

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 9th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. VERCELES (Philippines)

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ORGANIZATION OF WORK

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The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

ELECTION OF THE RAPPORTEUR

1. The CHAIRMAN announced that the election of the Rapporteur would be postponed until a later meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued)
(A/36/3/Add. 2, Add. 3, Add. 6, Add. 28 and Add. 30, A/36/138, 148 187, 236, 239 305 and Add. 1 and 2, 342 421 and 513; E/1981/54).

2. Mr. JOSEPH (Australia) extended condolences to the delegation of Egypt for the tragic death of President Sadat. With regard to the debt of third world countries, despite the fears that had been widespread in 1974, the financing of those countries' deficits had been one of the successes of the past eight years. That had been achieved partly through the aid of Western countries and OPEC and partly through the intervention of the International Monetary Fund, but it was the commercial banks and international bond markets that had played major role by becoming the main conduit for channelling funds, especially to developing countries. The role also had its risks, however, for some larger borrowers seemed to be increasingly unlikely to be able to repay their loans.

3. If debts were to be negotiated indefinitely, confidence must persist and it should be recalled that 1981 would be the eighth successive year in which a handful of countries, would accumulate surpluses which the rest of the world would then have to finance by going into debt. The problem of financing deficits had been aggravated by the 1979-1980 jump in oil prices. The non oil-producing developing countries in particular had been affected first by the increase in their fuel bills and secondly the recession in the industrialized world which had caused their main export markets to shrink. Nor had the rapid rise in interest rates helped to improve the situation.

4. Thus, the deficits of the developing countries were becoming worse and the immediate problem remained to finance those deficits. A further difficulty lay in the fact that only a comparatively small number of banks were involved in the financing or recycling process. There was also a heavy concentration on the part of borrowers, for three quarters of all commercial loans and to non oil-producing least developed countries had been granted to only 12 countries. There were already signs of significant cutbacks in banks' commitments to developing countries and the main criterion for granting loans seemed to be whether countries could repay them rather than how much they needed them. It was not surprising therefore that in recent months a queue of borrowing Governments had begun to form outside the International Monetary Fund.

5. One way to try to reduce some countries' almost perennial deficit was to resort to deflation, in other words, to reduce the demands for goods and services

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(Mr. Joseph, Australia)

in order to reduce imports. But that carried with it the risk that countries' deficits some would be reduced at the cost of increasing the deficits of others. Another approach, which his delegation considered to be correct, was that, while continued access to financial flows was vital economic adjustment must remain at the heart of the problem of payments imbalances. The fact that there had been excessive recourse to borrowing in recent years might have had an adverse affect by delaying the moment at which economies were forced to adjust more permanently to a bleaker world. In the view of his delegation, countries must shift away from seeking financial accommodation for their difficulties and towards the implementation of policies that addressed the basic causes of external deficits. All countries seemed now to accept the fact that adjustment must be a much more central component of the global response to the latest escalation in oil prices.

6. The International Monetary Fund had an important role to play in the process, for it could assist countries in implementing their adjustment programmes. Moreover, in recognition of the new situation faced by many of its members, the IMF had extended its credit facilities and, in particular, lengthened periods of repayment. Australia for its part could support further increases in the capacity of the Fund to assist in the financing and adjustment of external deficits.

7. Respect for the requirements of conditionality imposed by the IMF was also important for the commitments of all other creditors could depend on the Fund's commitments. It might not be wholly wrong to see the Fund as a lender of last resort, but in any event it was likely that the IMF would be kept busy through the rest of the 1980s. His delegation supported such an expanded role for the Fund, whose view of how the world economy worked was probably clearer and better articulated than that of any other international organization. In that connexion, his delegation noted with pleasure the creation of the interest-subsidy account for the supplementary financing facility to which Australia had now become a contributor, the creation of the food facility and the fact that the IMF had begun to borrow from its members.

8. With regard to population, his delegation supported the proposal to convene a second world population conference. The first such Conference held at Bucharest had been successful in arousing substantial interest in the effort and resources devoted to population issues. The holding of a second conference in 1984 would be an appropriate time for reviewing and evaluation the World Population Plan of Action.

9. There would be merit in holding a second conference that was smaller and shorter than the first. It would also be preferable for delegations to consist of policy-makers and experts who had considerable first-hand experience and knowledge of effective and acceptable approaches to family planning and other population activities. The work of UNFPA must be sustained by the international community and that required the support of developed countries and the co-operation of many developing countries. In that connexion, he was pleased to announce that Australia had decided to increase by 70 per cent its contribution to UNFPA for

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(Mr. Joseph, Australia)

the current financial year.

10. The CHAIRMAN, with the agreement of the Committee, invited Mr. Jose D. Aspiras, President of the World Tourism Conference and Minister of Tourism of the Philippines, to make a statement.

11. Mr. ASPIRAS (President of the World Tourism Conference) said that the result of the Conference, held by the World Tourism organization at Manila for two weeks commencing 27 September 1980, had been the Manila Declaration on World Tourism (A/36/236) which was a declaration of hopes and aspirations of mankind for a better world through a balanced and equitable development of world tourism.

12. One of the main concepts contained in the Declaration was that world tourism could only develop in a climate of peace and security through the joint effort of all States in reducing international tension and in developing international co-operation in a spirit of friendship, respect for human rights and understanding. Other concepts were that world tourism could be a vital force for peace, could contribute to the establishment of a new international economic order and could only flourish if it was based on equity, sovereign equality, non-interference in internal affairs and co-operation among all States. Thus, the objectives of tourism were now cast in the mould of the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations and formed part of endeavours directed towards the establishment of the new international economic order.

13. Until the Manila Conference, tourism had been regarded as basically an economic activity. The Conference, however, had placed it in a more accurate and proper perspective, as Mrs. Imelda Roualdea-Marcos, wife of the President of the Philippines, had pointed out when she had said that true tourism did not encompass only purely physical sensations such as seeing new vistas but was also an adventure of discovery of the different facets of humanity through which one came to realize the infinite adaptability of man under various circumstances of geography, history and ecology. Reflecting that approach, the Manila Declaration stated that the economic returns of tourism could not constitute the only criterion for the decision by States to encourage that activity for, in addition to its well-known economic aspects, tourism had acquired a cultural and moral dimension which must be fostered and protected. In a sense, the Manila Declaration had ushered in a new tourism order.

14. The Manila Declaration had erased the stamp of elitism by stating that the right to use of leisure, and in particular the right to access to holidays and to freedom of travel and tourism, a natural consequence of the right to work, was recognized as an aspect of the fulfilment of the human being by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Manila Conference had also underlined tourism's beneficial effects on the physical and mental health of people. The new tourism order envisaged that the well-being of man must be the first concern and that the earth must be a fitting place for man. The Manila Declaration stressed that world tourism had the immense potential to contribute to the attainment of universality, which was one of the primary objectives of the United Nations.

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(Mr. Aspiras, President
of the World Tourism
Conference).

President Marcos had underscored that when he had said: "It is impressive to reflect that in the records of travel through the ages, the testimony of travellers hardly ever records for us the conflicts of nations and cultures".

15. Finally, the Manila Declaration had clarified the role of States, indicating that they should consider giving priority to investments aimed at creating collective recreational facilities, improving tourist areas and sites, and renovating historical and cultural monuments. States must consider human, social and cultural concerns in addition to economic profitability. In substance, the Manila Declaration defended the quality of life and happiness of man, which was significant in a world tending towards violence, where a generalized deterioration of all values seems to be taking place. The Manila Declaration was also the manifestation of the important role that the World Tourism Organization had been called upon to play; as the central and decisive body in the field of tourism, that organization should continue to take all necessary measures, through its own internal machinery and, where appropriate, in co-operation with other international, intergovernmental and non-governmental bodies, so as to permit the global implementation of the principles, concepts and guidelines of the Declaration.

16. Mr. AKAKPO (Togo) said that Togo was especially interested in the solution of food problems and welcomed the conclusions and recommendations of the Seventh Ministerial Meeting of the World Food Council and resolutions 1981/70 and 1981/71 of the Economic and Social Council entitled "World Food Day" and "Food and agriculture." The world food situation was critical and threatened to deteriorate; the forecast for the next few years was alarming, especially as far as the African countries were concerned.

17. Solutions to the food problem must be sought nationally but, as world relations were characterized by interdependence, the measures adopted at the national level should receive the support of the international community. Many countries were endeavouring to achieve self-sufficiency in food. In March 1977, the Government of Togo, on the initiative of the President of the Republic, had initiated the "Green Revolution", a food strategy aimed at eradicating hunger and malnutrition and assuring national self-sufficiency in food within five years. In the context of that strategy, work had been undertaken on the agricultural, information and training infrastructure and efforts had been made to enlist the participation of all citizens.

18. The people had responded to the appeals of the Government and, in spite of difficult climatic conditions, during the first few years of the the Green Revolution the output of food-stuffs had been greater than at any time since Togo gained its independence. However, high output was not sufficient to solve food problems. It was now necessary to overcome some obstacles in the storage and conservation of surplus production in order to be able to cope in times of shortage. It should be possible at any time of the year to provide the population with the food-stuffs it required.

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(Mr. Akakpo, Togo)

19. In order to overcome those obstacles, in August 1981 the Head of State had convened a national seminar on food marketing. The seminar had identified the causes of several problems: shortage of storage capacity, inadequacy of storage and conservation techniques, speculation by some traders and lack of financial resources. As a result, it had been decided to strengthen the National Food Office and to set up a national solidarity fund with voluntary contributions from citizens and public and private institutions. The fund would mobilize resources to strengthen storage capacity and improve conservation techniques.

20. That large-scale undertaking merited the support of the international community, especially with respect to the improvement or transfer of storage and conservation technology and the mobilization of financial resources. Togo hoped to obtain the assistance of other countries and of international organizations, such as the International Fund for Agricultural Development and FAO.

21. Another matter of interest to his delegation was Council resolution 1981/47, on the review of the economic situation in Togo with a view to the inclusion of that country in the list of the least developed countries. His delegation was sincerely grateful to the countries which had sponsored that resolution and to all members of the Council which had made possible its adoption, and it hoped to receive their support in the Committee also.

22. Mr. MALAFATOUPOULOS (World Health Organization) said that, in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 34/58, the Director-General of WHO had submitted a report at the second regular session, 1981, of the Economic and Social Council. In that report he had made available to the Council the text of the Global Strategy for Health for All by the year 2000, which had been adopted by the World Health Assembly in its resolution WHA34.36.

23. Clearly, the Strategy did not contain a blueprint for solving all health problems, but it did outline new and better approaches for preventing and alleviating disease and for ensuring that essential health care would be accessible to all individuals and families. It also recognized that the goals which it set forth could not be achieved by the health sector alone.

24. That idea had been reflected by the Council in its resolution 1981/61 (A/36/3/Add. 28), which recommended to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution on the Strategy affirming that the solution of health care problems required the support and involvement of all development sectors. WHO sincerely hoped that the draft resolution recommended by the Council would meet with the unanimous approval of the Committee.

AGENDA ITEM 71. TRAINING AND RESEARCH: (CONTINUED) (A/36/3/ADD. 5 AND ADD. 33, A/36/14, 31 AND 69)

(a) UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE FOR TRAINING AND RESEARCH:
REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (CONTINUED)

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(Mr. Malafatopoulos, World
Health Organization)

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

25. Mr. BOYD (United Kingdom) observed that the new course charted by the Rector of the University constituted a highly ambitious programme. Although it was undoubtedly right for the new perspective to be global and humanitarian, there seemed to have been a shift to the areas of social, economic and political science and away from the emphasis hitherto placed by the University on the resolution of practical problems. Since specialist advisers in the United Kingdom were currently making a careful study of the Rector's proposal, for the time being would offer only a few preliminary comments.

26. The Rector proposed to arrange the activities of the University in three divisions on the basis of three modes. The first of those modes was developmental research, described in paragraph 14 (a) of the report of the Rector to the Council of the University (A/36/31, annex II). It was not clear, however, what such research would mean in practice, and whether for example the University would synchronize its research programmes and priorities relating to hunger with the work of other United Nations agencies such as WHO, FAO and UNESCO. Given that the University's resources and capabilities were limited and could not be extended to cover all areas, it would be a pity if its work to duplicate that of other academic institutions or United Nations bodies.

27. It was proposed, in paragraph 14 (b) dealing with global studies, that University-associated scholars should address contemporary and future problems and crises through research and discussion based upon empirical research. Again it was not clear the proposal would amount to in practical terms and whether it referred to the promotion of symposia and conferences. If so, it might result in the duplication of the already extensive activities of scientific institutions such as the International Council of Scientific Unions. It was to be hoped that the University would take account of those activities and contribute towards strengthening them and that the global learning mode described in paragraph 14 (c) would not overlap with the activities of UNESCO.

28. In order to evaluate the development of the existing programmes of the University, it was necessary to determine to what extent the three original programmes would continue to be applied and what proportion of resources would be allocated for them; what work the University was contemplating on technological innovations to meet the needs of developing countries, what resources would be allocated for that purpose and what proportion of work would focus on practical solutions to the problems rather than on purely theoretical studies whether there was any provision for continuing to create institutions in the developing countries as scheduled under the original programme.

29. It was also necessary to know how the more immediate problems relating to the improvement of living conditions for the poorer sectors of the community in

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(Mr. Boyd, United Kingdom)

the poorer countries would be identified and solved and whether the University would contribute to the training of economists interested in food and nutrition in accordance with the practice formerly followed by UNICEF which involved endowing fellowships for a few years to enable universities to offer subjects not previously included in the curriculum. Some clarification was also needed with regard to the role of the proposed institute of advanced learning.

30. Finally, would an assessment of the earlier programmes be submitted to the Council of the University? Such a study would permit an evaluation of the work already undertaken, which was an important prerequisite to taking decisions on new directions. It might also specify the extent of the contribution made by the University to improving research capacity and academic standards, particularly in the developing countries, whether the proposed extension of the University was justified and whether the global studies now envisaged would make a useful contribution to decision making in United Nations bodies and Governments.

31. Mr. GBEHO (Ghana) said in the face of growing international problems and tensions, traditional remedies, particularly international economic management, were neither acceptable nor meaningful. New departures, initiatives and approaches must be found and the fear of change must be conquered. In that context, the United National University and UNITAR had a vital role to play in providing the intellectual framework for a deeper understanding of current problems and in formulating appropriate strategies for their resolution.

32. There were grounds for satisfaction in the steady growth of the University, the expansion of its activities and the positive results achieved since its foundation and in the decision to broaden the programmes to cover five new themes. However interesting those broad themes might be, such new initiative should not detract from the pursuit of programmes already under way. The fact that the University proposed to study science and technology with particular reference to their social and ethnic implications was welcome. Such a study must be encouraged since it would contribute to the efforts of the developing countries to cross new frontiers of technology without a disruption of their traditional values and cultural heritage.

33. Ghana supported in principle the decision to diversify the modes of operation of the University and noted with satisfaction the decision to add a new dimension to global learning, in the expectation that it would allow for an extensive dissemination of the knowledge acquired and the establishment of a close relationship between the University and other scientific and academic institutions. It was to be hoped that the University would be able to establish links with African research institutes and institutions of higher learning in order to deal with such problems as food and nutrition which gave rise to grave difficulties on the African continent.

34. A review of the finances of the University showed that only thirty-four countries had contributed towards financing its activities. The brunt of the financial burden was borne by Japan, while more the 60 per cent of the remainder

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(Mr. Gbeho, Ghana)

came from developing countries. In spite of its economic difficulties, Ghana had contributed to the resources of University within the means at its disposal and hoped that the international community would make every effort to provide the University with the financial resources it required to carry out its activities. Thanks were owing to the Government of Japan for having provided the University with permanent site and for its financial support.

35. To turn to UNITAR, which had provided and continued to provide invaluable facilities to countries in all regions and in particular to developing countries, it was to be hoped that the international community would enable it to improve its record of achievement even further. Of particular value were the UNITAR publications issued as part of the Project on the Future and those to be issued as a result of other research activities such as those pertaining to regionalism and the new international economic order. Close co-operation was needed between UNITAR and the University in order to avoid any duplication of effort and bearing in mind the scarcity of resources. The existence of UNITAR was fully justified and, in order for it to continue to fulfil a positive role, it should be given adequate financial support through voluntary contributions or subsidies from the United Nations budget.

36. Mrs. LARSSON (Sweden) said that UNITAR, with a relatively small budget, had not only provided both the United Nations and the international community with excellent training and research facilities but had also been prompt in meeting the requirements of Member States in addition to dealing with questions of great importance such as energy and natural resources. While it was obvious that Member States had participated in the training programmes the Institute, far fewer countries unfortunately had made contributions. All those countries which had not yet made any contributions to UNITAR should therefore do so, since even a small contribution to its general resources was of considerable importance for an organization run on such a small budget.

37. Sweden had supported and would continue to support the Institute financially and welcomed the steps taken to increase its effectiveness and reduce the current year's deficit. UNITAR should receive a new grant-in-aid to cover the deficit for 1981. The Committee could take a decision to that effect without lengthy discussion, since the principle of a grant-in-aid for the period 1980-1981 had been adopted the previous year; it would then be for the Fifth Committee to decide on the amount of the grant.

38. It was to be hoped that the budget of the Institute would be balanced in the coming year, but it had to be recognized that it would not be possible to go on cutting costs forever without affecting activities. If increased voluntary contributions were not forthcoming in future years, it might be necessary to reconsider the question of a core budget.

39. In the past year a medium-term perspective had been developed for the United Nations University, five important themes had been chosen as a basis for its future work and its mode of operation had been redefined. Of the five themes,

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(Mrs. Larsson, Sweden)

his delegation considered those concerned with the global economy and with hunger, poverty, resources, and the environment particularly important; the latter could stress how social, economic and political factors could lead to malnutrition and environmental degradation. It was particularly gratifying that the University was intensifying its co-operation with other United Nations agencies. Her Government had decided to make a contribution of 5.2 million Swedish kronor to be disbursed over a three-year period; the third instalment was subject to parliamentary approval.

40. Mr. PURUSHOTTOM (India) said that which, his country since independence, had attached high priority to the development of its own human resources whole-heartedly supported the training and research activities of UNITAR, the United Nations University and other associated programmes and trusted that those activities would be increasingly supported by the international community in general. The participation of experts from India on the Board of Trustees of UNITAR, the co-operation of Indian non-governmental organizations in the Institute's programmes, and the organization of meetings, including an international conference in India in March 1980 on alternative development strategies and the future of Asia, were evidence of India's special interest in its work.

41. The Institute had decided to explore strategies for the future of Asia with a view to helping the Asian States to pursue their development without depending on stereotyped models or a particular economic system. Many of the subjects for research included concepts relevant to the aims of the new international economic order. It was essential for UNITAR to strike a judicious balance between training and research and to avoid too much theory, in the matter of economic development, which might jeopardize practical goals. The Institute also had a programme on regional co-operation and the new international economic order and it should be borne in mind that an exclusively regional approach to the establishment of the new international economic order might be of limited applicability and that a broader vision of regional and inter-regional co-operation might be beneficial.

42. The Institute's dependence on voluntary funding was not conducive to its effective long-term operations or to the promotion of its independence. In accordance with the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit and with the practice followed in other organizations, an appropriate solution might be to provide UNITAR with a core budget financed from the United Nations regular budget and supplemented by voluntary contributions. The Institute had already had to cut down many of its activities for want of resources and it was to be hoped that the problem of inadequate finance would not handicap it in the future and that the General Assembly would find the funds required to meet the Institute's relatively small deficit for 1981. India had progressively increased its annual contributions which had amounted to \$20,000 as from 1980.

43. The three main programmes of the United Nations University - the World Hunger Programme, the Human and Social Development Programme, and the Programme on the Use and Management of Natural Resources - had promoted understanding of the causes

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(Mrs. Larsson, Sweden)

of and solutions to those world-wide problems. The World Hunger Programme in particular had touched on area which had so far received only fragmentary attention and was reinforcing the efforts of other organizations concerned with increased food production and better nutrition. The Rector of the University had wisely decided to replace the three programme advisory committees by a single advisory committee.

44. India had taken a active interest in the implementation of several of the University's programmes: study and training facilities had been provided for fellows of the University by the Central Food and Technology Research Institute in India, the Indian Council for Social Sciences Research and the Centre for Energy Studies of the Indian Institute of Technology. India had also given the University financial support; contribution of \$750,000 initially pledged over a period of 10 years had subsequently been paid within a period of 5 years.

45. His delegation was, however, disappointed at certain aspects of the presentation of the report of the Council of the University (A/36/31), which should be corrected in the future. For example, some of the maps in annex II did not give a clear picture of the geographical scope of the University's activities and in some cases, as in the second sentence of paragraph 6 of the report, the somewhat exaggerated wording tended to confuse the reader.

46. He welcomed the progress made toward establishing the University for Peace, which could play a useful role within the framework of the training and research activities of the United Nations systems, and the agreement among Caribbean and Central American countries to ensure the financing of the University's activities. It was encouraging to note that the University was envisaged as a decentralized system of associated regional centres.

47. Mr. BARLETT (Jamaica) said that he was pleased to note that in its first five years of existence the United Nations University had established a wide network of associated institutes and training and research units in over 60 countries, that now included the University of the West Indies, in Jamaica and Barbados, which was involved in the implementation of the World Hunger Programme. A number of fellows of the University who had completed their training had been chosen by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) as consultants and advisers and several others held responsible positions in various third-world countries. The University also had an excellent record as regards publications, workshops, seminars, symposia and meetings.

48. However, after five years' experience, it was appropriate for the University - as indeed it was doing - to review its activities to date, reflect on its aims and activities, and make plans for the future. The Rector of the University had established links with other United Nations bodies and was proposing to establish links with the University for Peace. Jamaica favored the consolidation of such links and had carefully noted the information on the University for Peace recently submitted to the General Assembly by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica.

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(Mr. Barlett, Jamaica)

49. The co-operative relations also UNITAR, and he singled out for special mention the Institute's training programme for administrative support personnel in permanent missions to the United Nations, for diplomatic officers and for participants in conferences. The seminars on the Conference on the Law of the Sea had been most valuable, as also the co-operation between UNITAR and other bodies such as the Economic Development Institute of the World Bank. The workshop on international negotiations held in New York for senior diplomats had been a commendable innovation and more such courses for diplomats should be organized in the future.

50. The Institute's research activities, which had been carried out within the limits of strict financial control and respect for the principle of independence in research, focused on questions of great relevance to the United Nations and the third world, such as the new international economic order and negotiations on the law of the sea. Jamaica looked forward with particular interest to the results of the study being carried out on the effects for development planning of population movements within the Caribbean. He also expressed the hope that the UNITAR Board of Trustees would maintain the Project on the Future and welcomed the Institute's intensification of its work on energy and natural resources.

51. The Executive Director and the Board of Trustees were to be congratulated on the measures they had taken to reduce expenditure. While it had not been possible to terminate some staff members whose contracts had not yet expired or to control the effects of inflation, UNITAR had managed to reorganize its structure in accordance with the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit and the Administrative Management Service and consequently would have a reasonable deficit in 1981 and a balanced budget in 1982.

52. His delegation supported the giving of a grant-in-aid of reasonable size from the regular United Nations budget to offset UNITAR's deficit for 1981. At the same time, it expressed its gratitude to those States which continued to contribute financially to UNITAR, and especially to Trinidad and Tobago, which had made a generous emergency contribution of \$100,000 in 1981. In order to enable UNITAR to continue to make its useful contribution to the United Nations and to the cause of development and at the same time to balance its budget from 1982 onwards, member States which recognized the importance of the Institute's work and wished it to continue to be funded voluntarily should do their utmost to provide it with adequate funding.

53. Mr. ALGARD (Norway) expressed his condolences to the Egyptian delegation on the death of President Anwar El Sadat. Over the years UNITAR have been able to expand its activities in spite of its restricted financial resources and during the previous year, thanks to special-purpose grants, it had added four new programmes to its work. The research programmes were of great importance, and it was to be hoped that the reorganization of the Research Department would lead to greater efficacy, a name to which the intensified interaction of the various parts of the Project on the future would undoubtedly contribute. The training programmes enabled members of permanent missions to the United Nations to gain a broader understanding of the working procedures of the Organization and the specific issues on its agenda.

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(Mr. Algard, Norway)

Of The seminar organized by UNITAR and the Economic Development Institute on economic development and its international setting was particularly useful.

54. In order to solve the financial difficulties of UNITAR, a special appeal had been launched in 1980 for more contributions. Regrettably, the response to that appeal had been very poor and so far only a limited number of member States were contributing to UNITAR, despite the fact that its work benefited all Members of the United Nations. Through savings and reorganization the Institute had managed to reduce its deficit for 1981 by half and the Board of Trustees had taken the necessary steps to have a balanced budget in 1982. In accordance with the decision taken at the thirty-fifth session, Norway fully supported the proposal to give UNITAR an exceptional grant-in-aid to cover the deficit in 1981. That did not mean that a new element was being introduced into the regular budget of the United Nations, since it was an ad hoc measure. If Members of the Organization wanted UNITAR to continue and develop its activities the General Assembly should accept the proposal to redress the Institute's financial situation.

55. Mr. TANIGUCHI (Japan) expressed his condolences to the Egyptian delegation on the death of President Sadat. His delegation was gratified by the collaborative relationship between the United Nations University and other organizations and institutions within and outside the United Nations system. A good example of that was the active participation of the University in the preparations for the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, in connection with which it had sponsored a seminar for East Asian countries and published the official newsletter of the Conference. The series of discussions on various aspects of the development of new and renewable sources of energy, held at Nairobi under the auspices of the University, had been equally timely. All of that was in line with the intention of the Rector of the University to increase in the medium-term such interaction of co-operation and mutual support between the University and other organizations, of which his delegation had taken note with approval.

56. The Rector had proposed, likewise in the medium-term perspective, five major themes that reflected the chief concerns and problem areas of the University; their importance required that they should be addressed by the international community. His delegation, which basically supported the new programme of the University, considered that the five proposed themes, as they were being presented, were essentially philosophical and that, in order to give them practical force, a detailed work programme would have to be drawn up. It might also be advisable to give priority to some themes over others in order for the University to be effective in its work. It likewise should not be forgotten that the wider the scope of the University's activities, the greater would be the risk of duplicating the work of other organs and organizations. In order to avoid that and to enable the University to retain its unique character as a global, independent, academic institution, collaborative relations with other bodies would have to be promoted even further.

57. Moreover the proposed expanded programmes and activities required greater resources and, while it was encouraging to find that the number of countries contributing to the financial support of the University was on the increase, the number of such States was still only 34, and his delegation accordingly hoped for

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(Mr. Taniguchi, Japan)

greater recognition of the value of the University and the participation of more member States in its financing so that it would become a truly global entity.

58. His delegation appreciated the useful role played by UNITAR in the field of training and research and in particular in the organization of seminars and meetings, such as that on the development of small-scale new and renewable sources of energy held recently at Los Angeles. Japan's support for UNITAR's activities was demonstrated by the financial contributions it had made to the Institute.

59. In recent years, however, UNITAR had experienced budgetary difficulties and at the previous session, under resolution 35/53, the General Assembly had decided to provide the Institute as an exceptional measure, with a grant-in-aid from the budget of the United Nations. His delegation, which had abstained in the vote on that resolution in the belief that the proposed action was an undesirable precedent and incompatible with the independence of the Institute, acknowledged UNITAR's efforts to reduce its deficit, but it found the existing situation, in which it had been found necessary to ask for another grant, unsatisfactory. It was to be hoped in that connection that further efforts would be made to rectify the situation and that member States would consider in greater detail what was the best possible way of solving that problem in the long term.

60. Mr. ZWAYNE (Syrian Arab Republic) said that UNITAR was one of the tools available to the United Nations for the achievement of the purposes of the Charter to establish and maintain peace and secure the economic and social development of peoples. Since its establishment UNITAR had been dedicating itself to training officials at the national and international levels by means of courses and seminars and through research, the results of which were subsequently published. For example, UNITAR had, together with various developing countries, organized a series of meetings on various themes, and in that connection his delegation commended the role played by the Institute in the preparations for the seminar on the development strategy in the Arab world to be held shortly in the Syrian Arab Republic. A training course was also to be given for the staff of the Foreign Ministry.

61. At the previous session Syria had supported General Assembly resolution 35/53, which recognized the need to grant UNITAR, as an absolutely exceptional measure, financial aid to cover the deficit reflected in the budgetary estimates approved by its Board of Trustees. His delegation reaffirmed the imperative need to maintain that assistance and invited all States to make grants to UNITAR so that it could continue to perform its work.

62. His delegation considered the work being carried out by the United Nations University very constructive, particularly in the preparation of specialized studies on science and technology for development and its co-operation and collaboration with all United Nations bodies. Accordingly, financial support should continue to be given to the University so that it might continue to work for the benefit of the international community and help Governments to deal with the problems facing them in the sphere of economic and social development.

/...

(Mr. Zwayne, Syrian
Arab Republic)

63. His delegation supported the idea of establishing the University for Peace in the belief that the principles and ideas on which that University would be based would influence the construction of a new world society based on justice, understanding and equality and not on injustice, occupation, the plunder of peoples and countries, and resort to force. His country hoped to participate in the scientific work of that University and to collaborate with it.

64. The CHAIRMAN announced that the Group of 77 had requested that the submission of proposals under agenda item 12 should be extended until 12 noon on Monday, 12 October. If he heard no objections, he would take it that the Committee agreed to that request.

65. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 5.30 p.m.