

also facilitate the appraisal and evaluation of results and the continuity of assistance. Nor must the allocation of UNDP resources be subject to new conditions: there was need, therefore, to ensure that the new responsibilities

entrusted to UNDP did not go beyond its mandate, since that would risk depleting its already scarce resources.

The meeting rose at 10.50 a.m.

29th meeting

Friday, 9 July 1993, at 3.15 p.m.

President: Mr. Martin HUSLID (Norway)
later: Mr. Olexandre SLIPTCHENKO (Ukraine)

E/1993/SR.29

AGENDA ITEM 2

Coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system related to the following themes (continued*):

(a) Coordination of humanitarian assistance: emergency relief and the continuum to rehabilitation and development (continued*)

1. The PRESIDENT drew attention to the draft agreed conclusions in document E/1993/L.25. Although the text was available only in English, he hoped the Council would be prepared to adopt the conclusions.

2. Mrs. KELLEY (Secretary of the Council) read out the text of the draft agreed conclusions on agenda item 2 (a).

3. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to adopt the text as read out and interpreted.

4. Mr. KHOURY (Syrian Arab Republic) proposed that the words "continued to be the basis" in point 1 of the conclusions should be amended to read "is the basis". He also proposed that the words "and its guiding principles" should be added after the reference to General Assembly resolution 46/182.

5. Mr. ORLIANGE (France) said that his delegation preferred the text as it stood.

6. Mr. SETH (India) said that, although there might be some uncertainty about the legal status of the text the Council was invited to adopt, the purpose of its message was perfectly clear. The aim was more important, for the moment, than the precise wording. A parallel was to be

seen in statements issued by the President of the Security Council. If the President of the Council was able to confirm that interpretation, his delegation could support the text, although the latter was too lengthy and in some respects differed widely from the wording of Assembly resolution 46/182. He would not wish to support textual amendments at the present stage.

7. Mr. PORTOCARERO (Belgium), speaking on behalf of the European Community, said that he hoped that amendments of substance could be avoided as delegations had not had time to study the text in detail.

8. The PRESIDENT said that, as he saw it, the intention was to convey a message, not to adopt a formal resolution.

9. Mr. JARAMILLO CORREA (Colombia), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77, said that the point raised by the Indian delegation was a matter of substance, and that he, too, would like to know the legal status of the text before it was adopted. In addition, he would like the Spanish version of the text to be made available.

10. Mr. MARKS (United States of America) endorsed the Indian delegation's observations. The recommendations that the Council was to produce under General Assembly resolution 46/182 were not expected to be *ex cathedra*. The text was in the nature of a working paper rather than a resolution, and his delegation had no difficulty in accepting it as it stood.

11. Mr. AMAZIANE (Morocco) said that the idea of simply adopting a message was too vague. Any conclusion emanating from the Council must be in the form of an agreed text. That was particularly so in the present case, when, pursuant to resolution 46/182, the text was intended to have effect throughout the United Nations system. If the Council adopted the text, the question of its legal status could be set aside for the time being and legal advice sought later, if necessary.

* Resumed from the 21st meeting.

12. Mr. PORTOCARERO (Belgium) said that his previous comment related only to proposed amendments to the text, not to the document's legal status, a matter that could be considered elsewhere. The important point was that the members of the Council should be in agreement about the message to be conveyed. Questions of interpreting the wording could follow the adoption of the conclusions. In a spirit of cooperation, he would be prepared to accept the substitution of "is" for "continued to be", and could support the text as so amended.

13. Mr. MAQUIEIRA (Chile) said that the question of the document's legal status had to be taken into account, particularly since it related to obligations in compliance with which the various agencies would be expected to report. Perhaps the matter should be discussed in the Bureau.

14. The PRESIDENT said that the representative of Chile had raised a valid point. He himself found it hard to draw a parallel with the status of declarations made by the President of the Security Council, since the draft conclusions under discussion did contain operative recommendations. The matter would be referred, therefore, to the Organization's legal services, and the Indian delegation's observations would appear in the summary record of the meeting.

15. Nevertheless, the operational value of the text was clear enough. He was convinced that the conclusions would help to improve the United Nations system, enhance inter-agency relations and clarify the system's preparedness and response in respect of natural disasters and emergencies—a view which, he felt sure, the agency heads shared.

16. He invited the Council to adopt the draft agreed conclusions, on the understanding that, in point 1 of the conclusions the words "continues to be" were replaced by "is".

It was so decided.

The meeting was suspended at 4.15 p.m. and resumed at 4.35 p.m.

Mr. Sliptchenko, Vice-President, took the chair.

AGENDA ITEM 3

Operational activities for development (*continued*)

17. Mr. NGONGI (World Food Programme) said that country level coordination was of capital importance. As the Programme's Executive Director had said, WFP fully supported the implementation of General Assembly resolution 47/199. It agreed that the resident coordinator system would continue to be the responsibility of UNDP and welcomed the steps being taken to broaden the selection process so as to draw on a larger pool of persons qualified for appointment as resident coordinator. Much

progress had been made in discussions on those matters in the Joint Consultative Group on Policies and he hoped that a report would be submitted to the Council in the near future.

18. The Executive Director had also said that it was her responsibility to bring to the attention of Member States potential difficulties in the way of implementing resolution 47/199. There was increased demand upon organizations to enter into much more detailed, coordinated and policy-oriented dialogues with recipient Governments in order to ensure that all programmes and activities were integrated into national plans and programmes, in close collaboration with other members of the United Nations system, bilateral donors and non-governmental organizations. But such a system required that individual programmes and organizations should have adequate representation at country level. WFP did not have any such independent representation, and, in pursuit of the new policies, it was reasonable to expect that it should have at its disposal persons with detailed knowledge of its programmes to enter into dialogue at the country policy level, and, in WFP's view, that could not be achieved by asking individuals, however gifted, to assume a multitude of responsibilities. What was needed was knowledgeable persons who could also provide a link between the country level teams and the headquarters of the organizations concerned.

19. The recent discussion on the continuum between emergency humanitarian assistance and development had highlighted the importance of linking the two, and he believed that WFP was uniquely placed to play such a linking role. But if such linkages were to be effective, it was important that there should be a single representative responsible for dealing with both types of assistance. It was very difficult for a headquarters organization to delegate authority and decentralize through the field level while preserving accountability. The whole system of implementation at the country level was the key to the implementation of various aspects of resolution 47/199.

20. Mr. RAO (United Nations Population Fund) said that UNFPA fully supported the resident coordinator system and the current arrangements for it to be managed by UNDP. In further strengthening and coordinating the new field level activities involved in such matters as the country strategy note, the programme approach, decentralization, and delegation of authority, UNFPA wished its country director to be its representative in all countries where country directors were designated, but, where that was not the case, wished the UNDP resident representative to represent UNFPA as well. That was the arrangement UNFPA had been seeking and the UNDP representative had stated that UNDP hoped that there would soon be UNFPA representatives.

21. Mr. BARNETT (United Kingdom) noted that in annex IV to the report (E/1993/73), paragraph 6 (*b*) stated that Governments should assume overall accountability for all programmes and projects, and paragraph 6 (*m*) indicated that all programmes and projects

only partly managed by a national agency or institution should become the total responsibility of national agencies. It would, therefore, seem that the principles basically required the transfer of all responsibility from the United Nations system to national Governments and did not seem to envisage any United Nations agency execution, but only implementation. His delegation accepted that national execution should be the norm, but not the only way. He wondered whether paragraph 6 (b) was not going too far at the present stage. A number of other delegations, including that of China, had urged that care must be taken not to push the process too far and too fast. Paragraph 6 (m) seemed to go even further. Weight should surely also be given to the sustainability of projects, which would not appear to be secured if they were transferred to people who were ill-prepared to deal with them.

22. With regard to paragraph 46 of the report (E/1993/73), which stated that the common framework did not necessarily apply to UNICEF, WFP and IFAD, he asked why those three organizations should be excluded from the framework, which surely should apply to all or none. Would it not be preferable to amend the framework, if necessary, broadening the principles, so as to bring in all organizations?

23. Mr. KABIR (Bangladesh) said that recipient countries had accumulated enough experience to assume responsibility for executing United Nations projects, most of which were concerned with technical assistance, some being on a relatively small scale. Countries should be given the option of bringing in outside assistance if they judged that they were not in a position to execute a project themselves, but the norm should be national execution, which incidentally saved money.

24. Mr. CARMICHAEL (Canada) said his delegation wished to have an opportunity to speak on the subject of the resident coordinator system, especially with reference to paragraphs 40 and 41 of resolution 47/199.

25. Mr. DIECKERT (Germany) said that his delegation strongly favoured national execution as the norm, but it should be seen in the light of the country programming approach. He believed the United Nations agencies should concentrate their efforts on the transfer of management skills and techniques required for the execution of programmes and projects. He wondered why the list in paragraph 6 (k) of annex IV of the report (E/1993/73) did not mention the use of an evaluation system as a management instrument.

26. Mr. JARAMILLO CORREA (Colombia) said that he was somewhat concerned about the United Kingdom representative's observations. Any departure from the principle of permanent, total commitment to execution by national agencies—which would, after all, be responsible for continuing the programmes and projects once the technical cooperation agencies had withdrawn—was inconceivable. The worst thing that could happen to a third-world country was to be left without follow-up ca-

capacity. It was a mistake to think of the technical cooperation agencies as being the sole repositories of truth. They should concentrate on building up local capacity and not repeat the mistakes of the years when technical cooperation was wasted effort because of its failure to do that.

27. Mr. BARNETT (United Kingdom) said that there seemed to be some misunderstanding. He had said nothing that was not entirely in accord with the points made by the Colombian representative. He had merely sought to emphasize, as General Assembly resolution 47/199 did, that national execution should be the norm for programmes and projects supported by the United Nations system, and that it was for recipient countries to determine their capacity to execute them, but that those countries should not be forced to take on responsibility for national execution before they felt ready to do so. He also fully endorsed the emphasis in paragraph 18 of the resolution on the need to give increased priority to assisting countries in enhancing their capacity. He did not believe there was any difference between his views and those of the Colombian representative. It was the report (E/1993/73) which seemed to have lost sight of the necessity for a staged approach. National execution had to proceed at the speed of the recipient countries, which should at the same time be encouraged to apply it and regard it as the norm.

28. Mr. WANG Xinggen (China) said his delegation attached great importance to national execution, but it had to be borne in mind that conditions varied considerably from one developing country to another, and it would be a mistake to force all to apply that norm. The United Nations system should do all it could to help recipient countries build their capacity to undertake national execution.

29. Ms. POLLACK (United States of America) said that in annex IV to the report (E/1993/73), a number of objectives of national execution were mentioned, including enhancement of capacity-building, self-reliance and sustainability, and the internalizing of external inputs, and in paragraph 4 national execution was defined as a cooperative, operational arrangement. In paragraph 6 (g) it was, however, stated that all programmes and projects should be appraised by the external funding organization with the assistance of the relevant technical agency. Did that mean there would be no involvement at all of Governments or local non-governmental organizations, which might have gained experience from the exercise? That aspect seemed particularly important because paragraph 6 (i) stated that regard should be paid to the existence and availability of the technical, administrative and managerial capacities of the recipient Government. She would welcome clarification of the role of Governments in programme and project appraisal.

30. Mrs. WYRSCH (Observer for Switzerland) said that national execution was no longer a novel concept, and all agencies had had experience with it. She would be interested to hear what factors had been identified as

making for success, what problems had been encountered, and in what ways United Nations representatives at the country level were able to help recipient Governments carry out national execution. One particular advantage of that procedure was that it lightened the workload for all concerned, and enhanced the impact and sustainability of assistance.

31. Mr. DESAI (Under-Secretary-General, Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development) said that while the promotion of national execution should be pursued in a pragmatic manner, as indicated in paragraph 6 (a) of the guiding principles, it was essential to ensure that the national Government took the decision to assume overall accountability. Paragraph 6 (m) used qualifying phrases, such as "as far as possible", for the progressive transfer of responsibilities, but it was important that national execution should be maintained as a firm norm. The hard core of international operational activities was capacity-building, and that was impossible without national execution. He believed that effective project implementation, as well as programme implementation, was extremely difficult without the significant involvement of national Governments, a point which was emphasized in the first paragraph of annex IV. The best technical assistance was that which rendered itself redundant in the shortest possible time.

32. There was enough leeway in the guiding principles to allow for differences in conditions between countries and the important point was that Governments themselves should determine the pace at which transfer should take place. Everything else should be interpreted in the light of what was stated in paragraph 6 (a).

33. Mr. KABIR (Bangladesh) said, in response to the suggestion made earlier that national salaries might be higher than international salaries, that in 99 per cent of cases they were not. He would like to know exactly what elements were involved in national execution. If that was made clear, it would be possible to judge what could be done by the country concerned and what needed to be done by somebody else.

34. Mr. ALTESMAN (United Nations Children's Fund) said that the reason why the description of the roles of the technical agencies in the national execution context did not apply to UNICEF was that, for the past 20 years or more, its programme had not included any agency or any international execution. Moreover, since it did not bundle assistance by projects, there were no UNICEF projects to be executed. UNICEF believed in focusing on programme goals and then bundling assistance round those goals, in the form either of cash for local expenditure by the Government or of supplies, and possibly of international technical assistance, which accounted for about 15 per cent of the whole.

35. Mr. RAO (United Nations Population Fund) said that capacity-building for national execution would involve strengthening the capacity of the countries concerned in a number of directions. In the case of UNFPA,

it would involve capacity for policy and programme formulation, implementation and monitoring and evaluation in the field of population. UNFPA's own guidelines, as approved by its governing body in 1992, covered two types of capacity-building: one for substantive and technical matters and one for administrative and management aspects. The administrative and management aspects would be in the area of procurement, logistics, audit, and so forth. For substantive and technical matters, capacity-building meant the enhancement of technical expertise in various areas. In the case of population, the types of specific capacity that needed to be built were in maternal and child health, family planning, and information, education and communication. Essentially, the strategy for building such capacity would involve technical assistance in the form of various options, including the provision of international experts, regional experts and national experts. It would also involve field-level training in the form of national workshops to help build capacity in financing, audit and so on. A third aspect of capacity-building was institutional development, which was also a vital part of the broad strategy. A wide range of things were thus required for a country to be self-reliant and capable of national execution. Currently, some 28 per cent of UNFPA's programme activities were nationally executed.

36. Mr. NGONGI (World Food Programme) said that WFP had been excluded from the common framework of the Consultative Committee on Programme and Operational Questions on the same grounds as UNICEF: namely, that it did not implement technical assistance projects. The framework had been established primarily for the technical agencies. Unlike UNICEF, however, WFP had projects, but all of them were nationally executed. Modalities had been worked out for assisting countries that had particular difficulties in regard to execution, especially the least developed countries, in the area of meeting the costs of logistics, the establishment of management systems for food handling, or project preparation. WFP did not pay the salaries of national staff, all of which were paid by the Governments implementing the projects. WFP did, however, pay some of the costs relating to monitoring and evaluation. As far as appraisal, mentioned in paragraph 6 (g), was concerned, all WFP project evaluation measures were carried out in collaboration with Governments and with all the relevant technical agencies providing technical assistance. All WFP projects were prepared in collaboration with the technical agencies, in particular FAO, WHO, ILO and UNESCO.

37. Mr. MUDZAKIR (Malaysia) said, in regard to the guiding principles in annex IV of the report (E/1993/73), that it was important to distinguish what kind of accountability was referred to in paragraph 6 (b). In general, a Government's accountability was to its constituents. If the paragraph referred to accountability for the success of programmes and projects, in many respects the funds and programmes which were partners in implementation should also be accountable. They should also

be accountable to the Council itself, in terms of the success of the project.

38. In connection with paragraph 6 (g), which said that all programmes and projects should be appraised by the external funding organization, he asked whether national structures could also be involved in the appraisal. He noted that in paragraph 6 (i), the meaning of the phrase "regard should be paid" was unclear. The general emphasis of the guiding principles was that host Governments should be relied on more and more to provide expertise. Paragraph 6 (o) referred to the enhancement of self-reliance. There were some cases, however, where the strengthening of national institutional capacity required external assistance and the reference to the efforts of "Governments themselves" seemed not to reflect that possibility. He felt that the last sentence of the paragraph was also unclear as it stood.

39. Mr. GÓMEZ (Associate Administrator, United Nations Development Programme) said that UNDP was a relative latecomer to national execution, when compared with UNICEF or WFP. He would therefore limit himself to the very recent experience of UNDP. Under decision 91/27 of the Governing Council, UNDP had been instructed to accelerate its movement towards national execution as its contribution to the building of self-reliance among recipient countries. As a result, the amount of UNDP resources spent on national execution had risen from about 10 per cent to over 30 per cent and would shortly be 40 per cent. Under the UNDP guidelines, execution was separated from implementation and there was thus the possibility of a multiplicity of combinations of the two principles, as the current menu of projects already exemplified. In the case of UNDP, therefore, General Assembly resolution 47/199, which had been adopted after decision 91/27, merely ratified what had already been adopted by the Governing Council. National execution was to be the norm, with the choice being made by the recipient Government.

40. For example, the position adopted by China in regard to the role of UNDP in that country was that national execution was selected whenever it emerged from the programming dialogue between China and UNDP that that was the best solution for the project in question. When the conclusion reached through the joint dialogue was that national execution was not applicable, China and UNDP made arrangements for international agency execution. There were cases of national execution in China where an international agency, such as UNIDO, would play a very clear implementing role, in agreement with the Chinese Government and with UNDP as funding agency. On the other hand, there were cases of international execution where a domestic Chinese institution would implement aspects of the project. He emphasized that, as far as UNDP was concerned, a programme could not be anything other than nationally executed. At that level, UNDP was engaging its cooperation in the context of clearly-established, well-defined government programmes which it approached through funding and/or cooperation.

41. He regretted that he was not very familiar with the guiding principles set out in annex IV of the report (E/1993/73). They had emerged out of discussions in CCPOQ, in which UNDP had participated, but only as one voice among many. Guiding principles worked out in that way tended to be rather general. In the case of UNDP, the Governing Council had reviewed and endorsed guidelines for national execution and national implementation which were much more concrete. Thus, although a programme must, by definition, be nationally executed, it might well be that, in part, it would be implemented by an international agency.

42. In response to the question by the observer for Switzerland, he gave, as an example of concrete action, the case of Bolivia, which was going through a very significant scheme for privatization and the modernization of the machinery of State, with great support from the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank. The Government of Bolivia had decided to build a capacity for procurement by the public sector and had asked UNDP for assistance in doing so. It was agreed at the beginning that UNDP would execute the project, and that after two years it would be turned over to the Government. Capacity having been built, to the satisfaction of the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank, but foremost to the satisfaction of the Bolivian Government, the role of UNDP had changed immediately. Currently, a great deal of training was being provided in that area to UNDP staff.

43. When it came to assessing a project for national execution, the assessment was basically undertaken at country level and started by involving the Government itself in assessing its own capacities. In that connection, the UNDP resident representative was not only instructed to secure local consultants, including non-governmental organizations, in making the assessment but provided with the financial means to do so. He did not wish to put too much stress on differences of wording, but he would remind the Council that each of the agencies had its own guidelines approved by its own governing body on how it should operate.

44. The representative of Bangladesh had been quite correct in saying that, obviously, if a Government felt that it could implement a project, and if, in the dialogue with UNDP, the conclusion was reached that the capacity was there, there was no reason why the Government should not implement it. Whether it wished to do so in full should again be the result of dialogue. In that connection, he said that he knew of concrete instances where national implementation was more expensive than international implementation because the salaries paid locally were higher than international salaries. One or two other countries were also moving in that direction. The distortion of local prices resulting from artificial parities could at times produce such a situation.

45. Mr. MATTHEWS (United Nations Development Programme), referring to the representative of Malaysia's point regarding paragraph 6 (o) of annex IV of the

report (E/1993/73), said that the sentence was intended to mean that where the United Nations system took measures to supplement national capacities, the measures should be taken on a short-term basis and should not become a crutch. There should be an agreed programme to phase out the external component and progressively nationalize the entire effort.

46. Similar considerations applied to the appraisal of projects. In that connection, under Assembly resolution 47/199, Governments were primarily responsible for determining their capacity to execute programmes and projects supported by the United Nations system. Where Governments wished to have assistance in carrying out that responsibility, the system was prepared to provide it, without prejudice to the principle laid down in the resolution.

47. Mr. STILLMAN (Department of Development Support and Management Services) said that the new support-costs system under which many agencies receiving funds from UNDP were now operating was an important element in the national execution enterprise. The establishment of technical support services at the programme and project level facilitated and supported national execution.

48. Mr. KABIR (Bangladesh) said that even in the case of national execution of a project, the resident coordinator might arrange matters in such a way as to ensure that the international agencies would still be retained to perform the work.

49. Mr. CARMICHAEL (Canada), referring to Assembly resolution 47/199, paragraphs 40 and 41, asked why the field-level committees were not yet a reality. He wondered what steps were being taken to establish them and make them operational.

50. Mr. BARNETT (United Kingdom) asked whether the working group referred to in paragraph 71 of the report (E/1993/73) had met and whether it had begun to tackle the matters listed in subparagraphs (a) to (g).

51. Mr. FILHO (Brazil) said his delegation fully appreciated the complexity of implementing Assembly resolution 47/199, particularly with regard to strengthening the resident coordinator system. The provisions of paragraphs 36 to 41 of the resolution were of great importance and could make a significant contribution to cost-effectiveness and national capacity-building. He wondered whether that aspect had been discussed within the system.

52. The establishment of field-level committees could significantly strengthen coordination at that level in a number of countries. In that connection, his delegation attached particular importance to paragraph 38 (b) of resolution 47/199. It interpreted the fact that the matter had not been mentioned during the discussion to mean that it was already current practice and would be maintained.

53. Mr. DESAI (Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development) said, in response to the United Kingdom representative, that the Working Group had met twice.

54. Quite a few field committees existed already and he had recently written to resident coordinators, drawing their attention to the question. His Department expected to receive the annual progress reports from resident coordinators within a few months. It should be noted that the resident coordinators' function would be defined on the basis of paragraphs 44 and 47 of General Assembly resolution 47/199.

55. The field-level committees should be established where it was clear that they would be useful. In many cases informal coordination mechanisms already existed.

56. Mr. GÓMEZ (Associate Administrator, United Nations Development Programme) said that in the country team training programme at the International Training Centre of the ILO at Turin, considerable stress had been placed on the desirability of setting up full committees. Even before the adoption of Assembly resolution 47/199, the issue had been an important item on the Centre's agenda.

57. Mrs. VOLKOFF (Canada) wished to know how the system was modifying its appraisal of candidates for appointment as resident coordinators, who was making the appraisal and what steps were being taken to make the process of selection a transparent one.

58. Mr. FILHO (Brazil) asked whether there had been any movement on the question of mobilizing support from outside the United Nations system.

59. Mr. GÓMEZ (Associate Administrator, United Nations Development Programme) said that in Latin America the resident coordinator mechanism had served to mobilize more resources from outside the system. As a result of the transfer of resources in favour of the least developed countries, the net flow of UNDP resources to Latin American middle-income countries had been significantly reduced. That had generated the need to develop an innovative mechanism for mobilizing additional resources. At present, the situation was that for every UNDP dollar, \$20 were assigned to the Programme's resources from other sources.

60. Mr. DESAI (Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development) said that the appointment of a person as resident coordinator was undertaken only after consultation with the agencies, particularly those involved in field-level implementation. If there were problems, a discussion was generally held between those concerned and UNDP.

61. An effort was being made to widen the pool from which the selection took place. That was an ongoing exercise and he hoped that it would continue to improve the process.

62. Dr. WASSEF (World Health Organization), referring to the question of mobilizing resources and technical expertise from both outside and inside the system, said that her organization accorded priority to national and regional expertise.

63. With regard to technical cooperation among developing countries, WHO used the expertise of neighbouring countries or those with similar problems. WHO made use of the expertise not only of people but also of institutions. It had a worldwide system of centres which collaborated with it on many issues.

64. Mr. GÓMEZ (Associate Administrator, United Nations Development Programme) said that at present, 45 per cent of his organization's professional staff had agency experience. UNDP recognized the need to widen the pool and had been circulating vacancy notices to its partners.

65. Mr. MANCZYK (Poland) said that a country programme committee had been operating in his country for

two years and functioned well. It included government coordinators and a resident representative. Members of such committees should be supported and given some training. In that connection, he said that some financial support might be necessary.

66. Mr. HAMBURGER (Observer for the Netherlands) said that it was essential for the United Nations system to adopt an innovative, cost-effective and unified approach in implementing General Assembly resolution 47/199, in particular with regard to new recipient countries.

67. Mr. BARNETT (United Kingdom), supported by Mr. SLEEUWAGEN (Belgium), said that the informal meetings of the Council had been valuable and would be very helpful in implementation of General Assembly resolution 47/199.

The meeting rose at 6.10 p.m.

30th meeting

Monday, 12 July 1993, at 10.35 a.m.

President: Mr. Olexandre SLIPTCHENKO (Ukraine)

E/1993/SR.30

AGENDA ITEM 12

Statistical and cartographic questions:

(a) Statistics

(b) Cartography

1. Mr. SELTZER (Director, Statistical Division), introducing the report of the Statistical Commission on its twenty-seventh session (E/1993/26), said that, at that session, the Commission had begun by adopting a revised System of National Accounts, which was a basic tool for organizing and analysing economic statistics. In a way, the new system established a virtually universal language for economic dialogue among countries and groups of countries. It was the culmination of 10 years of effort by international statistical organizations, countries, non-governmental organizations and many experts and the work had been coordinated by the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts. The revised SNA updated, clarified and simplified the previous one,

was more in harmony with other international statistical standards and was applicable to all countries. It provided a fuller picture of the resources at an economy's disposal, laid the groundwork for dealing with interaction between the economy and the environment and elaborated an analytical approach to the assessment of poverty. The Statistical Commission was submitting draft resolution I (*ibid.*, chapter I) for adoption by the Economic and Social Council in which it recommended that Member States should use the revised SNA, agreed that the United Nations regional commissions should play a major role in its implementation and requested the mobilization of resources for its implementation, including support for Member States and the regional commissions.

2. The Statistical Commission had also adopted an action plan identifying 19 measures for strengthening international statistical cooperation that were the result of a two-year review which included input from an independent review group composed of the directors of several national statistical services.