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**SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 45th MEETING**

Chairman: Mr. OUDOVENKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic)

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The meeting was called to order at 4.25 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 83: OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT (continued) (A/C.2/42/L.58, L.59 and Corr.1 and L.92)

1. Mr. GAJENTAAN (Netherlands), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/42/L.92, which had been prepared on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolutions A/C.2/42/L.58 and A/C.2/42/L.59. The text had been divided into several sections in order to render it more readable and focused. The first section dealt with the report of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation concerning case studies on operational activities and follow-up action. The second section focused on priorities, resources and guiding considerations for operational activities, which, it would be recalled, totalled some \$3 billion per year. Specific references were made in that section to the role of the Economic and Social Council and of recipient countries. The need to co-ordinate development co-operation was also addressed, with emphasis on increased support for African countries and the setting of priorities for the least developed countries. The third section of the draft resolution, which related to various aspects of programming, explored such new areas as joint and collaborative programming involving the Joint Consultative Group on Policy. The fourth section dealt with field operations and stressed the need for their rationalization and for greater responsiveness to the needs of recipient countries. The fifth section, on procurement and project execution, called for innovative and practical measures to increase procurement from developing countries, better data relating to procurement and a review of current arrangements for meeting programme support costs. The draft resolution concluded by requesting the Director-General to report on its implementation, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its forty-third session.

2. The draft resolution was the gratifying result of consultations marked by co-operation and flexibility on the part of all delegations and contained food for thought for all Governments. He requested that it should be adopted without a vote and that, as a follow-up measure, the report of the Director-General contained in document A/42/326 and Add.1-3 should be listed among the documents submitted to the Economic and Social Council for consideration during 1988.

3. Draft resolution A/C.2/42/L.92 was adopted.

4. Mr. COKER (United States of America) said that his Government recognized the significance of the draft resolution just adopted, which it had therefore supported, despite its objections to the last preambular paragraph. The United States had not participated in the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development and disagreed with one of the basic tenets of that forum, i.e. the need to transfer the resources freed by disarmament from the developed to the developing world. Disarmament ought to be pursued on its own merits with a view to producing balanced, verifiable arms-control agreements.

5. Mr. KRAMER (Canada) expressed his delegation's satisfaction at the manner in which the informal consultations on the draft resolution had been conducted and the general outcome of those consultations, which demonstrated the immense common ground existing among all countries.
6. Mr. RIPERT (Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation) said that the informal consultations on the draft resolution just adopted had constituted a profound debate on the subject of operational activities for development, and welcomed the fact that all groups of States had contributed to the final text.
7. As the final text would increase the responsibility of the Secretariat, and of his own Office in particular, given the many requests for studies and reports, he intended to rely on the Committee for support in carrying out that task. For his part, he would endeavour to maintain close contacts with all delegations to ensure that the draft resolution was implemented in a way that would fully reflect the intentions of the General Assembly.
8. Draft resolutions A/C.2/42/L.58 and A/C.2/42/L.59 were withdrawn by the sponsors.
9. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should adopt the following draft decision concerning reports before the Committee under agenda item 83 on which no proposals had been submitted:

"The General Assembly takes note of the following documents:

(a) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled 'Technical co-operation between UNDP and the regional economic commissions' (JIU/REP/86/10) and comments of the Secretary-General thereon (A/42/110 and Add.1);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the role of qualified national personnel in the social and economic development of developing countries (A/42/275-E/1987/76);

(c) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the comments of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled 'Field representation of organizations of the United Nations system: structure and co-ordination' (A/42/290);

(d) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled 'Technical co-operation between the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the regional economic commissions: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean' (ECLAC) (A/42/305);

(e) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled 'Technical co-operation between the United Nations Development Programme and the regional economic commissions: Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific' (A/42/387);

(The Chairman)

(f) Report of the Secretary-General on United Nations technical co-operation activities (DP/1987/45 and Add.1);

(g) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Administrator of UNDP on the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women: United Nations Development Fund for Women (A/42/597)."

10. The draft decision suggested by the Chairman was adopted.

11. The CHAIRMAN announced that the Committee had thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 83.

AGENDA ITEM 84: TRAINING AND RESEARCH: UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE FOR TRAINING AND RESEARCH: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/C.2/42/L.88 and L.93)

12. Mr. SHAABAN (Egypt), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/42/L.88, which he had prepared on the basis of informal consultations and the work done by the working group chaired by the representative of Nigeria. Although the text had been prepared in good faith, it had not been the subject of a consensus.

13. Mr. ENGO (Cameroon), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/42/L.93, said that the draft resolution represented an effort to reach a consensus on the subject of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). During the informal consultations that had been held on the future of the Institute, one of the main areas of disagreement had been the staffing of UNITAR. His delegation did not believe that the staffing called for in draft resolution A/C.2/42/L.88 was possible under the statute of UNITAR or that it would solve the problems currently facing the Institute. The Secretary-General had been requested by the Group of 18 to restructure the Institute, and adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/42/L.88 would deprive him of that opportunity. Moreover, adoption of that draft resolution might set a precedent in that it called for the downgrading of a number of posts.

14. Draft resolution A/C.2/42/L.93 simply requested the Secretary-General to continue implementing the restructuring plan for UNITAR as set out in General Assembly resolution 41/172 and to report on that matter to the General Assembly at its forty-third session.

15. Mr. MOHAMED (Somalia) said that he, too, hoped that a draft resolution on UNITAR could be adopted by consensus, given the Institute's importance to developing and developed countries alike. Therefore, on the basis of consultations he had held with a number of delegations, he wished to propose that the Committee should not take action on draft resolution A/C.2/42/L.93 and that the annex of draft resolution A/C.2/42/L.88 should be amended by deleting the column headed "Grade", on the understanding that all delegations would be given an opportunity to explain their position with regard to the text.

16. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution A/C.2/42/L.88 as orally amended by the representative of Somalia.
17. Mr. AL-ALFI (Democratic Yemen), speaking on a point of order under rule 119 of the rules of procedure, moved the suspension of the meeting in order to permit delegations to hold informal consultations on the Somali proposal.
18. After a procedural discussion in which Mr. AL-ALFI (Democratic Yemen), Mr. LAVROV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), Mr. OTOBO (Nigeria), Mr. SHAABAN (Egypt) and Mr. EL GAOUTHE (Mauritania) took part, the Chairman announced that the meeting would be suspended to allow delegations to hold informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/42/L.88 as orally amended by the representative of Somalia.
19. The meeting was suspended at 5.30 p.m. and resumed at 5.50 p.m.
20. Mr. SHAABAN (Egypt), Vice-Chairman, introduced the following revisions to the text of draft resolution A/C.2/42/L.88. First, in paragraph 14, the first sentence should be deleted and the remaining sentence should read:
- "The staff, whose composition is reflected in the annex, shall be assigned to the programme activities of the Institute in proportion to the work-load and tasks necessary to carry out each programme activity at levels that will enable the Institute to carry out its programme activities effectively."
- Second, the following words should be added to the end of paragraph 15:
- ", taking into account the views of States and all documents, formal and informal, discussed under agenda item 84."
- Finally, in the annex, the heading "Grade" and the list of grades below it should be deleted.
21. Draft resolution A/C.2/42/L.88, as revised, was adopted.
22. Draft resolution A/C.2/42/L.93 was withdrawn by the sponsor.
23. Mr. PAYTON (New Zealand), explaining his delegation's position after the adoption of the draft resolution, said that New Zealand supported the purpose of UNITAR, the principle of voluntary funding and the autonomous status of the Institute in the United Nations system. However, his delegation was concerned at the current state of UNITAR. The results of the recent United Nations Pledging Conference were indicative of Member States' lack of confidence in the Institute. Moreover, the Institute's debts were much higher than those which an organization of its size should have been expected to incur.
24. His delegation regretted that some remarks had been made which impugned the intentions of delegations which had been involved in the "informal" informal consultations, and wished to reiterate its recognition of the importance of the issue.

(Mr. Payton, New Zealand)

25. The current structure of UNITAR was not appropriate in view of the financial resources which it had obtained through voluntary contributions. The Institute had repeatedly shown that it was not able to operate within its budget. His delegation hoped that the grading of the Executive Director of the Institute would be brought into line with the responsibilities of a senior officer heading an office with four Professional staff. It would be inappropriate for the Executive Director to be graded at a level higher than D-2.

26. Mr. ENGO (Cameroon) said that the adoption of the draft resolution had shown that all delegations were dedicated to the common cause embodied in the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations. Cameroon had agreed to withdraw draft resolution A/C.2/42/L.93, since it had submitted that draft in order to facilitate a consensus in the Committee. His delegation hoped that the malaise of UNITAR, which had been manifested by States' withdrawal of financial assistance, would be remedied, and appealed to those States which had withdrawn assistance to co-operate with the Secretary-General in making UNITAR a viable institution.

27. Mr. DJOGLAF (Algeria) welcomed the consensus on draft resolution L.88, as revised, which he described as one of the Committee's major achievements. He hoped that it would revitalize the Institute and enable it to attract the necessary financial commitments.

28. Mr. SADDLER (United States of America) said that, notwithstanding the well-known United States reservations with regard to UNITAR, his delegation had been impressed by the serious views expressed and by the work accomplished during the informal consultations. Although it had not stood in the way of a consensus, it would have preferred the unrevised text to be adopted. He hoped that the Secretary-General would take the necessary action with regard to staff restructuring and resolve all personnel issues. All UNITAR staff made redundant should be reassigned to appropriate positions as soon as possible.

29. Mr. KIURU (Finland) welcomed the consensus on the draft resolution, which should increase confidence in UNITAR. He hoped that it would thus be able to continue its activities as a viable entity. Finland, as a traditional donor to UNITAR, would reconsider its contribution in the light of the implementation of the resolution.

30. Mr. FIELD (United Kingdom) expressed satisfaction that draft resolution L.88, as revised, had been adopted. A responsible, pragmatic approach had been taken to the reorganization of UNITAR, which was a particularly difficult issue. The resolution provided a viable basis for the continuation of UNITAR activity in the field of training and full implementation should enable the Institute to function as an effective and useful part of the United Nations family. He hoped that in implementing the resolution the Secretary-General would take due account of the views expressed with regard to an appropriate administrative structure for UNITAR, and respect the rights of all concerned. Implementation would help to create a climate of confidence and to attract the financial support required.

31. Mr. BAMBA (Côte d'Ivoire) welcomed the consensus reached on draft resolution L.88, as revised. He noted, among other things, the significant participation of the Executive Director of UNITAR in the work of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, which played a central part in the United Nations system. Such factors should be taken into account in future discussions of the issue.

32. Mr. PETRONE (Italy) expressed satisfaction with the consensus. His Government would pay particular attention to the question of advances to the regular budget. Such advances could be made only to the extent permitted by the commitments announced. He hoped that the Secretary-General would endeavour to ensure that any staff made redundant were assigned to equivalent positions.

33. Mr. EL GAOUTHE (Mauritania) welcomed the adoption of the draft resolution without a vote. His delegation attached great importance to UNITAR activities and hoped that the resolution would help to establish a more favourable climate and restore the confidence of the traditional donors.

34. Mr. TANIGUCHI (Japan) was glad that the revised draft resolution had been adopted by consensus. He urged the Secretary-General to act swiftly with regard to staff restructuring in order to restore the confidence of all Member States in UNITAR.

35. Mr. VALLENILLA (Venezuela) said that his delegation attached tremendous importance to UNITAR and had, therefore, followed very closely all stages in the negotiation of the draft resolution. He welcomed its adoption by consensus.

36. Mr. BAKER (Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation), referring to the question of the UNITAR building, said that ACABQ had requested the Secretary-General to ascertain whether the owners were currently willing to sell the title to the land and, if so, at what price, and to find out whether the offers received with regard to the sale of the entire property were still valid. Since the matter was under active consideration, he was unable to give details, but said that the necessary arrangements for the funding of that transaction would be worked out in consultation with ACABQ.

37. With regard to advances, he recalled that the Secretary-General had pointed out that the Organization was not in a position to make additional resources available to cover current operating costs. There had, however, been a disappointing response to UNITAR's request for funding at the recent Pledging Conference and it was apparent that, even if the Organization were prepared to make advances on the basis of formal commitments by Governments, it would not be possible to maintain UNITAR until April 1988. Nevertheless, the Organization was empowered to make advances against assured future income. Accordingly, it was proposed that an immediate review be made of projected expenditures to ensure that all possible steps were taken to limit them to the minimum required to continue operations. On the basis of that review and bearing in mind that further information should soon become available with regard to the acquisition of the land and subsequent sale of the entire property, the Organization would be prepared to make advances to enable UNITAR to continue until the end of April 1988. Given that the minimum budget required for 1988 was approximately \$US 1.5 million and taking

(Mr. Baker)

account of the commitments made at the recent Pledging Conference (\$US 348,606), the maximum shortfall was likely to be around \$US 1 million. That figure would be reduced by additional government contributions, project support costs and income from rent and other sources. The Organization would be prepared to advance funds on the assumption that such advances and the debt currently owed to the United Nations would be repaid in full in 1988. The proposal would have no financial implications for the regular budget of the United Nations.

38. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 84.

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

39. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should adopt the following draft decision concerning reports before the Committee under agenda item 82 on which no proposals had been submitted:

"The General Assembly takes note of the following documents:

(a) Trade and development

Note by the Secretary-General on the development aspects of the reverse transfer of technology (A/42/317)

(b) Implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries

(e) Environment

Report of the Secretary-General on the problem of the remnants of war

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme on international conventions and protocols (UNEP/GC.14/18 and Corr.1 and Add.1) and on shared natural resources and legal aspects of offshore mining and drilling (UNEP/GC.14/25)

(f) Desertification and drought

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the reports of the Secretary-General on the application of science and technology to the study, prevention, monitoring and combating of drought, desertification and other natural disasters (A/CN.11/19 and A/CN.11/INF/11)



(The Chairman)

(q) Human settlements

Report of the Secretary-General on the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless (A/42/378)

(i) New international human order: moral aspects of development

Note by the Secretary-General on a new international human order: moral aspects of development (A/42/527)".

40. Mr. EL GAOUTHE (Mauritania) suggested that the reports concerning desertification and drought had been taken into account in draft resolution L. ... and that the reference to them in the draft decision should be deleted.

41. The CHAIRMAN said that he would take up the matter with the Secretariat and that the reference would, if necessary, be deleted.

42. The draft decision suggested by the Chairman was adopted.

The meeting rose at 6.40 p.m.