencies and organizations within the United Nations system in the field of human settlements, UNCHS should participate as an equal member in the work of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, and the Secretary-General should take the necessary steps to ensure that the decision of the General Assembly on that subject was implemented.

47. Mr. ZAPOTOCKY (Czechoslovakia), speaking on agenda item 82 (e), said that the environmental threat was becoming a dangerous destabilizing factor and a source of increased tensions in international relations. International environmental security would guarantee respect for the right of every country to environmentally sound development. Thus, a code of conduct should be agreed upon, founded on binding international principles of mutual respect and co-operation in the field of the environment. That would help enhance international confidence, support peaceful relations among States with different social systems and help create more favourable conditions for the development of the third world. The principles of such a code might include the requirement of a constructive and non-confrontational approach to the solution of international environmental problems, the inadmissibility of environmental accidents being used as a pretext for escalating tension and hostility among States, broad exchange of information, including information on accidents which had occurred or been averted, the strengthening of international scientific and technical co-operation, and the establishment of scientific teams, early warning systems and global monitoring. Of vital importance was a non-discriminatory flow of scientific and technological know-how and equipment.

48. International dialogue on the issues involved could lead to agreement on mutually acceptable principles, and norms of international co-operation and State

(Mr. Zapotocky, Czechoslovakia)

conduct. In drawing up such principles, maximum use should be made of the principles and ideas already proposed but as yet unimplemented, aimed at regulating the environmental conduct of States, and the process should be parallel and complimentary to implementation of the proposal of the World Commission on Environment and Development for the elaboration of a declaration and convention on environmental protection and sustainable development.

49. Turning to agenda item 82 (h), he stressed the vital role of science and technology in the development of States. As had been stressed by the socialist countries in their joint declaration (A/41/C.2/7), Czechoslovakia supported an intensification of scientific and technological co-operation for peaceful purposes. The drawing up of a global programme of scientific and technological co-operation could also significantly facilitate the solution of environmental problems.

50. Czechoslovakia supported the continued existence of the Centre for Science and Technology for Development and had actively considered that the review of the work prepared in response to Economic and Social Council resolution 1987/112 of the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development objectively reflected the importance and functioning of the Committee and of the Centre for Science and Technology for Development. His delegation could not support attempts at revising the present mandate and structure of the Centre, which were adequate for the requirements made on it. The activities of the Inter-Governmental Committee were in his delegation's view generally successful, and it therefore supported the establishment of the Advance Technology Alert System and agreed that it should become a permanent committee. However, it also agreed that the Committee's current activities needed to be made more efficient. Due regard must be paid to its discharge of its co-ordinating activities, and specific scientific topics must be addressed at Committee meetings, so as to enhance its prestige as a United Nations scientific and technological body.

51. Mr. BOKALOV (Bulgaria) said that Bulgaria attached great importance to the promotion of regional co-operation on environmental issues. The Minister for Foreign Affairs of his country had proposed that the Balkan countries should conclude an agreement on the ecological protection of the peninsula, and Bulgaria was prepared to take concrete steps in that direction.

52. Bulgaria also fully supported the initiatives and actions to combat desertification and to reclaim eroded lands. Success in those endeavours would result in the solution of a number of environmental and food problems of crucial importance to many developing countries. Bulgaria was prepared to co-operate with the United Nations and other international organizations in addressing that problem in the name of the well-being and prosperity of all nations.

53. His delegation commended the work of the tenth session of the Commission on Human Settlements. One of the most important principles affirmed at the Vancouver Conference was the need to provide shelter for all people. Housing programmes should ensure not only home construction, but also the necessary elements of the technical and social infrastructure which made the people's lives worthwhile. The

(Mr. Bokalov, Bulgaria)

maintenance of lasting world peace was the main prerequisite for the settlement of the housing problem. The reduction of military expenditures was the most reliable way to secure the resources required for resolving the problem of the homeless and realizing the long-cherished dream of having a home. The greatest contribution of the Commission on Human Settlements was that it compelled many Governments to include in their social and economic development programmes the issues of planning, construction and management of human settlements.

54. In order to achieve the objectives of the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development, its mandate should be maintained and the modalities of its activities should be improved. It was also necessary to improve its co-ordinating role and to avoid duplication of the activities of other bodies and specialized agencies of the United Nations system.

55. There was no doubt that the continuing efforts of the United Nations to improve the status of women, in particular their integration and development, had yielded positive results. The development and implementation of measures for the effective mobilization and integration of women and development were also linked to the implementation of such basic documents as the Declaration on Social Progress and Development, the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade and the Declaration on the Right to Development. The serious problems relating to the full integration of women and development hindered the restructuring of international economic relations on an equitable and democratic basis and the realization of the right to development throughout the world.

56. Mr. MULLER (Australia) welcomed the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development, and the "Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000", prepared by UNEP. The first of those two important documents was a major international statement on the environment, which called for increased international co-operation to create the conditions for ecologically responsible development. Its main value lay in taking a "holistic" approach to the effects of development on the environment.

57. Of special interest was the section dealing with Antarctica. Australia had a firm commitment to the Antarctic Treaty System and was greatly concerned with the preservation and careful management of Antarctica. It had also taken action in other fields, anticipating some of the recommendations made in the report. Firstly, it had decided to nominate the tropical rainforests of north-east Australia for the World Heritage List, which was consistent with the report's emphasis on the preservation of tropical forests. Secondly, it had hosted an international conference on dryland degradation, which was one of its major environmental problems. That initiative had resulted in the establishment of an international drylands project by UNEP.

58. His delegation was concerned about the effective use of resources, particularly within the United Nations system. It took the view that environment and related issues should be contained under a single, rather than several,

(Mr. Muller, Australia)

headings for consideration by the General Assembly. Nevertheless, because of its high regard for UNEP as the only international environmental institution with global concerns, his Government had decided to resume voluntary funding, in spite of its own budgetary difficulties.

59. With regard to women in development, he expressed misgivings about the update of the world survey. The aim should be to consolidate and improve the work already done, rather than to repeat the original task. The update should be designed as an ongoing project, less ambitious and more focused, with the emphasis on better-quality data. In line with Economic and Social Council resolution 1986/64, it should focus on only one or two areas. Issues such as women in relation to technology, development and services could be included at a later stage. Efforts should be made to establish a format which would allow regular updating of basic constituents and concentration on pressing matters of topical interest. Use should be made of the information gathered by the Commission on the Status of Women and attention given to the priority areas indicated by that Commission.

60. Mr. ALPTUNA (Turkey), referring to the issue of human settlements, said that improvements could hardly be expected in the near future. Unless concerted action was taken at all levels, the problem could become unmanageable. The international community should give priority to action in that field.

61. As a developing country with a rapidly increasing population, Turkey faced considerable housing problems of its own. The urbanization process was likely to continue. His Government had formulated a number of new policies within a framework of administrative reform, including decentralization and the provision of new funds. It had also taken measures in the context of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless. It was pleased to note that that initiative had begun to bear fruit. His delegation supported the recommendations of the Commission on Human Settlements with regard to a global shelter strategy to the year 2000.

62. Referring to the report of the Secretary-General concerning the effective integration of women into economic development programmes and activities (A/42/273), he welcomed the growing emphasis on co-ordination, which was a prerequisite to the success of activities in that field. The international community had been paying more and more attention to the role of women in economic and social development, and greater efforts were being made to facilitate the integration of women into the mainstream of development activities. His delegation welcomed the creation of two new units to deal with such issues, but emphasized the need to avoid duplication and overlapping, particularly in view of the limited resources available. The comprehensive compilation of mandates and programmes contained in the addendum provided a very constructive complement to the report.

63. With regard to the progress report on the preparation of the first regular update of the world survey on the role of women in development, it was especially important to establish priorities. In particular, adjustment programmes must be examined in terms of their effects on women. However, since such programmes adversely affected all poor people whether men or women, overall strategies adopted

(Mr. Alptuna, Turkey)

at national and international levels would prove more effective in resolving wider issues if they were designed to help all those affected.

64. His delegation welcomed the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development, which was comprehensive, stimulating and balanced in its analysis of the interrelated issues of environment and development. The process of sustainable development required fundamental changes at both national and international levels, which might involve difficult choices. The principle and objectives of that development should become an integral part of the mainstream work programme of the United Nations system and of the policies and programmes adopted by Governments and by multilateral development aid and financial institutions. In that connection, the role of UNEP should be extended and its funds increased through greater government contributions.

65. Mr. KUECK (German Democratic Republic) said that the interrelated issues of environment and development had rightly gained a more prominent place in international discussions. The report of the World Commission on Environment and Development and the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond were both commendable expressions of a new approach. He agreed that nuclear war or military conflict involving weapons of mass destruction constituted the gravest threat to the environment and that peace and security had a direct bearing upon the concept of sustainable development. There must be a direct link between development policies and economic and social policies in order to ensure that use of natural resources and protection of the environment were consistent with economic growth and sustainable development throughout the world, not least in the developing countries. It was vital to eliminate the military threat and thus bring a halt to the waste of resources and of scientific and technological potential.

66. The country's policies were consistent with the conclusions of those reports. They sought to reduce the consumption of energy and resources, especially through the application of recycling and low-waste technologies. It therefore considered the recommendations a useful guide to decision-making at national, regional and global levels. It was important to enhance bilateral and multilateral co-operation, and that meant, in particular, strengthening the United Nations system, above all, the role played by UNEP.

67. With regard to co-operation in science and technology, the potential of all parts of the United Nations system should be exploited effectively, taking account of the interests and needs of all Member States. Accordingly, the end-of-decade review of the Vienna Programme of Action should not only give an account of achievements and an analysis of current problems, but also provide constructive and systematic guidelines with regard to the future implementation of the Vienna decisions.

68. The International Year of Shelter for the Homeless had highlighted the housing problem and reflected the determination of States to take vigorous action to redress the situation. His country treated housing as a major feature of social welfare policies and was always ready to share its experience with other countries. It had provided training for nationals from developing countries and

(Mr. Kueck, German Democratic Republic)

sent experts to many places abroad. In co-operation with the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), it had hosted a seminar, in connection with the Year attended by representatives from 20 developing countries. Similarly, it had co-operated with Habitat in providing shelter for South Africans in the United Republic of Tanzania driven from their homes by the racist régime of Pretoria.

69. The fundamental goals of the Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women were consistent with the policy objectives pursued by the German Democratic Republic since its foundation. Equal rights for women were a principal objective of development in any human society. These strategies must be translated into plans and programmes of action at all levels.

70. Miss VERLEZZA (Venezuela) said that her country had always attached special importance to the issue of science and technology for development. Venezuela had drafted an action plan for science and technology aimed at strengthening that sector and linking it more closely to other areas of social and economic development. She noted with satisfaction that United Nations activities relating to information systems, the impact of new technologies on developing countries and the Advance Technology Alert System were consistent with the activities being undertaken by her country.

71. Science and technology must be adequately linked to the production sector in order to meet the development needs of developing countries in a timely manner. A sustained and intensive effort, involving major investments in infrastructure, research and training, was required for the development of new technologies. However, the developing countries needed to assess the impact of such technologies on their economies in order to minimize any adverse effects and maximize their benefit. The developing countries must also be kept up to date in such important areas as micro-electronics, informatics, genetic engineering and biotechnology. The work of the United Nations Centre for Science and Technology for Development was particularly valuable in that regard. She urged the Centre to improve its methods in disseminating information on its current programme and those of other United Nations bodies to Member States.

72. The implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Science and Technology for Development must be assessed so that the enthusiasm that had prevailed at its inception might be recaptured. Her delegation therefore welcomed the decision of the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development to treat the review of the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action as its single substantive theme at its tenth session.

73. The United Nations Fund for Science and Technology for Development had been valuable in financing priority programmes of the Centre for Science and Technology for Development and should therefore be provided with adequate resources. Her delegation fully endorsed the report of the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development (A/42/37).



74 Ms. ENGMAN (Sweden), speaking on behalf of the five Nordic countries, said that they had frequently pointed to the need to address women's issues in the context of economic growth and development and to integrate them into the activities of the United Nations system as a whole. The system-wide medium-term plan for women in development which translated the development aspects of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies into action, was an important tool in that respect. However, its success would depend entirely on the ability and willingness of Governments and of the various United Nations bodies to incorporate relevant parts into their own work plans and budgets. Adequate resources were vital to the implementation of the Strategies, and she endorsed the proposal of the Secretary-General to give priority to the question of strengthening the role of women in the 1988-1989 budget.

75. Referring to the progress report on the update of the world survey on the role of women in development, she drew attention to the question of adjustment policies and their effects on women. The repercussions of economic recovery programmes in terms of the employment, income and working conditions of women should be fully considered and efforts made to utilize women's potential as producers and entrepreneurs through suitable training and credit programmes. The Nordic countries strongly advocated an "adjustment policy with a human face".

76. Two chapters of the report touched on the relationship between women's participation in economic activities and the environment. Also relevant in that context was the special attention given in the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development to the role of women in agriculture and forestry programmes. Since the majority of women farmed on a small scale, they had little access to credit, training and other facilities. The Nordic countries advocated extending to those women on a smaller scale the innovative pilot projects offered by a few multilateral and bilateral donor agencies.

77. Commenting on the section of the report on the update dealing with statistics, she stressed the danger of measuring production within the cash economy without reference to the household. Such an approach would present a false picture of any nation's economy, overlooking much of the contribution made by women. Changing a situation in which women were often ignored or even discriminated against in national and local policies, law and programmes would doubtless require a considerable act of political will by the Governments concerned, but would have a positive impact on economic development. Implementation of the Forward-looking Strategies was a challenge facing all United Nations organizations and all Governments. New approaches to urgent problems affecting, above all, women in the developing countries could be found through successful international, intergovernmental and non-governmental co-operation and through national efforts. It was also important to keep the issue of women in development on future agendas of the Second Committee.

The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.