



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 4th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. VERCELES (Philippines)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.45 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 71: TRAINING AND RESEARCH:

(b) UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY: REPORT OF THE COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY (A/36/31)

1. Mr. SOEDJATMOKO (Rector of the United Nations University) said that the University now had a realistic medium-term perspective that would allow it to address more effectively a wider range of pressing and emerging global problems. The reorientation being planned would stimulate increased collaboration with and a greater contribution to the United Nations system, in response to General Assembly resolution 35/54.
2. The past year had been marked by both continuity and change. The University had reviewed and reassessed its aims and activities in preparing to move into its next stage, while continuing its efforts in research, advanced training and the dissemination of knowledge. Two new associated institutions had joined the University networks, bringing the total to 28 associated institutions and 112 research and training units working in more than 60 countries. Eighty-five UNU Fellows were in training and another 75 were waiting to begin training, and some 72 workshops, seminars, symposia and meetings had been organized.
3. In 1980, paid contributions to the Endowment Fund and the Operating Fund had increased by over \$4.3 million. Pledges to those Funds now totalled \$144 million, of which close to \$112 million had been received. Still, only 34 States Members of the United Nations had contributed to the University so far.
4. During the year under review, the University had published 93 titles, with a significant increase in technical reports. The launching of a new journal, Mountain Research and Development, in co-operation with the International Mountain Society and UNESCO, illustrated the University's growing collaboration with other United Nations agencies and was an outgrowth of its work on highland-lowland interactive systems in co-operation with UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere programme. The latter programme had also supported the University in the development of a regional institution for mountain studies in Nepal. The University's work on water-land interactive systems was complementary to some UNESCO activities, and the two bodies had been co-operating in the study of the application of knowledge to arid land problems. A joint programme on management and policy applications in marine environments was to be launched with the Intergovernmental Ocean Commission.
5. Within the context of human and social development activities, there had been two joint meetings with UNESCO in the past year: one on the role of new theoretical concepts of the development process, held at Ulan Bator in August 1980, and the other on the application of indicators of socio-economic change to social planning, held at Seoul in September 1981. In December 1981, the University would host a colloquium on the dissemination and teaching of refugee law organized jointly with UNESCO and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

(Mr. Soedjatmoko)

6. The University's work on world hunger was integrated within the United Nations system by participation in the ACC's Sub-Committee on Nutrition and its Advisory Group on Nutrition. The University had been collaborating closely with FAO and WHO in preparations for the forthcoming Expert Consultation in Rome for review and revision of protein-energy requirement estimates and had also co-operated with FAO in organizing technical consultations on the transfer of technology to build agro-industry and in holding a workshop on the processing of grain legumes.

7. The training of UNU Fellows had begun to benefit the United Nations system. Several had been selected by FAO as consultants and advisers, and some had moved into policy-making roles in third-world institutions.

8. A University project on African regional perspectives on the new international economic order was being developed in close co-operation with the UNITAR project on the future of Africa. The University had been active in the preparatory stages of the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and at the Conference itself. ASSET had been designated as the Conference's official newsletter, and a video tape made with University support had been shown. The tape depicted an integrated rural energy system in China - the beginning of a village-to-village learning project in which the University and other institutions and agencies could co-operate closely.

9. Although the increasing interaction with the rest of the United Nations system had been heartening, UNU recognized that a more integrative and continuing effort was called for. That requirement had been an important consideration during the University's review and re-evaluation over the past year. Through restructuring, even more co-operative and mutually supportive interaction with the rest of the system could be developed.

10. The University was adopting a six-year perspective rather than annual planning in order to reinforce its capacity to increase understanding of the forces which were changing the modern world so rapidly and to illuminate the options for global decision making. The longer view would enable it to build networks which could develop more integrative methodologies and ideas for coping with pressing global problems, strengthen its ability to help to increase institutional capabilities in the third world, allow it to improve global awareness of current and emerging crises and contribute significantly to the global research agenda for the coming decades.

11. The urgent efforts to redirect and reorganize the University had arisen from the recognition that the interconnected crises of the modern world had become more acute since the founding of the University. In an increasingly crowded, competitive and insecure world, mankind urgently needed integrative and persuasive ideas and solutions for dealing with the problems now being faced. An essential task for the University was therefore to join other universities and centres of learning in an effort to enhance collective capacities to prepare societies and the global community for rapid and profound social and structural change and to manage them at lower social, human and economic cost. A major premise of the medium-term

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(Mr. Soedjatmoko)

perspective was to combine the imperative of change in UNU with continuity and institutional stability with a view to increasing the University's global relevance and effectiveness. Many scholars, scientists and policy-makers had called attention to the need to make the University a more relevant, responsive and effective global institution vis-à-vis the academic and scientific community, the United Nations system and mankind in general. In order to respond more effectively and flexibly to the many urgent global issues, the Council of the University had endorsed five themes all of which built, to a greater or lesser extent, on the work of the University's three initial programmes and were closely interrelated.

12. The first theme was peace, security, conflict resolution and global transformation. Activities under that theme would seek to provide a deeper understanding of the structural and institutional conditions which could make social change more responsive to certain basic values such as peace, equity, participation and human rights. A primary concern would be the diffusion of shifts in the power configuration on the national and international scene. Specific issues would include the role of the State in development and the process of global transformation; the problem of violence and human conflict, particularly its contemporary manifestation in the pathology of the arms race; potential conflicts over resources and their impact on other patterns of conflict; and management problems in social change at the local, national and international levels. In planning activities under that theme, the University had been assisted by UNESCO's Division of Human Rights and Peace. There were also potential linkages with the University for Peace and with the work of the United Nations Committee on Disarmament and the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament.

13. The second theme was the global economy. There was general dissatisfaction and anxiety about the way the international economic system functioned, and greater co-operation and dialogue on how to make it reflect modern realities were needed. In practice, however, communications had virtually broken down between different schools of economic thought. Most studies of international economic policy were too small in scale, too partial to national points of view, too skewed toward the North and too much the concern of economists alone. A variety of disciplines was needed to comprehend the complexities of the current global economy. Focusing on the global scale, stressing the interdisciplinary approach and aiming to establish communication between different schools of thought, the University was the logical sponsor of the sort of research into the problems of the global economy that was needed.

14. The third theme was hunger, poverty, resources and the environment. Activities would build on work in the area of world hunger and natural resources and link those concerns to the problem of poverty. It would thus be possible to examine in greater detail the social, economic and political factors that contributed to malnutrition, environmental degradation and over-all development. Greater emphasis would be placed on the negative synergistic effect of the food and energy crises, inequitable energy distribution, the development of energy planning systems relevant to the social and cultural conditions and processes of the third

(Mr. Soedjatmoko)

world and the development of training methodologies in that area. The elimination of poverty and hunger through employment generation and the building of self-reliant capability, which would figure largely in the work under that theme, were directly in line with the operational plan for the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action.

15. The fourth theme was human and social development and coexistence of peoples, cultures and social systems. The University's work on social indicators and processes of social, cultural and economic change would attempt a much more detailed assessment of development theories and strategies within specific regional settings. Much of the University's work to date had emphasized cultural factors, because development choices must arise from within individual cultures and societies and draw more heavily on endogenous intellectual activity. One of the most important challenges in the year ahead would arise from the need to enhance the global society's capacity for tolerance and co-operation across racial, ethnic, religious and linguistic barriers.

16. The University would begin to study a major component of the global transformation: demographic change on an unprecedented scale. At the macro level, global integrated research on the over-all impact of large-scale migration was needed. Those vast movements of people were bound to result in major changes in the ethnic and cultural composition of many countries and in increased social tensions which might erupt along the lines of race, religion, language and ethnicity. At the micro level, the combined effect of large-scale demographic change and the process of accelerated industrialization was causing a change in patterns of work that had an impact on the family structure and on the interaction between the sexes and between age groups which needed further study.

17. The fifth theme was science, technology and their social and ethical implications. Technological choice had enormous consequences for a nation's further development, because technology could not produce the desired results unless it was generated from within the user society. The broader social and ethical dimensions of technological choice needed to be fully explored. The third world must build up its own basic and applied scientific capabilities in order to meet the threat of increased dependency posed by advances in such fields as biotechnology and micro-electronics. The University's work in that connexion could explore such areas as the appropriate mix of knowledge-intensive technologies and traditional food and energy production and conservation systems or help to create the information environment for the diffusion of social innovation, an essential requirement for the revitalization of the countryside and the creation of new employment opportunities.

(Mr. Soedjatmoko)

18. The University's modes of operation would have to be reorganized in order to work within those five themes. Accordingly, scholarly and scientific activity would be organized into three divisions: Development Studies, Regional and Global Studies, and Global Learning. The first two divisions would stress research and training with a strong policy orientation. Development Studies would focus on problems of human survival, development and welfare as manifested in particular local settings, including their policy implications. The division would have a natural science bias in its research but must also take into account the social science aspects of the programmes assigned to it. Regional and Global Studies would consider problems most appropriately addressed at the regional and global level and seek to link them to the search for international understanding of such problems through symposia, conferences, commissions, study groups and the like. The work of the two divisions could be mutually complementary.

19. The principal role of the Global Learning division would be to use new information and communication technologies to reach out to centres of learning, the United Nations system, policy-makers in governmental and intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, groups of concerned citizens and opinion-shaping individuals. The contacts must be used to disseminate interdisciplinary knowledge and to help to strengthen the capacity of third-world institutions to develop human resources in areas of science likely to produce technological innovations of great importance for self-development. The division's work would also address the need for people to improve their capacity to learn in global terms and over a transgenerational time-span because of the rapidity of social and environmental change. Knowledge would have to be gained not only through formal education but also through what might be called social learning by institutions, communities and societies. The division's exploratory activities would ideally be pursued in concert with UNESCO and other organizations experienced in the field, so that the University could make the most effective contribution in ways differing from or complementary to similar activities.

20. The University's work would be organized around specific programme clusters. For 1982, they would be (i) resource policy and management; (ii) energy systems and policy; (iii) food, nutrition and poverty; (iv) science, technology and social innovation; (v) peace and global transformation; and (vi) the development problématique.

21. For the six-year medium-term perspective, the Council had stressed the high priority of enhancing the intellectual strength of the University centre in Tokyo, which could be done by widening the range of disciplines and expertise represented by the staff, enlarging the staff and redefining its roles, creating a planning and evaluation unit and inviting scholars and senior research associates to work with the staff, if possible by secondment to UNU from various Governments and universities. The establishment of an Institute for Advanced Studies based in Japan, which was under active study, would further enhance the intellectual capacity of the centre. Available funds would have to be considerably increased and the importance of that goal stressed in seeking further support for the Endowment Fund.

(Mr. Soedjatmoko)

22. While the centre's intellectual strength must be built up, the University must also be made into an international community of scholars and a growing constellation of institutions, organizations and individuals linked to the centre in Tokyo. It was hoped that the University could establish several incorporated institutions and expand its relationships with its associated institutions. Knowledge should flow both to and from Tokyo and among the other links in a multcentred University.

23. Although the task of restructuring the University would be difficult, the new instruments of scholarship which were being devised would enable it to interact much more effectively with the rest of the United Nations system and the international academic community and to respond more fully to the concerns of the Charter given to it by the General Assembly.

AGENDA ITEM 69: DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (continued)

(g) FOOD PROBLEMS

(i) REPORT OF THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL (A/36/19)

24. Mr. WILLIAMS (Executive Director, of the World Food Council), introducing the report of the World Food Council (A/36/19), said that the Council had devoted its seventh session to the policy actions necessary on the part of the international community and the United Nations system for effective implementation of the International Development Strategy. The Council had emphasized that food could well offer a point of entry for global negotiations and have a positive influence on progress towards implementing the Strategy, and it had concentrated on articulating specific priorities and national and international measures for the realization of the objectives of the Strategy with regard to food.

25. The Council had been particularly disturbed by the growing hunger and malnutrition in large parts of the world, the unsatisfactory over-all progress in food and agriculture, the low investment and aid levels, the unfavourable aid climate and the lack of progress towards global negotiations. The food situation was precarious for increasing millions in developing countries even when, as had happened during the past year, world cereal prices declined; there was still no agreed mechanism to moderate sharp international market fluctuations. While food production had risen marginally faster than population growth in the past decade, it was not keeping pace with increasing demand. The current world economic crisis posed particular problems for the developing countries, which were being forced to cut back on development and even on essential food consumption. The Council had seen hope, however, in the increasing awareness of the food problem and in the growing determination of Governments to address the problems, and it had been deeply encouraged by the deliberations of the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1981.

26. The World Food Council had re-emphasized the primary importance of national action in resolving food problems. It had noted with satisfaction that more than

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(Mr. Williams)

40 developing countries had so far committed themselves to a more integrated food policy approach through national food strategies or plans. Many other countries were initiating such plans. Regional co-ordination meetings in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, sponsored by the Council, the Governments of the Netherlands and Mexico and the Inter-American Development Bank, had been valuable in guiding that large-scale effort.

27. The Council had also re-emphasized the need for evolving national food policies and programmes that would link rapid growth of food production with improvement of consumption so as to benefit small farmers, the landless and the poor, including, if necessary, direct consumption intervention. Noting that, as energy and input costs rose, the balance of comparative advantage was shifting more in favour of labour-intensive food production in developing countries, he said that vigorous policies to realize the potential in that direction would provide a more solid and independent basis for those countries' development.

28. The serious efforts by developing countries to grapple with their food problems deserved the full support of the international community. The Council welcomed the planned increases in commitments to food and agriculture by multilateral agencies and had called for maximum efforts to ensure the adequate and timely replenishment of the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the International Development Association. It had noted the exemplary development assistance performance of certain countries - particularly the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Denmark - and the determination of others to increase their assistance in a phased manner. It had reaffirmed that all developed countries should renew their efforts to meet the 0.7 per cent of GNP target and make further efforts to help to meet current and future food needs and had proposed that all countries and international organizations should be more aware of food needs in their daily operations and take steps to further strengthen their support of food security objectives. In the context of implementation of the conclusions of the recent United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, it had called for action to help the food programmes of the least developed countries.

29. Since a number of developing countries clearly had the potential for a rapid expansion in grain production, while others had demonstrated mastery of appropriate technology or were in a position to participate in the necessary investment, the Council had concluded that co-operation among developing countries to increase food production should be actively encouraged. It had highlighted the need for a substantial increase in the export earnings of developing countries in order to augment their capacity to finance their over-all development and to import agricultural inputs and the food which they could not grow. Owing to the direct impact of international trade on the economic prospects of such countries, it was essential that strenuous efforts should be made to reduce trade barriers.

30. The Council had recognized that no single measure would ensure an acceptable degree of world food security and that a combination of mutually supporting arrangements were needed. It urged the international community to work in every appropriate forum towards early adoption of the necessary additional measures and



(Mr. Williams)

towards fulfilment of agreed food targets. In that connexion, it had commended the decision of the International Monetary Fund to broaden its compensatory financing facility to provide additional means for helping countries to meet unforeseen cereal imports. The facility had started functioning during the last week.

31. The 1980 Food Aid Convention should attain the minimum target level of 10 million tons. A major effort should also be made to attain the agreed pledging target of \$1 billion for the World Food Programme for the current biennium, and the International Emergency Food Reserve should be replenished to the level of 500,000 tons annually on an assured and continuing basis.

32. The Council had been concerned at the lack of progress towards a new Wheat Trade Convention with reserve stock provisions. Despite the Council's efforts in that regard, the International Wheat Council, at its meeting in Madrid in July, had made it clear that any possibility of negotiating a new wheat trade agreement along such lines was being postponed indefinitely, even though it was generally agreed that the international grain markets were likely to be more volatile in the 1980s than they had been in the past. Accordingly, the President of the World Food Council had directed that alternative options should be sought to achieve a reserve facility for physical assurance of grain availability, paralleling the IMF food financing facility, in order to ensure a minimum continuity of essential food supplies for developing countries during periods of market scarcity. While the established early warning and consultative procedures were helpful, they might favour countries which could move swiftly to corner available supplies unless there was a clear undertaking for at least a minimum essential and explicit "set aside" to meet the food needs of low-income countries. Minimum international provisions of 9-12 million tons could suffice to ensure that essential grain imports would be available for such countries in times of market stress. The cost of such reserve provisions would not be large and the benefits would be substantial, since developing countries would thus be able to focus more effectively on their mid-term to longer term development policies. The modalities were currently being explored.

33. The Council had also been concerned at the possibility that developed countries might apply export restrictions or import and consumption subsidies during periods of world production shortfalls, thereby further limiting the availability of supplies and undermining the capacity of developing countries to secure essential imports. General agreement to avoid such action was being sought.

34. Access to food was a universal right, and vigorous pursuit of that right must parallel the pursuit of universal peace and disarmament. Accordingly, the World Food Council was seeking the General Assembly's endorsement of the conclusions reached at its seventh ministerial session as an important reinforcement of the international community's efforts to combat under-development, hunger and malnutrition during the 1980s.

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(d) INDUSTRIALIZATION

(i) REPORT OF THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD (A/36/16)

35. Mr. KHANF (Executive Director, United Nations Industrial Development Organization) said that the target of a share at least 25 per cent of world manufacturing output for developing countries by the year 2000, established at the Second General Conference of UNIDO, was now a corner-stone of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade. However, statistics presented to the Industrial Development Board at its fifteenth session clearly illustrated the slow rate of industrial growth in the third world. While the share of the developing countries in global industrial output had been about 7 per cent in 1975, it had risen to only 10.9 per cent five years later. Moreover, progress had been uneven. Ten developing countries had accounted for 70 per cent of the growth in manufactures achieved since 1960 and large areas of the developing world, notably Africa, had not participated in that marginal growth. It was important that the international community should fully appreciate the urgency of the situation.

36. Pointing to the relative stagnation in UNIDO's technical assistance programme, as he had done at the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly, he noted that prolonged stagnation of the programme would undoubtedly impede the industrialization efforts of developing countries. While UNIDO fully understood the United Nations budgetary constraints, they were preventing UNIDO from assuming its full responsibilities. Moreover, the technical assistance programme represented only one of UNIDO's activities which were being restricted.

37. While the current world financial climate was not very encouraging, certain results of the work of the Industrial Development Board at its fifteenth session suggested some reasons for cautious optimism. First, in connexion with the gradual development of the System of Consultations, he said that the establishment by the Board of a definite programme of sectoral and global consultation meetings for the biennium 1982-1983, together with the indication of sectors of interest for the biennium 1984-1985 would contribute to the orderly development of that activity. The Board had requested him to examine the possibility of including, in the 1984-1985 programme, consultation meetings on building materials, energy-related industrial technology and equipment and non-ferrous metals - all sectors of fundamental importance to third-world countries. The strengthening of the System of Consultations gave reason for cautious optimism, since the major restructuring of the global industrial pattern implied by the Lima target required an international forum for discussion. The UNIDO System of Consultations, though still far from perfect, had proved itself to be such a forum.

38. A second cause for encouragement was the fact that the Board had considered, although only briefly, a proposal to establish an international bank for industrial development. Consideration of the proposal would be continued by the Permanent Committee at its sixteenth session. The Board had consulted experts from all geographical groupings and, as a result, he believed that the proposal conformed to current international financial procedures and would complement the activities of existing financial institutions.

(Mr. Khane)

39. He had cited those aspects of the Board's work to indicate that the concepts and machinery to promote industrial growth in the third world were being developed. Political will was now needed to allow those mechanisms to stimulate a more equitable distribution of the world's industrial resources.

40. The United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries had also been most encouraging as a number of developed countries had recognized the need for an urgent and large-scale assistance effort in favour of developing countries. Industry was crucial to the energy problem because industrial activity was directly or indirectly responsible for the use of about 85 per cent of the total energy consumed in the world. UNIDO was steadily developing a programme to assist third world countries in meeting their energy requirements and it looked forward to playing an active role in the implementation of the Plan of Action formulated at the Nairobi Conference. Currently, value added in manufacturing in the least developed countries was not much more than one tenth of the value added in other developing countries in per capita terms. In recent years UNIDO had substantially increased its level of technical assistance to the least developed countries. However, its efforts would require resources far in excess of those currently available.

41. The Board had deplored the continuing low level of contributions to the United Nations Industrial Development Fund - \$14.9 million in 1980 as compared with the desired level of \$50 million. While expressing sincere appreciation to those countries which had generously contributed to the Fund and to those which had increased their contributions, he expressed the hope that all Governments would take urgent measures to follow suit.

42. He informed the Committee that so far 116 countries had signed the new Constitution of UNIDO and 53 had ratified it. He urged other States to follow their example.

43. Preparations would shortly begin for the Fourth General Conference of UNIDO which he hoped would provide an opportunity to evolve new sets of policies and practical instruments to deal effectively with the immediate and long-term needs of developing countries and the growth of the world economy as a whole.

44. Finally, he pointed out that meaningful co-operation required the concerted efforts of both the developing and the developed world; for, without that, many developmental mechanisms would remain at the conceptual stage and progress towards the fulfilment of international objectives would continue to be unacceptably slow. The programmed round of global negotiations would provide an opportunity for such concerted efforts provided that it was backed by sufficient political will. It would be unfortunate if, as a result of short-term considerations, that opportunity to head boldly towards the establishment of a new international economic order were again missed.

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AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (A/36/3 and Add.2-18, 28-31, 32 (Part I) and (Part I)/Corr.1 and 2 and (Part III), 33, 34, 37 (Parts I-IV) and (Parts I and II)/Corr.1)

45. Mr. IMAM (Pakistan) said that he intended to focus attention on food problems, for several reasons. First and foremost, food and agriculture generated more than two thirds of the income in most developing countries and engaged three fourths of the population of those countries. Hunger and malnutrition could not be eradicated without the adequate availability of food, which implied rapid expansion of agricultural production in the developing countries. It had become increasingly evident that the development of food and agriculture was a vital component of the over-all development process in the developing world. Since the 1974 World Food Conference, the main elements of a strategy for food and agricultural development had been clearly identified and agreed upon. It had been understood that a long-term solution to the problems of hunger and malnutrition lay in rapid and sustained increase in the agricultural production of the developing countries. Consequently, the Conference had agreed upon a target of 4 per cent growth in the food and agricultural sector, and that target had recently been endorsed in the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade.

46. While the achievement of that objective was the primary responsibility of the developing countries themselves, it had long been recognized that their resources, level of technical attainment and capacities would not alone be sufficient for the realization of so ambitious a goal. They needed generous assistance from the international community to supplement their own resources. The need for concerted and effective international action in that regard had been underscored by the World Food Conference and subsequent annual meetings of the World Food Council and other relevant bodies. The most important element for international action had been the provision of adequate official development assistance and other agricultural inputs to the developing countries. For a number of years, the aid requirements for agriculture had been estimated at \$8.3 billion in 1975 prices, but the actual aid flows had consistently fallen short of that estimate. There had been similar shortfalls in the availability of vital agricultural inputs such as fertilizers, better seeds and pesticides. As a consequence, the production targets set and accepted internationally had remained beyond the reach of most developing countries; on the average, food and agricultural production had not even been able to keep pace with the increase in population. The over-all food gap in the third world had continued to widen. From being a net exporter of food in the early 1950s, the third world had experienced a food deficit of 20 million tons in 1960 and nearly 80 million tons in 1980. That deficit was projected to reach 145 million tons by 1990.

47. The second element of the international consensus in the area of food and agriculture, namely, the establishment of an effective system of world food security, was of crucial significance in the face of production shortfalls and food deficits. The principal features of world food security which had been broadly accepted included: a minimum target of 10 million tons in annual food aid; an emergency food reserve of 500,000 tons; and the establishment of a system of nationally held and internationally managed food reserves. He regretted to note the extremely limited progress made; despite the adoption of the Food Aid

(Mr. Iman)

Convention with a target of 7.6 million tons in 1980, the attainment of the minimum target of 10 million tons had evaded the international community. The world food outlook and reserves had improved during the past year. Yet, total food aid in 1980 had been only 9.5 million tons. Likewise, the target for emergency food reserves had eluded the international community in each year since its establishment. During that time, the emergency and humanitarian needs had escalated rapidly; the flood of refugees in Africa, in South-East Asia and in his own country had placed growing demands on that vital source of assistance. Pakistan alone had to feed over 2.5 million Afghan refugees. He expressed Pakistan's deep appreciation to FAO, WFP and other organizations of the United Nations system for their valuable assistance in coping with that gigantic programme.

48. A third critical element of world food security, the establishment of a system of international food reserves, had been hampered by the current stalemate on a new wheat trade agreement. Pakistan urged the prompt resumption of negotiations for reaching a new agreement, which should provide for reserves adequate to meet the objectives of both market stability and world food security. The new agreement should also include provisions for special multilateral or bilateral assistance to developing countries to enable them to participate fully in the agreement.

49. It was clear that, despite the considerable effort made in the area of food and agriculture by the international community and the determination of developing countries to accelerate agricultural development, progress in the implementation of internationally agreed measures had not been satisfactory. What the developing world sought was a strengthened resolve to meet the shortfalls that had plagued internationally agreed objectives. On the other hand, there could be no better way for the developing countries to show their appreciation for international solidarity than to strengthen their commitment to their own development. Developing countries recognized the indispensability of agriculture to their development; a large number of them had evolved strategies for the comprehensive development of the crucial food sector. Investment of adequate amounts of capital, technology and other inputs could enable developing countries to break out of the cycle of "shortages" and "deficits" and achieve self-sustaining growth. Realistic appraisals must be made to ensure that resources were allocated in an optimum manner and that output was maximized. The earnest endeavour should be to launch the developing countries on the path of self-reliance and self-sufficiency.

50. The Government of Pakistan had in the past few years accorded very high priority to promoting agricultural and rural development; it had earnestly striven to achieve the internationally agreed objectives. Almost a quarter of the total outlays under the current five-year development plan had been allocated to the food and agriculture sector. The central purpose of Pakistan's development programme was to attain national self-reliance in food; to that end, the Government had launched a comprehensive programme for integrated rural development. That programme had yielded rich dividends: the rate of growth of agriculture had been more than 4 per cent for the last four years, and the Government was confident that the creation of infrastructure and development of the rural sector would help the country to expand agricultural production on a sustained and stable basis.

(Mr. Imam, Pakistan)

Self-sufficiency in wheat, the staple food of the country, was imminent; impressive gains had likewise been made in the production of other crops. As a result of those gains, there had been steady improvement in the availability of essential food items and in levels of nutrition. The year 1980/81 had seen an improvement in nutrition of 2.7 per cent, from a calorie intake of 2,217 to one of 2,277. There had also been a steady, if small, improvement in the living standards of the rural sector.

51. Although those results had been achieved primarily through Pakistan's own efforts, it was grateful for the international assistance which had supplemented its programmes. The potential for development was immense, but the constraints of capital, trained manpower, technology and other inputs had to be overcome. The achievements of Pakistan and some other developing countries would remain fragile and vulnerable to adverse external conditions unless the international community strengthened its resolve to build a favourable international system which stimulated rather than stifled development.

52. He therefore called for a renewed commitment to the implementation of a set of effective measures for reviving and accelerating food production in the developing world. The most urgent of those measures were a substantial increase in official development assistance for food and agriculture with a view to reaching the estimated requirements of \$8.5 billion and the early replenishment of IFAD resources at the agreed level of \$1.2 billion; special attention to the food deficit and food priority countries where the development potential was greater in order to achieve optimum results; upgrading of the Food Aid Convention target to the agreed minimum of 10 million tons; adoption of legally binding arrangements for the International Emergency Food Reserve at the level of 500,000 tons; early resumption of negotiations for a new international wheat trade agreement with special provisions for the developing countries; and a commitment by the developing countries to adopt comprehensive and effective national programmes and strategies for food and agricultural development within the framework of their over-all development programmes and priorities.

The meeting rose at 12:25 p.m.