



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 17th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. SBIHI (Morocco)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.25 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued)  
(A/35/3/Add.28 and Add.30, A/35/227 and Add.1, A/35/514, A/C.2/35/L.7-L.11)

International years and anniversaries

1. The CHAIRMAN said that the amendment to draft decision A/C.2/35/L.7 submitted at the fifteenth meeting had been withdrawn. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt the draft decision without a vote.

2. It was so decided.

3. Mr. AYENI (Nigeria) said that his delegation had participated in the consensus on draft decision A/C.2/35/L.7 on the understanding that paragraph 11 of the annex to resolution 1980/67 of the Economic and Social Council (A/35/3/Add.28) was construed as enabling certain organs to pronounce themselves against the decision of the General Assembly to proclaim an international year.

World Communications Year: development of communications infrastructures

4. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to vote on draft resolution A/C.2/35/L.8, which the Central African Republic and Rwanda had joined in sponsoring.

5. Mr. SEBURYAMO (Burundi) said that his delegation wished to join the sponsors of the draft resolution.

6. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt the draft resolution without a vote.

7. It was so decided.

8. Mr. PLECHKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that he had not opposed draft resolution A/C.2/35/L.8 and had not requested that it should be put to a vote, since it did not affect in any way the celebration of World Communications Year in 1983. Paragraph 1 of resolution 1980/69 of the Economic and Social Council, which was referred to in the draft resolution that had just been adopted, recommended to the General Assembly that 1983 would be an appropriate year for the celebration of World Communications Year, provided that the arrangements necessary for its financing had been made, based on the principle of voluntary contributions. Paragraph 3 of resolution 1980/69 further recommended that the Secretary-General, taking into account the relevant sections of the guidelines for future international years, should continue consultations with Governments on the content of the programmes of activities and their evaluation and should submit to the Council, at its second regular session of 1981, revised proposals on programmes for the Year. His delegation reiterated its reservations with respect to World Communications Year, which had already been expressed in the reply of his Government to the questionnaire of the Secretary-General on the Year and in the statements of Soviet representatives in the Economic and Social Council and the Second Committee at the current session.

Permanent sovereignty over national resources in occupied Arab territories

9. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to consider draft resolution A/C.2/35/L.9, which Afghanistan and Mali had joined in sponsoring and whose financial implications were contained in document A/C.2/35/L.11.

10. Mr. SEBURYAMO (Burundi), Mr. BIKOUTA (Congo), Mr. WORKU (Ethiopia), Mr. PARIMAL (India), Miss RODRIGUEZ (Mozambique), Mr. MEDAL (Nicaragua), Mr. TURPIN (Senegal) and Mr. MIHALJEVIC (Yugoslavia) said that their delegations joined in sponsoring draft resolution A/C.2/35/L.9.

11. Mr. LUFTI (Jordan) said that the Zionist entity continued to subject the occupied Arab territories to the worst sort of blackmail and exploitation. His delegation condemned all the violations which the Israeli authorities were committing in those territories by depleting their resources and changing their characteristics, e.g. by the decision to construct a canal to the Mediterranean. Jordan urged the international community to support draft resolution A/C.2/35/L.9 and condemn the tactics used by Israel in the exploitation of the natural, human and other resources of those territories.

12. He requested support for the rights of the Arab peoples to sovereignty over their own lands and natural resources and said that their right to compensation for the exploitation of those resources should be recognized. He furthermore urged the Member States to join the ranks of the Arab countries in combating Israeli tactics in the occupied territories.

13. Mr. ORON (Israel) said that his delegation had already explained its position with regard to the questions dealt with in draft resolution A/C.2/35/L.9 whenever they had arisen. In accordance with international law Israel had the responsibility of safeguarding the security of the territories and their population. The military administration of the territories had carried out that responsibility and had even gone further by promoting the economic and social development of the local population. Claims made by the parties to a dispute should be settled by negotiation. For that reason, his delegation maintained that the General Assembly could not and should not in any way prejudice the results of negotiations. Neither the politically motivated resolutions of the Second Committee nor the reports of the Economic Commission for Western Asia, which were flawed by a total lack of objectivity, facilitated the search for peaceful solutions. Israel, therefore, would vote against the draft resolution.

14. Mr. PLECHKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his country had always supported the just claims of the Palestinian people and had strongly condemned the colonialist activities of Israel in the Arab territories. In that way the Soviet Union showed itself to be in favour of a comprehensive and just solution to the conflict in the Middle East. In order to end the dangerous situation in the Middle East as speedily as possible, Israel must withdraw its troops from all the Arab territories occupied in 1967. The inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including the rights to self-determination and the creation of their own state, should be restored to them. His delegation would vote in

(Mr. Plechko, USSR)

favour of draft resolution A/C.2/35/L.9, which it supported as a whole. Furthermore, the measures provided for in that draft resolution should be implemented under the regular budget of the United Nations.

15. Mr. N'DIAYE (Chad) said that his country had always supported the just cause of the Palestinian people and urged the members of the Committee to support draft resolutions A/C.2/35/L.9 and L.10.

16. Mr. MUELLER (German Democratic Republic) said that his delegation supported draft resolutions A/C.2/35/L.9 and A/C.2/35/L.10. There was a definite link between the assistance provided through United Nations bodies to the Palestinian people and the settlement of the question of Palestine as the basis of a comprehensive and just solution to the problem of the Middle East. In accordance with the position of his country that the solution to the problem could only be achieved through the participation of all the parties concerned, including the Arab people of Palestine represented by the Palestine Liberation Organization, his delegation felt that it was a matter of vital importance to establish links of co-operation with PLO at all levels.

17. Mr. ZWAYNE (Syrian Arab Republic) said that the General Assembly resolutions on the progress of developing countries clearly stated that colonialism, neo-colonialism, racial discrimination and foreign aggression and occupation were the principal obstacles to such progress. The region of the Middle East had for a long time suffered from a series of acts of aggression by foreign colonialist groups intent on dividing the Arab people. That part of the world, which previously had enjoyed stability and progress, had been subjected to the occupation of Palestine, the dispersion of its people and a series of wars of aggression in 1956, 1966 and 1973.

18. All of that had clearly shown that colonialism would not disappear from the Middle East until the rights of the Palestinian people and their lands were restored to them. The peoples of the occupied territories were constantly subjected to injustices committed by the Israeli authorities. The latest injustice had been the annexation of Jerusalem. The General Assembly resolutions, especially those which emphasized the rights of the Arab peoples whose lands had been occupied, must be respected and implemented. His country was co-operating with the other members of the Group of 77 in order to strengthen solidarity, eradicate the vestiges of colonialism and secure justice and equality for all.

19. At the request of the representatives of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, a recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/C.2/35/L.9.

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Brazil, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Greece, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Central African Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Federal Republic of, Haiti, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Ivory Coast, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

20. Draft resolution A/C.2/35/L.9 was adopted by 101 votes to 2, with 22 abstentions.

21. Mr. WOLZFELD (Luxembourg), speaking on behalf of the nine States members of the European Economic Community, said that they had abstained because they felt that the issue dealt with in draft resolution A/C.2/35/L.9 was not within the competence of the Second Committee.

22. Mr. BRECHER (United States of America) said that his delegation had voted against the draft resolution because of his country's position on the question of permanent sovereignty and because the draft resolution dealt with political issues which were not within the competence of the Second Committee.

23. Mr. CASCAIS (Portugal) said that his delegation had voted in favour of the draft resolution because of Portugal's general position concerning Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories and the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people in respect of those territories. Nevertheless, his delegation

(Mr. Cascais, Portugal)

expressed reservations, as it had done in previous years, with regard to operative paragraph 3.

24. Mr. WAKASUGI (Japan) said that his country had voted in favour of draft resolution A/C.2/35/L.9 because it wholeheartedly sympathized with the Arab States concerning the question of the national resources of the occupied territories. It hoped that the matter would be resolved soon by peaceful means in accordance with international law.

25. Mr. EL-JEANN (Kuwait), noting that some delegations had abstained or had voted against the draft resolution because the item did not fall within the competence of the Second Committee, said that it would be interesting to know whether such delegations would change their position if the issue were dealt with in the plenary meeting.

26. Mr. BRECHER (United States of America) observed that his delegation had given two reasons for voting against the draft resolution; it had not referred only to the competence of the Second Committee.

Assistance to the Palestinian people

27. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to consider draft resolution A/C.2/35/L.10, noting that Afghanistan and Mali should be added to the list of sponsors.

28. Mr. BIKOUTA (Congo), Mr. WORKU (Ethiopia), MR. PARIMAL (India), Mr. MEDAL (Nicaragua), Mr. TURPIN (Senegal) and Mr. MIHALJEVIC (Yugoslavia) said that their delegations also wished to sponsor draft resolution A/C.2/35/L.10.

29. Mr. ORON (Israel) recalled his country's position concerning the resolutions of the Economic and Social Council referred to in the draft resolution, pointing out that Israel was in favour of assistance being given to the Palestinians, provided that it was sent through the right channels and was for the benefit of the Palestinians themselves. Most of the projects proposed by UNDP for the Palestinian people had been approved by the Israeli authorities and his delegation hoped that the same professional, non-political criteria would continue to be applied on that issue.

30. Draft resolution A/C.2/35/L.10 belonged to the category of resolutions - of which there were many - which had never been implemented, not because the agencies of the United Nations system had refused to implement resolutions adopted by political bodies, but because those resolutions called for the execution of impossible tasks which went against the very nature of the Organization and the principles on which it was based. Nothing could be done without the consent of the bodies and persons interested in receiving assistance. Anyone who thought that development projects could be implemented on the basis of paragraph 2 of the draft resolution or without the co-operation of the Israeli authorities was either deluding himself or was dooming the assistance to complete failure.

(Mr. Oron, Israel)

31. His delegation believed that Member States would survive those resolutions and the politicization of the specialized agencies of the United Nations system. The survival of the agencies and of their effectiveness was at stake. For many developing countries, particularly the poorest of them, the development programmes of the United Nations were important means of providing assistance.

32. The sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/35/L.10 might win a nominal battle in the short term but in the medium and long term they were endangering the capacity of the system to respond to pressing development needs in times of very sluggish economic growth. Israel would vote against draft resolution A/C.2/35/L.10.

33. Mr. PLECHKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his country's position of principle on the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people was well known. The Palestinian people had demonstrated that they were capable of any sacrifice in order to achieve their aspirations and they had been fighting for many years under the guidance of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

34. Mr. Brezhnev had sent a telegram to Mr. Arafat recognizing that, thanks to its courage and position of principle, the PLO had won world-wide recognition as the sole representative of the Palestinian people and had become the spearhead of the Palestine liberation movements. The USSR was pleased to see that the agenda for the next session of the UNDP Governing Council included an item on assistance to the Palestinian people.

35. At the request of the representatives of Cuba and the United Arab Emirates, a recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/C.2/35/L.10.

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Brazil, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

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Against: Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining: Australia, Belgium, Burma, Canada, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Federal Republic of, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Portugal, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

36. Draft resolution A/C.2/35/L.10 was adopted by 106 votes to 2, with 21 abstentions.

37. Mr. WOLFZELD (Luxembourg), speaking on behalf of the nine States members of the European Community, said that the delegations of those countries had abstained in the vote on draft resolution A/C.2/35/L.10 because paragraph 2 urged the relevant United Nations organs to take the necessary steps to implement resolutions of the Economic and Social Council in the voting on which those delegations had abstained. That did not, however, affect their support of assistance to the Palestinian people.

38. Mr. BRECHER (United States of America) said that his delegation supported the programme of assistance to the Palestinian people adopted by the UNDP Governing Council but had voted against draft resolution A/C.2/35/L.10 because of the reference in it to the implementation of resolutions of the Economic and Social Council to which the United States had been opposed.

39. Mr. WAKASUGI (Japan) said that his delegation had voted in favour of draft resolution A/C.2/35/L.10. In that connexion he reaffirmed his country's position with regard to the provision of assistance to liberation movements, which his delegation had explained at the thirty-third session of the General Assembly.

40. Mr. KUN (China) said that his delegation had voted in favour of draft resolutions A/C.2/35/L.9 and L.10 because it had always supported the principle that the natural resources of a country should be utilized by its nationals. China had consistently supported General Assembly and Economic and Social Council resolutions calling for assistance to meet the needs of the Palestinians. He noted that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 34/133, UNDP had adopted new measures to that end and that other agencies had also responded favourably to that resolution.

41. The assistance provided was, however, not commensurate with the needs, especially since Israel was pursuing its policy of aggression, expansion and plunder, making increased assistance necessary. The Chinese Government and people had always sympathized with the Palestinians and had supported their struggle for the recovery of the occupied territories and for self-determination. It was to be hoped that a just and peaceful solution of the problem would be found and that further successes would be achieved in that just struggle.

42. Mr. RAHMAN (Observer for the Palestine Liberation Organization) thanked, on behalf of all Palestinians, those States which had voted in favour of draft resolutions A/C.2/35/L.9 and L.10. He noted that the United States had once again taken a position that betrayed its hostility and antagonism to the Palestinian people and had decided not to honour its commitments under the Charter of the United Nations and to side with the aggressor.

(Mr. Rahman, Observer, PLO)

43. The resolutions just adopted dealt with two specific questions: international legality and assistance to the Palestinian people, who for 32 years had been living in exile or under illegal military occupation. The Palestinian people had seen their lands plundered and their natural resources exploited by an act of aggression by the Israeli Zionist State. For 13 years the Palestinians had been subjected in their occupied territories to continuing Israeli aggression against their homes, lives and basic human and political rights. Nevertheless, the United States had decided to vote against international consensus and international legality. The solution to the problem of the Palestinian people required the exercise by that people of their inalienable national rights, which in turn required the complete withdrawal of Israel from the occupied territories and the recognition of the national rights of the Palestinian people in Palestine.

44. In the meantime, the least that the international community and the United Nations could do was to alleviate the tragic plight of the Palestinian people under the occupation. However, with regard to such a humanitarian act, the United States had decided to take a position unfavourable to the Palestinian people. The Palestinian people had repeatedly made it clear through the Palestine Liberation Organization that it was the responsibility of the international community to find a solution to the problem since the international community had, by an illegal act in 1947, decided to divide Palestine and to create the State of Israel in Palestinian national territory. The international community had a duty to redress that injustice against the Palestinian people.

45. Mr. BLAIN (Gambia) and Mr. KABIR (Iran) said that if their delegations had been present during the voting, they would have voted in favour of draft resolutions A/C.2/35/L.9 and L.10.

AGENDA ITEM 62: OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT (continued) (A/35/3/Add.9 and Add.29, A/35/38, 224 and Corr.1, 442; A/C.2/35/2; E/1980/41, E/1980/42; DP/443)

46. Mr. MOUMOUNI (Niger) said that operational activities were pre-eminent in the over-all activities of the United Nations for the promotion of development. The report of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation (A/35/224, annex) clearly established the need to carry out three major categories of operational activities - financial assistance, assistance in kind, such as food aid, and technical co-operation - for promoting economic and social development. However, those categories should not be defined too rigidly, since that would make it impossible to deal with the many diverse situations which existed in different countries and regions.

47. The objective of a real increase in the flow of resources for operational activities for development on a predictable, continuous and assured basis had been set in paragraph 28 of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197. His country attached particular importance to those requirements and found it regrettable that it was becoming increasingly common for pledging conferences not to reach their targets. Equally regrettable was the fact that very few countries were allocating

(Mr. Moumouni, Niger)

at least 0.7 per cent of their GNP for official development assistance, the target long since set by the international community. Worse still was the finding that it was the major market-economy countries which were most likely to fall short of that target and to reduce the volume of their official development assistance. It should be borne in mind that it was in the developed countries' own interest to bring about, through such assistance, world-wide prosperity from which they too would benefit.

48. Concessional assistance should go primarily to the least developed countries and those with serious structural problems. Such assistance should, however, be provided unconditionally and should be used in accordance with the national priorities of the governments concerned. The international community's collective perception should be only one viewpoint, which had to be complemented by a country's perceptions of its own development process. His delegation was therefore highly appreciative of the action of UNDP, particularly the fact that a complementary approach was taken to country and intercountry programming.

49. His Government attached great importance to co-operation among developing countries in the economic, technical, scientific, cultural and other spheres. Such co-operation should be one of the dimensions of international co-operation in the United Nations system and it should be supported so that developing countries could increase their individual and collective bargaining capacity. His delegation therefore strongly supported the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, the Arusha Programme for Collective Self-Reliance and the OAU Plan of Action on economic co-operation among developing countries recently adopted at Lagos. The fundamental aim should be to ensure that all developing countries made self-reliant progress and strengthened their economic and social institutions in accordance with their own priorities and aspirations so as to rectify their disadvantaged position in international economic relations.

50. His country was pleased by the fruitful co-operation which it had established with all the agencies of the United Nations system and the assistance they were providing. The assistance of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities was particularly valuable, especially the assistance for conducting a census and the establishment of a maternal and child welfare centre. It was to be hoped that such links would be increased in the future, both qualitatively and quantitatively. His country also highly appreciated the co-operation of UNICEF and the activities carried out in connexion with the International Year of the Child. The United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration was a valuable mechanism which should be strengthened to enable it to continue providing assistance to young countries.

51. The problem that was currently of greatest concern to his country was total and final elimination of hunger and malnutrition, following the ravages caused by the terrible drought that had stricken the Sahel countries at the beginning of the 1970s. Problems as fundamental as those could be solved only by means of concerted international action, which had unfortunately not yet been initiated. Nevertheless, there had been some progress in that area: the change in the policies of the principal international financial institutions, particularly the World Bank, which was gradually increasing its inputs in the agricultural sector; the

(Mr. Moumouni, Niger)

establishment of the International Fund for Agricultural Development, and the recent World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. Another encouraging factor was that the right of peoples to live a life free of hunger had been accepted and proclaimed in countless world forums. Unfortunately there was still an enormous chasm between theoretical affirmation of such principles and practice, and that resulted in the occurrence of such tragic situations as that which Uganda had recently experienced.

52. Food security and self-reliance were a major goal for the poor countries of the world, and they had to mobilize all their resources and efforts to achieve that goal. According to the estimates of the competent international agencies, agriculture in the developing countries needed annual investment of approximately \$US 24 billion. That amount, which might seem enormous, was in fact the target set by the international community at the World Food Conference in 1974. It should not be forgotten that self-reliance in food production was a prerequisite for economic expansion.

53. Food self-reliance and raising the level of living of the rural population, which made up from 82 to 85 per cent of the total population, had been the principal goals of his country's 1976-1978 three-year programme and was again the focus of its current five-year plan for 1979-1983. Long-term forecasts had been made for crop and livestock production and for desertification control. Moreover, fully aware of the fact that no rural development policy could be implemented without active involvement of the rural population, his Government had embarked on the promotion of a network of co-operatives in rural areas. With a view to ensuring that food production was less severely affected by climatic factors, water resources development projects had likewise been planned, among them the Kandaji dam on the River Niger. Other goals envisaged were an increase in food crops, the supply of means of production, soil regeneration and maintenance of soil fertility, crop protection, establishment of links between agricultural and livestock production, and the strengthening of rural and self-management structures. In spite of all those efforts, his country needed assistance from the international community in order to maintain stable grain stocks.

54. The Niger, a land-locked country subject to severe geographical and climatic limitations, could overcome those limitations only with the co-operation of the international community. At the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, his country had supported proposals to ease the difficulties of land-locked countries, particularly provisions on the granting to those countries of the right of transit passage and access to the sea and the opportunity to share in the exploitation of marine resources. His country also supported the idea of establishing a Fund for the common heritage of mankind; that idea should be seen in the context of endeavours to restructure international economic relations and to narrow the gap between rich and poor countries.

55. In conclusion, his delegation appealed to all Member States to support the activities of the United Nations Special Fund for Land-locked Developing Countries and other activities whose purpose was to deal with the special needs and problems

(Mr. Moumouni, Niger)

of those countries. He appealed once more to the developed countries to make substantial contributions to the Special Fund in order to enable the land-locked countries to reduce the serious problems with which they were burdened.

56. Mr. KITIKITI (Zimbabwe) thanked the members of the Committee for the warm reception they had given his delegation. For many countries the operational activities of the United Nations system were the foundation on which a better future could be built. The Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation should not underplay the importance of "pure" operational activities, which were closely linked to "applied" operational activities and complementary to them. If such areas as data collection, global standard-setting and research were neglected, implementation activities would lack the firm theoretical basis on which they relied for their effectiveness.

57. If the economic growth of the least developed countries was to be speeded up, it was essential that the ratios of investment and saving to their gross domestic product should rise substantially. Since it was concerned at the gradual decline in concessional aid to developing countries, his delegation endorsed the Director-General's call for an increase in the flow of concessional capital. Such resources would enable Governments to redress their balance-of-payments problems and engage in the long-term task of restructuring their economies. An international endeavour in that area could break the cycle of economic dependence arising from deficiencies in the mobilization of domestic savings. With regard to the area of technical co-operation, collective action on the part of developed and developing countries was of fundamental importance in making the economies of the latter viable and effective. His Government therefore hoped to establish a close relationship with the United Nations agencies.

58. He expressed satisfaction at the role played by UNDP in his country, which was currently devoting all its energies to reconstruction, and drew the international community's attention to the report submitted by the Secretary-General to the Security Council on Zimbabwe's immediate needs; satisfaction of those needs was of basic importance for the country's growth and self-reliance in the future. Furthermore, he commended UNHCR for the speed with which it had responded to his country's needs.

59. His Government associated itself with international efforts to prepare a comprehensive food security plan and stressed the need for a new Food Aid Convention, which would provide a regulated, planned and institutionalized means of responding to the food crisis in the third world. The international community should support economies that had a comparative advantage in food production by opening up markets for their products, ensuring the stability of prices and assisting them to establish their own research facilities, which would enable them to make use of technological and scientific knowledge to overcome or minimize the adverse effects of pests, drought, desertification and frost; research could also contribute to the identification of new high-yield crops. In 1979 33 per cent of UNDP's resources had been devoted to agriculture, and his delegation recommended further investment in that area.

(Mr. Kitikiti, Zimbabwe)

60. His Government had introduced free primary education and free health services in Zimbabwe, and it hoped that UNICEF, together with other agencies, would assist in strengthening Zimbabwe's capacity to provide an optimum level of educational and health services. His delegation joined other speakers who had called for more funds to be pledged to UNICEF. An increase in contributions would make it possible to support primary health care, community development projects and housing schemes in developing countries and would help to achieve the goal of a lower infant mortality rate. There was an abundance of human resources in developing countries, and it was therefore essential that full use should be made of them in the operational activities of the United Nations.

61. The operational activities of the United Nations system would be of no avail without structural reforms in the world economy. The developed countries should give up their policy of protecting and subsidizing inefficient production, since such measures reduced the real level of global resources. In view of the availability of resources in the developed countries, there was no reason why they should not restructure their production capacity and manufacture products in which they enjoyed a comparative advantage. Although there would be adjustment costs in the short run, in the long run aggregate benefits would far exceed them.

62. Another factor that reduced returns on operational activities was the rise in the cost of energy. Currently the basic problem with regard to energy prices, particularly oil prices, was limited supply. The industrialized countries consumed approximately 90 per cent of the oil produced, while the developing countries consumed only 10 per cent. A projection of current oil consumption yielded a gloomy picture. Since the current energy-saving policies of the industrialized countries had led only to a marginal reduction in their total consumption, substantial assistance would have to be made available for identifying new sources of energy. Investment in energy in developing countries, which had great potential for solar energy and energy from coal, would facilitate the growth of those countries without greatly affecting the demand for and supply of oil.

63. The Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation stated in paragraph 11 of his report (A/35/224, annex) that assistance "remains subject to the approval of the organizations providing the funds and technical support". In his delegation's view, that statement ran counter to the principle that, if development was not to be built in isolation but as an integral part of the national policy of the sovereign Government, it had to be founded on national objectives. His delegation also shared the general concern about the uncertainty with regard to the resources to be made available to UNDP in a reasonable planning period, and it hoped that a system of multi-year pledging and the introduction of automatic increases in UNDP resources for operational activities would result in a real increase in funds on a predictable, continuous and assured basis. It should also be possible to use for the purposes of UNDP funds from world money markets which were lying idle because of the current recession.

64. His delegation supported the idea of an annual review of operational activities, with an in-depth review being made after three years for the purpose, for example, of evaluating the extent to which annual suggestions had been

(Mr. Kitikiti, Zimbabwe)

applied and proposing new approaches to replace obsolete methods in operational activities. Thereafter a thorough review might be made of the policies of operational agencies and of the impact on recipient economies of United Nations operational activities.

65. The fundamental constraint on operational activities was associated with the volume and predictability of future resource flows. That problem, in its external dimension, presupposed the need for assured increases in the flow of real resources, and his delegation supported the idea of using levies on armaments and international trade to finance operational activities. In its internal dimension, the problem presupposed the efficient utilization of all resources made available to UNDP. He urged that an effort should be made to eliminate waste within the agencies, excessive cash holdings in non-convertible currencies, duplication of work and obsolete administrative institutions. He also stressed the need for all the agencies to allocate the resources efficiently both among competing sectors of the national economies and among regions.

66. One essential component of the efforts to derive maximum benefits from operational activities was the establishment of an international legal régime to govern and stabilize international trade relations. Developments that deserved mention in that connexion included the Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods, the work on liquidated damages and penalty clauses, the draft Convention on International Bills of Exchange and International Promissory Notes, and the UNCITRAL Conciliation rules. His delegation urged UNITAR to increase its capacity to train personnel from developing countries so that they could have their own experts, especially in such spheres as international trade law and the law of the sea, participate effectively in the work of the United Nations system on those questions.

67. His Government believed in regional co-operation as a practical means of achieving self-reliance and economic independence and hoped that the structural reform of the world economy, especially in monetary relations, would promote trade among developing countries. United Nations operational activities that served as a vehicle for the transfer of real resources to developing countries should also include the transfer of capacity to undertake research into products with export potential in the countries themselves and the transfer of technological and marketing know-how.

68. Mr. MORSE (Administrator, United Nations Development Programme) thanked the many delegations which had expressed support for the work and objectives of UNDP. He was grateful for the substantial number of pledges of co-operation in the form of voluntary contributions to the Programme. The current session might well be witnessing the start of the building of a broader base of voluntary support which had been of such deep concern to UNDP's major donors.

69. A number of delegations had expressed their support for general-purpose-grant technical co-operation as an indispensable component of the development process. While it was gratifying that the importance of human resources in development was at length gaining the recognition it deserved from the international community,

(Mr. Morse, UNDP)

the broader catalytic impact of technical change needed to be stressed. The introduction of advanced industrial processes, new technologies in agriculture and similar developments were absolutely vital to the development process and technical co-operation embraced all those considerations.

70. He was gratified by the general support expressed for the allocation of IPFs in the third UNDP programming cycle, which was designed to address the needs of low-income countries. It had undeniably been difficult to reach that decision and to achieve consensus, and a great many concessions had had to be made, particularly by the more advanced recipient countries. As a number of representatives had pointed out, it was a tribute to the consensus tradition of the Governing Council that expenditure had been reoriented without sacrificing the principle of universality. However, the validity of that difficult decision had to be proven by the voluntary contributions needed to implement it. It would be tragic if resource constraints made it impossible to produce the substantial benefits envisaged for developing countries.

71. As had been pointed out during the debate, UNDP was the most important instrument of multinational technical co-operation, in terms not only of its resources but also of its co-ordinating functions. He assured the Committee that UNDP would continue to work closely with the Director-General and other agencies of the system to make sure that those elements of restructuring - such as the use of the country programming process as a frame of reference for other system inputs and the role of the new resident co-ordinators - were being carried forward in a spirit of collaboration towards the goal of greater coherence. He agreed with the idea that those elements did not mean that the intention was to apply the IPF framework to the whole system. As various delegations had pointed out, the diversity of operational activities was much to be cherished, and it was to be hoped that that diversity would be made increasingly effective as greater harmony and collaboration were achieved.

72. The representative of Afghanistan, like other representatives, had expressed his concern about some aspects of development activities in his country. He pointed out that any changes in the implementation of UNDP-supported projects in Afghanistan were due solely to considerations of project viability and the security of United Nations personnel. The Government of Afghanistan itself had agreed that work on projects outside Kabul should be suspended for the moment.

73. Several representatives had urged further strengthening in the use of national staff in UNDP field offices. He assured them that UNDP attached great importance to the employment of national staff. As a major contribution to the over-all goal of increased self-reliance for developing countries and as a means of generating greater efficiency in field operations. He reported that the number of national officers functioning in the field had increased from 22 in 1975 to 76 by the end of 1979 and that there were expected to be over 100 by the end of 1980. Similar numerical progress was also apparent in the use of national experts on projects.

(Mr. Morse, UNDP)

74. Several delegations had pointed out that, as matters stood, UNDP accounted for only one third of the operational activities of the United Nations system. He pointed out in that connexion that if the more suitable indicator of "grant" technical co-operation was used, it would be found that UNDP's share had been 48 per cent at the end of 1978 and would probably exceed 50 per cent by the end of 1980.

75. He assured the representative of the Soviet Union that the Secretariat had always pursued, and would continue to pursue, the most positive approach possible in the utilization of non-convertible currencies. That matter had not yet been solved, primarily because the 1970 Consensus provided that it was for individual developing countries, and not the UNDP Administration, to determine the source of inputs for projects. In practice, some developing countries did not ask UNDP to provide the services and training facilities which could be readily obtained under bilateral agreements. UNDP, because of its unique programming and implementation process, fully understood and appreciated that right. In that connexion he had made innumerable efforts to increase the use of roubles. The matter had been discussed with the authorities of the Soviet Union on various occasions, the attention of executing agencies had been drawn to the opportunities and a focal point in UNDP had been established for action in that respect. He would be pleased to consult again with the authorities of the Soviet Union in order to determine how the accumulation of roubles could be reduced within the legislative framework of UNDP.

76. In order to compare the voluntary contributions of a country with the "returned value" to the country from its provision to UNDP of expert services, equipment, subcontracts, etc., he requested delegations to use official UNDP statistics in their calculation for the sake of accuracy.

77. As for the overhead costs of the Programme, he agreed with the delegations which had underlined the importance of using all possible resources directly to meet the needs of the developing countries. It should, however, be added that, at the end of 1979, the Professional and higher categories of UNDP personnel had been at exactly the same level as at the end of 1977, whereas field expenditures in the same interval had increased by almost one third. In addition, the field office workload in connexion with non-UNDP-funded activities had also continued to grow substantially. If that additional workload was taken into account, the overhead percentage would be considerably lower. At least 40 per cent of field office time was spent on non-UNDP-funded activities.

78. While there was reason to be proud of UNDP's increasing services to development and the United Nations system, it should be recognized that, at one point or another, all the services provided, including those funded by UNDP, could begin to suffer. That was the key reason why a staffing review at the field level, designed to complement the recent review made at Headquarters, was being undertaken. During the past four and a half years, the rate of increase in UNDP's overhead costs had been lower than the increase in the rate of inflation, which meant a reduction in real terms. The UNDP Administration would endeavour to reach the targets set by the Governing Council regarding overhead costs and reimbursements to

agencies, as it believed that every possible saving would be of direct benefit to the developing countries.

79. Mr. ASIFI (Afghanistan) disagreed with the comment of the Administrator of UNDP concerning the lack of security for the implementation of projects in his country. On the contrary, in Kabul and other towns and in the provinces, the conditions necessary for the normal activities of the experts of international agencies in carrying out projects and programmes existed. All government offices, private enterprises, schools, embassies and UNDP, UNICEF and World Bank premises were operating as usual. The so-called problem of security could not be an excuse for suspending assistance for development in Afghanistan. He urged UNDP and other organizations of the United Nations system to change their attitude and take the relevant United Nations resolutions into account.

80. Mr. GRANT (Executive Director, United Nations Children's Fund) said that he had been pleased to note that, in their statements during the debate, delegations had shown that they appreciated the importance of ensuring the well-being of children as an indispensable part of any long-term approach to the development process. Delegations had also recognized the usefulness of UNICEF's action in three different types of circumstances: emergencies, such as those created by natural disasters; more long-term disasters, such as poverty; and its responsibilities deriving from the International Year of the Child. With regard to the last-mentioned, he assured the Committee that UNICEF's primary focus remained on children in developing countries, on its basic services strategy and on practical action at the grass-roots level.

81. He was also grateful for the general appreciation of UNICEF's need for greater resources and hoped that it would be given concrete expression at the forthcoming pledging conference.

82. Note had been taken of the suggestions made concerning increased co-ordination and that was in itself an objective of UNICEF's cross-sectoral approach in specific activities such as health, education, and water supply. Moreover, UNICEF's field office staff had been instructed to work in close co-operation with the new Resident Co-ordinators in each country in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the General Assembly.

83. UNICEF was grateful for the expressions of approval of its work in Kampuchea and on the border with Thailand. Note had been taken of the concern expressed as to how long that extraordinary involvement could be continued, and he hoped that the situation would soon allow UNICEF to revert to its more normal role in that region. He would be keeping the situation under constant review and would discuss it, as appropriate, with officers of the Executive Board.

84. Mr. SALAS (Executive Director, United Nations Fund for Population Activities) said that, although the world fertility rate had decreased, there would nevertheless be between 1.6 billion and 2 billion more people on the earth at the end of the century. It was therefore important to note that the developing countries were formulating increasingly more effective population programmes and showing greater awareness of the problems involved.

(Mr. Salas, UNFPA)

85. Japan, together with other countries, would be sponsoring a draft resolution to establish a United Nations annual award, financed from its contribution to UNFPA, to persons or institutions which had made a substantial contribution to the awareness of population questions or their solution. He hoped that the draft resolution would be supported by the delegations. The Fund would continue its efforts to meet the needs of the developing countries.

86. Mr. OSMAN (Somalia) said that his delegation was grateful for the work done in Somalia by UNDP and UNICEF.

The meeting rose at 5.55 p.m.