



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 4th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. SBIHI (Morocco)

CONTENTS

ELECTION OF OFFICERS (continued)

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

AGENDA ITEM 63: TRAINING AND RESEARCH:

- (b) UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY: REPORT OF THE COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY

AGENDA ITEM 62: OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT:

- (h) UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND

* 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 A-3550, 366 United Nations Plaza (Alcoa Building), and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate fascicle for each Committee.

The meeting was called to order at 10.55 a.m.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS (continued)

1. Miss GARCIA-DONOSO (Ecuador) nominated Miss Stephenson-Vernon (Jamaica) for the office of Rapporteur.
2. Miss Stephenson-Vernon (Jamaica) was elected Rapporteur by acclamation.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

3. The CHAIRMAN informed the Committee that Mr. Villa (Philippines), Vice-Chairman, would co-ordinate informal consultations on the following items: item 12; item 61 (b), (c), (g), (i), (k), (l) and (m); item 63 and item 64. Mr. Valtasaari (Finland), Vice-Chairman, would co-ordinate informal consultations on the following items: item 61 (a), (d), (e), (f), (h), (j), (n), (o), (p) and (q) and item 62.

4. In view of the fact that the General Assembly had emphasized the need to reduce the number of resolutions, the officers of the Committee had agreed to strive in the course of the informal consultations to have draft resolutions combined into single text whenever several proposals dealt with the same question.

AGENDA ITEM 63: TRAINING AND RESEARCH:

(b) UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY: REPORT OF THE COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY (A/35/31)

5. Mr. SOEDJATMOKO (Rector, United Nations University) said that in the year under review, 1979/80, the University had continued to expand its networks and associated institutions and its fellowship programme for advanced training. By the end of the year the University had had 13 networks and 26 associated institutions, while 60 UNU fellows had completed their training. In that year the University had published 115 books, periodicals and papers, including 4 issues of the quarterly Food and Nutrition Bulletin and 11 issues of the monthly ASSET: Abstracts of Selected Solar Energy Technologies.

6. The considerable output of information deriving from the University's research programmes indicated that the three programmes, i.e., World Hunger, Human and Social Development, and Use and Management of Natural Resources, were beginning to contribute to an understanding and, it was hoped, an eventual solution of the complex problems with which they were concerned. The programmes had, however, reached a stage at which their progress and direction required evaluation. Under the policy guidance of the Council and with the assistance of the programme advisory committees, considerable attention had been devoted to a mid-term review of the

(Mr. Soedjatmoko)

programmes. One of the University's most urgent tasks was to assess the results of that review and to pursue it to the point at which the University staff and the Council could draw conclusions to guide them in developing and modifying existing programmes and in initiating new programme activities, structures and methods.

7. The Council had initiated the process of medium-term planning and had discussed at its fifteenth session a report on the development of a medium-term plan for the United Nations University prepared by an ad hoc committee. He had been asked by the Council to submit his comments on the medium-term planning process at the sixteenth session, when the Council would decide how to resume its discussion of the report of the ad hoc committee. He believed that the University would need to maintain flexibility in its planning process in order to enable it to respond to challenges and opportunities as they arose and to take advantage of resources as they become available, in the course of its collaboration with scholars and their institutions, policy-makers and educators throughout the world. More important and useful to the University than any single plan document was the collective learning which the planning process made possible in identifying both immediate and future global problems and in formulating the University's research and advanced training objectives: a continuous, self-adjusting planning process was the ideal.

8. Turning to budgetary matters, he said that during the year ending 30 June paid-up contributions to the University's Endowment Fund and Operating Fund had increased by \$15.6 million. The main contributors had been Japan (\$10 million), the United Kingdom (\$2.3 million), the Federal Republic of Germany (\$1.1 million) and Saudi Arabia (\$1 million). In June 1980 pledges to the Endowment Fund had amounted to \$139,169,082, of which \$105,036,189 had been received by the University. Moreover, a total of \$2,936,896 had been pledged or received for the Operating Fund of the University from governmental sources and \$378,980 as project support from other sources. In all, however, only 29 Member States of the United Nations had so far contributed to the financial support of the University.

9. Paying a tribute to his predecessor, Dr. James Hester, he said that during the term of office of the University's first Rector the idea of a global university had become a reality, with an established Centre and headquarters in Tokyo and an extensive international system of 18 networks of scholars and institutions engaged in research, advanced training and dissemination of knowledge on pressing global problems of human survival, development and welfare.

10. The United Nations University functioned against the background of a world in which hunger and poverty coexisted with abundance and affluence and in which food shortages were chronic, despite a tremendous scientific and technological capacity for food production. Rapid population growth and over-urbanization created imbalances in resources and threatened human survival and welfare in many countries

/...

(Mr. Soedjatmoko)

of the third world. At the same time, the world was undergoing rapid change under the mounting impact of science and technology, including the rapid growth of modern transport and communications and the changing values, aspirations and perceptions of people. There was an urgent need for viable and persuasive ideas and solutions which would command widespread adherence and would provide for the requirements of human survival and development. Despite the explosion in knowledge, contemporary social and political thought and international economics seemed to be dangerously out of step with the awesome technological advances in weaponry and industry, in cosmic exploration and biology and in the exploitation of the non-renewable resources of the planet. It was also essential to identify and understand the minimum political requirements for dealing more effectively and more humanely with the problems of mass poverty, injustice and unemployment, for bringing about the necessary structural changes and, above all, for releasing the full creative potential of all the people who were currently at the lowest rung of their societies.

11. Unfortunately and owing in part to the absence of political will, recent advances in science and technology had added little to mankind's capacity to solve some of its most urgent problems. A different kind of understanding of those problems was vital, but it could not be generated solely through the efforts of the great national institutions of learning, whose aims were generally the promotion of national welfare and the advancement of specific disciplines. It could, however, be initiated by an institution such as the United Nations University, which organized international networks of scholars to deal systematically with global problems on a comprehensive and universal basis, in furtherance of the purposes and principles of the Charter. Foremost among its preoccupations were world peace and international security and the conditions that made them attainable, including a just and equitable international order, the observance of human rights and duties and the promotion of human development and welfare. It had been founded in recognition of the interdependence of all nations, and was inspired by the ideal and necessity of human solidarity and the prime importance of improving the human condition everywhere in the world.

12. In the first five years of its existence the University had correctly emphasized problem-oriented programmes which focused on third-world development questions. He believed that the time had arrived for the University to broaden its scope to include research in the following areas: coexistence between peoples having different cultures, languages and social systems; peaceful relations between States and the maintenance of peace and security; human rights; economic and social change and development; the environment and the proper use of resources; basic scientific research and the application of the results of science and technology in the interest of development, and the study of universal human values related to the improvement of the quality of life.

13. Given the University's limited funding, a careful selection would be made of those problems in the case of which further knowledge and understanding was critical in the search for solutions. To that end the University Centre's capability for intellectual leadership would have to be strengthened so that it could become the vital core of a world-wide academic community. He hoped that with the support of Member States the University could make an impact on the consciousness and thinking of the world and help to give structure and meaning to the profound changes taking place within it. It is important to recognize that the University was neither a development agency nor an institution devoted only to the problems of the third world, but the universal institution of higher learning intended by the General Assembly which had brought it into existence.

14. The Council was grateful for the initiatives the General Assembly had taken on behalf of the University in resolutions 33/108 and 34/112. In that connexion, he drew particular attention to paragraphs 46 to 52 of the Council's report (A/35/31) in which the Council responded directly to the suggestions and recommendations on fund-raising possibilities contained in the Secretary-General's report entitled "Fund-raising efforts for the United Nations University" (A/34/654). The Council had especially welcomed the Secretary-General's statement in his report that the burden and responsibility for fund-raising should not rest mainly on the officers of the University or on its Council but on those Governments which had voted the University into existence. The Council had taken note of the fund-raising possibilities explored in the Secretary-General's report. As the General Assembly had urged, he would work closely with the Secretary-General and the Director-General of UNESCO in the task of realizing those possibilities and of increasing efforts to obtain financial support for the University from all possible sources.

15. In conclusion, he said that the University was entering a new phase in its development, and he hoped that it would be possible, given the financial and intellectual support required, to inaugurate research in the new areas he had outlined and to institutionalize the University's activities in various places around the world in accordance with the mandate of its Charter.

AGENDA ITEM 62: OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT:

(h) UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND

16. Mr. GRANT (Executive Director, UNICEF) said that three recent developments illustrated the changing demands on UNICEF particularly well. One was the increasing insistence of the world community that its concern was not only with economic growth but also with more rapid improvement in the condition of people, particularly children, as part of the development process. That had been exemplified by the General Assembly's action, in 1976, supporting UNICEF's basic services approach and, most importantly, by the new International Development Strategy for the 1980s and beyond. An important new feature of the Strategy was that it conceived development as an integral process, with the objective of social and human development being accorded new emphasis in the form of specific goals relating to the elimination of hunger, universal primary education, primary health care for all and a sharp reduction in infant mortality by the end of the century.

(Mr. Grant. UNICEF)

17. The importance of the goals thus framed was that they called for greatly accelerated progress in advancing human well-being for low- and middle-income countries in the context of the new international economic order. They called for child mortality rates in the low-income countries to decline by the year 2000 to a level which the industrialized world had not achieved until almost the middle of the twentieth century. The achievement of a decent level of health and literacy for all children by the year 2000 was not an impossible dream. However, it would require high seriousness of purpose, accelerated effort and intelligent innovation in programmes. The recent experience of some low- and middle-income countries had shown that such rates of improvement were possible, particularly when facilitated by international economic co-operation.

18. It was becoming evident that investment in children was among the best investments any country could make in its future. Given a time frame of, say, 20 years, investment in such basic aspects of human development as primary school education and primary health care usually provided rates of return of 20 per cent or more, rates which, as noted in the World Bank's World Development Report, 1980, were well above those from physical investments such as factories and such more costly human development investments as universities and hospitals. In short, an effective child-oriented approach to development could actually support and reinforce economic growth. Furthermore, not only would it reduce by 5 million the number of deaths among children each year but, because of the impact of such improvements in well-being on attitudes towards family size, it would result in a much larger decrease in births than was currently being projected. UNICEF, as one of the agencies of the United Nations system most heavily oriented towards people and community participation, had a particular need and opportunity to increase further its already considerable skills in that sphere.

19. A second major development affecting UNICEF's role was the increasing realization that accelerated progress in certain fields that particularly affected the condition of children - drinking water and sanitation, elimination of mass hunger and illiteracy, and health for all - would require the mobilization of much greater resources than UNICEF could hope to supply. UNICEF's financial resources were currently equivalent to only 1 per cent of all official development assistance and to only a small fraction of 1 per cent of the amount being devoted to development by low-income countries. Even if that proportion were to increase substantially in the 1980s, UNICEF would still have to rely primarily on working with others to make more effective use of their resources in meeting the most essential needs of children. That implied a need for some change in UNICEF's role and working methods. UNICEF had some special capacities: its network of staff, 80 per cent of which was based in developing countries, was a unique resource for contact with countries' local operational levels, it had more of a community-based approach than most agencies and a relatively greater understanding of low-income communities, and its approach was directed towards children's problems and was therefore cross-sectoral. Those capacities were greatly needed because, so far, relatively small proportions of the increased resources for social programmes were going to community-based programmes, in directions most beneficial to children.

20. The third development had been the assignment to UNICEF of lead agency

/...

(Mr. Grant, UNICEF)

responsibilities both for the International Year of the Child and for following up the developmental aspects of IYC. For the first time UNICEF was playing a formal role in the industrialized as well as the low- and middle-income countries.

21. Since its establishment in 1946, UNICEF had evolved to encompass three distinct but interrelated "missions". It had started as an emergency agency responsible for children suffering in "headline" emergencies, and that responsibility still continued, as evidenced by its serving as lead agency in the United Nations system in connexion with the Kampuchean emergency. UNICEF's second mission was to respond to the "silent" emergency afflicting the vast majority of the world's children as a consequence of abject poverty and gross underdevelopment. Each year some 15 million children under the age of 5 died unnecessarily in developing countries. While not all UNICEF activity should be devoted to increasing the prospects of survival of children, programmes that clearly affected survival rates should have first claim on its limited financial resources. It was noteworthy that UNICEF was also involved, often in collaboration with other assistance agencies, in activities that benefited children indirectly by such means as improving the economic productivity of poorer families, strengthening family structure and providing better health and education services to women. It was becoming clear that in many cases priority should be given to programmes which could accelerate progress on several of those objectives simultaneously, even though their contribution to any one of them individually might be limited. For example, bringing functional literacy to women was likely to contribute significantly to improving the health of small children through its indirect effects on their care and on family planning. That had been recognized recently by the World Bank, which had concluded that educating girls might be one of the best investments a country could make in its future economic growth.

22. UNICEF's third mission, which had emerged as a consequence of the International Year of the Child, was to improve the condition and opportunities of all children, in developing and industrialized countries alike.

23. UNICEF was currently working in 110 developing countries with a population of 1.3 billion children aged 15 and under. It assisted in the planning and design of services for children, increasingly with the help of consultants from developing countries; provided supplies and equipment for those services, which were increasingly being purchased in developing countries; and supplied funds for the training of personnel, largely in their own countries. In 1979 UNICEF's total income for general resources and supplementary projects, excluding Kampuchean relief, had amounted to \$222 million. For 1980 the Executive Board had approved commitments of \$244 million, whereas revenue estimates, exclusive of Kampuchea and other major emergencies, amounted to \$250 million. In effect, because of inflation there would be no real increase of income in 1980 and increases of only 5 to 10 per cent in the following years. UNICEF could and should do better in raising resources to advance the well-being of the world's children.

24. In that connexion he expressed the hope that there would be substantial increases in the resources applied to child-oriented programmes by the four

/...

(Mr. Grant, UNICEF)

principal sources on which UNICEF depended: donor Governments, host Governments, funding entities and ordinary people. It was a puzzling fact that major donor Governments which professed to regard UNICEF as one of the most important multilateral efforts contributed far less, proportionately, to UNICEF than they did to technical organizations for which their contributions were assessed. An effort would be made to persuade such Governments that they should contribute at least as much to UNICEF as they would if its budget was based upon assessment. UNICEF was also looking forward to the establishment of the Arab Fund for United Nations social development activities. Host Governments, too, should recognize that investing in their own children was sound policy and reflect that in a financial commitment. With regard to funding entities, UNICEF would encourage multilateral and national agencies to increase their support of programmes which directly or indirectly affected the well-being of children. Finally, non-governmental contributions, which in 1979 had totalled \$50.2 million - some 50 per cent more than the largest single government contribution, were the largest single source of UNICEF revenue, and he hoped that the National Committees would redouble their efforts.

25. UNICEF welcomed its designation as the lead agency for the development aspect of plans and commitments emanating from the International Year of the Child, and recognized that its success would be measured by the scope and depth of the commitments which it would be able to encourage others - Governments, international and non-governmental organizations, institutions and individuals - to undertake. Believing that each country could best appreciate the situation of its own children, UNICEF encouraged each Government to develop such programmes and activities as it deemed appropriate. It channelled the funds which were contributed to UNICEF and encouraged bilateral and multilateral funding institutions to commit resources. To that assignment it brought many special capacities. Its interdisciplinary approach and the development of a basic services approach that concentrated on ensuring the active involvement of the community resulted from its awareness of the need to generate a greater self-help capacity among the poor. Its systematic knowledge of techniques that were effective in reaching the poor majority would be increasingly valuable as other agencies became more deeply involved in programmes of primary health care, community water supply and basic education. UNICEF's comparative advantage in the development of such techniques should make it an increasingly valued partner of such agencies. UNICEF planned to continue, in a modified form, the advisory group which had contributed so much to the co-ordination of the activities of IYC. It also proposed to convene the consultative group on policies and programmes for children later in the year.

26. In conclusion, finally referring to UNICEF's activities in responding to the widespread hardship and large-scale famine suffered by the people of Kampuchea, he said that whereas 12 months earlier the survival of a large portion of that people had been in doubt, since then the future prospects of the Kampuchean people had greatly improved. Thanks to unprecedented international efforts and the actions of local authorities, the great majority of Kampuchean people would probably be able to survive until the harvesting of the crops in November and a majority of the refugees who had reached the Thai border the previous autumn had returned home. Major

/...

(Mr. Grant, UNICEF)

problems still remained in Kampuchea and support was still needed for relief activities in the months ahead if the situation was not to deteriorate. He paid a tribute to the very positive role played by the International Committee of the Red Cross, United Nations and private agencies, and all Governments which had supported that effort in Kampuchea.

The meeting rose at 12.10 p.m.