



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 11th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. VERCELES (Philippines)

later: Mr. ter HORST (Venezuela)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

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
- (b) UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY: REPORT OF THE COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY
- (c) UNIFIED APPROACH TO DEVELOPMENT ANALYSIS AND PLANNING: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

1. Mr. FRESNO (Spain) expressed his delegation's deep sorrow at the death of President Anwar El Sadat.

2. His Government supported the work carried out by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), which had succeeded in maintaining the high quality of its programmes in spite of the serious financial difficulties which it was experiencing. As a token of its support Spain had contributed \$50,000 to the regional and interregional co-operation programme. Nevertheless, his delegation wished to draw attention to the need for the Institute to try to balance its budget in 1982 and to confine its activities within the limits determined by the level of voluntary contributions from Member States.

3. With regard to the University for Peace, Spain reaffirmed its support for the initiative, which could have a positive impact on the present gloomy world situation which was marked by armed conflicts and hotbeds of tension.

4. Mr. BARREIRO (Uruguay) extended his delegation's condolences to the delegation of Egypt on the tragic death of President Anwar El Sadat.

5. His delegation considered it important to reaffirm the principle that all scientific work in the socio-economic sphere must have a strictly objective basis and must not be based on ideology or myth. The ideological neutrality of all the training and research activities carried out within the United Nations system must be reaffirmed in order to ensure respect for the patterns of development of each of its Member States.

6. His delegation had studied with interest the report of the Council of the United Nations University (A/36/31), whose main programmes had produced tangible results and must be encouraged. The study of the availability—particularly the global supply—of foodstuffs should be carried further as part of the World Hunger Programme in order to determine the impact on global supply of the tariff and non-tariff barriers which hampered trade in foodstuffs and seriously affected those countries which had the natural conditions necessary for producing food and thus significantly decreased the supply of food. It was not possible to speak of hunger without referring to the production of food and to the responsibility of certain developed countries or groups of countries which, through complex

mechanisms involving tariff and non-tariff measures, distorted world food production and decreased the availability of food. Turning to the programme on the use and management of natural resources he said that the activities of the sub-programme on energy systems and policies should be integrated with those which the United Nations system might develop to implement the Programme of Action on New and Renewable Sources of Energy. Furthermore, Uruguay considered that the scope of the United Nations University should be strengthened so as to ensure strict observance of General Assembly resolution 34/112, operative paragraph 3 of which recognized that activities of the United Nations University were especially concerned with the problems in developing countries and should be given broader geographical coverage. In addition, the University should deal with problems relating to the environment.

7. His delegation wished to draw attention to UNITAR's valuable training activities in which many Uruguayan officials had participated. The activities relating to energy and natural resources of the Project on the Future should be co-ordinated with those of the United Nations and, in particular, with those designed to implement the Nairobi Programme of Action. He was concerned to see that the Project on the Future did not draw attention to the fact that economic growth was vital to development. It was up to the international community to create the conditions needed to stimulate economic growth and to make the necessary changes to achieve efficient utilization of the factors of production and a more equitable distribution of opportunities. His delegation did not agree with the statement made in paragraph 90 of the report of the Executive Director of the Institute (A/36/14), concerning international exchanges, that selective protectionism might be indispensable. In his view, protectionism resulted only in stagnation and the developing countries needed to grow.

8. It was deplorable that the Institute's financial situation should continue to show a deficit that had to be absorbed by the regular budget of the United Nations. UNITAR should not be financed from the United Nations budget but in a manner that was consistent with its position as an autonomous institution of the United Nations. If the manner in which it was financed was changed then its functions should be changed also so that they responded more directly to the interests of Member States.

9. Mrs. ZHANG Zong-an (China) said that the work of UNITAR was commendable, particularly considering the scarcity of financial resources which had seriously affected many of its activities. In that connexion, special attention should be given to the recommendations made by the Joint Inspection Unit and measures should be proposed to resolve the Institute's financial difficulties. Her delegation endorsed the policy of providing subsidies to UNITAR from the regular budget of the United Nations and would welcome any measure that the Executive Director might take to attain a more balanced budget in the future. China had contributed what it had pledged to the Institute and it hoped that the co-operation which it had established with UNITAR would continue to develop in the future.

10. She was pleased to see that the Council of the United Nations University had stressed that the University should continue to implement the three programmes it had originally formulated. In addition, the University should seek to resolve the pressing problems facing the developing countries. Accordingly, it should lay

(Mrs. Zhang Zong-an, China)

emphasis on solving the urgent problems faced by the developing countries and the topics of its studies should be more specific in order not to waste human and financial resources. In the last few years a good beginning had been made in the co-operation between China and the United Nations University and it was to be hoped that that co-operation would develop further in the future.

11. Mr. GUTIERREZ (Peru) expressed the condolences of his delegation to the delegation of Egypt on the tragic death of President Anwar El Sadat.

12. Referring to the reorganization of the work of United Nations University, he said that both the proposed five new themes and the establishment of a single advisory committee were measures that would enable the University to pursue its aims more effectively. However, the studies and research of the University must be co-ordinated so as not to duplicate the work of other United Nations agencies.

13. Turning to the Secretary-General's report on a unified approach to development analysis and planning (A/36/69), he emphasized that economic growth should not be the only criterion governing the choice of a development approach by third world countries and that, in evolving a unified approach, policies that were applicable on a relatively broad basis and designed to achieve maximum efficiency should be identified and promoted, taking into account the limited resources of the developing countries. One of the steps in the process of developing approaches which the third world countries could apply was the compilation of national experiences, especially of the developed countries. To that end, a comparative study might be made to classify analysis and planning approaches according to their effectiveness and the characteristics of the countries in which they had been applied.

14. His delegation welcomed the establishment of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, which, it was to be hoped, would help to control the arms race. He noted with concern, however, that there had been a deficit of more than half a million dollars in the UNITAR budget for 1981. It was to be hoped that the implementation of resolution 35/53 B would help to increase the effectiveness of the Institute so as to reduce its expenses and increase its resources. To achieve those aims, Member States should make contributions to the Institute's General Fund, since the response so far had not been fully satisfactory.

15. Mr. McBARNETTE (Trinidad and Tobago) said that the developing countries were interested in the fields of training and research but, owing to the more pressing problems they had to deal with, they were unable to spare the human and material resources needed for those purposes. The international community had to take that situation into account when considering the valuable role of the United Nations University and UNITAR.

16. His delegation was pleased that the University of the West Indies had joined the network of institutions affiliated with the United Nations University and hoped that that development would prove fruitful.

17. Referring to the financial situation of UNITAR, he said that the Institute could not continue to function without the necessary resources. All Member

(Mr. McBarnette, Trinidad and Tobago)

States, especially those with greater financial capacity, should contribute generously so as to solve the Institute's financial problems. Trinidad and Tobago for its part had made a grant of \$100,000 to help reduce the current deficit. In return, no effort should be spared in ensuring that duplication and wastage of human and material resources were avoided both in the University and UNITAR.

18. Mr. MARKHONKO (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) expressed his country's dissatisfaction at the fact that the programme of UNITAR did not take into account such urgent issues as international peace and security while it included others of secondary importance that should be left aside so as to avoid duplication and enable the Institute to perform its functions within the available resources. In addition, the Institute's activities in the field of training could stand improvement. Often the seminars organized by the Institute were not objective and, in many cases, they were used to spread ideas at variance with United Nations principles and the fundamental objective of saving future generations from the scourge of war. An example of that was the Seminar on regionalism and world order held in co-operation with Georgetown University the preceding year. In order to prevent such situations from recurring the Institute should arrange for participants from socialist and developing countries to attend its seminars. That was extremely important for the developing countries, many of which did not have advanced training facilities. It should be noted in that connexion that the social and political changes which had taken place in the socialist countries had enabled them to create an important and effective scientific training and research system which could be used, as had already been shown in the case of many developing countries, to train specialists for various sectors of the economy and research activities. Thus, the education system of the socialist countries was open to post-graduate students and other individuals from young independent countries, and took into account the social and economic needs of such countries. Advanced institutes in the socialist countries, including the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, had admitted an increasing number of foreign students and had developed improved training methods for their benefit.

19. Training and the organization of scientific research were linked to the development process and aimed at solving social and economic problems, as part of a process that had to be viewed within the over-all context of a unified approach to development planning. That approach, as indicated in General Assembly resolution 3409, was one of the most effective tools to promote economic, social and human development and to provide increasing opportunities to all people for a better life. In that connexion, it should be noted that all the economic and social activities carried out in the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic were based on State plans covering all aspects of the production process. That system was also applied in integrated programmes for the solution of major economic and social problems, an example of which was the "Guidelines for the Economic and Social Development of the Soviet Union" approved at the twenty-sixth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. Those guidelines called for accelerated scientific and technical progress, the stepping up of development, a more rational use of the country's productive potential and the saving of all kinds of resources.

20. The effectiveness of a unified approach to development analysis and planning was enhanced when it encompassed all sectors of the economy. It was important in that process to maintain the balance between economic development on the one hand

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(Mr. Markhonko, Byelorussian SSR)

and social development on the other. As the Commission on Social Development had rightly noted in its resolution on the social aspects of the development activities of the United Nations contained in the report on its twenty-seventh session (E/1981/26), the pursuit of a unified development approach required the United Nations to continue its efforts to evolve a better conceptual framework for such an approach. In that connexion, his delegation shared the view that the report on a unified approach (A/36/69), did not contain practical recommendations for its application to the social and economic development process, despite the specific request to that effect in General Assembly resolution 34/419. Consequently the Economic and Social Council should keep the matter under review and he supported the inclusion of the item in the provisional agenda for the Council's first regular session of 1983.

21. Mr. DHARAT (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that among the various activities of UNITAR, special mention should be made of its projects on new and renewable sources of energy, the new international economic order and research on disarmament. Noteworthy as well was the symposium on the material remnants of the Second World War, held in Geneva in April and May 1981. More than 70 experts from all parts of the world participated in that symposium, which had been co-sponsored by UNITAR and the Libyan Institute of Diplomatic Studies, and considered the various aspects of the material remnants of the war, such as mines, their impact on economic development, the legal responsibility for damages caused by such remnants and the right of the countries concerned to compensation.

22. UNITAR played an essential role in the field of training and research, and it was necessary to build it up economically instead of restricting its activities. That required both financial assistance and political support. His country supported co-operation between UNITAR and the United Nations University and other scientific institutions throughout the world, particularly in developing countries. Such co-operation would play an important role in building up and strengthening the scientific institutes and organizations in the developing countries. He noted with satisfaction that 28 institutions had already become affiliated with the United Nations University and that 112 training and research bodies were carrying out work for the University in more than 60 countries. The University's broad medium-term plan, which included such issues as international peace and security, hunger and poverty, science and technology, and their social and ethical consequences, reflected the importance of its activities. However, the plan should be flexible and should pay due attention to the needs and aspirations of third world countries, focusing on problems which affected them and providing assistance for the establishment and improvement of scientific institutions. The training of educators was one of the important tasks of the University, and it was to be hoped that greater attention would be paid to that activity.

24. His delegation hoped that the publications of the University would be issued in Arabic so that scientific institutions and interested individuals in Arab countries could also make use of them.

25. Mr. ZIMMERMANN (Federal Republic of Germany) extended his delegation's condolences upon the tragic death of President Anwar El Sadat to the delegation of Egypt.

26. Although UNITAR had been able to take on responsibility for four additional programmes financed by special purpose grants, it was making a fresh demand to have its deficit met by a grant-in-aid from the regular budget of the United Nations, and that at a time when world-wide economic difficulties had compelled almost every Government to apply a policy of budgetary restraint, international organizations reflected those endeavours and UNITAR could not be an exception.

27. The Institute's efforts to do away with its 1981 budget deficit deserved appreciation. Further reductions could be attained, however, by redeploying resources away from less important programmes. Under the current circumstances there could be no room for new projects. A series of major reductions was needed to show that the Institute was really determined to tackle its financial problems. His delegation accordingly supported the measures taken by the Board of Trustees to consolidate the 1981 budget, and hoped that the budget for 1982 would definitely be balanced. Only on that condition would it join those Member States that were ready to provide the Institute—on an exceptional basis and for the last time—with the necessary resources out of the regular budget of the United Nations to cover its remaining deficit as of December 1981.

28. Mr. OO (Malaysia) extended his delegation's condolences upon the tragic death of President Anwar El Sadat to the delegation of Egypt.

29. The realistic programmes and proposed reorientation of the United Nations University to stimulate increased collaboration with the United Nations system deserved general support. The five selected themes should be relevant and responsive to the demands of the international community in order to provide solutions to current problems in a global perspective. They ought also to emphasize the urgent problems facing the developing countries, such as food, the environment, energy, natural resources and the decision-making process.

30. Everyone was aware of the need actively to seek structural changes in the existing economic relations between North and South; his delegation believed that the University had a meaningful role to play in the search for acceptable solutions to current economic problems so as to bring about more balanced relations between nations. To make that possible, all countries should contribute generously to the financing of the University.

31. Turning to UNITAR, his delegation was particularly pleased with the emphasis given to the studies on regional co-operation for development and to the establishment of a new international economic order. The Institute's relatively acute financial problems required a long-term solution rather than short-term measures if its objectives were to continue to receive support.

32. His delegation noted the efforts of Costa Rica to establish the University for Peace; while it was convinced that close collaboration with other similar organizations would benefit mankind, it wished to point out that during the current period of economic uncertainty and difficulties it would be preferable to seek to complement rather than to duplicate efforts.

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33. Mr. CHOWDHURY (Bangladesh) said that UNITAR's training and research activities, particularly its work on the new international economic order, were commendable. Nevertheless, the Institute ought also to study the special economic situation of the least developed countries.
34. His delegation was somewhat concerned at the financial problems the Institute was experiencing and was particularly concerned to hear that although UNITAR's activities had expanded, it would not be able to maintain its staff even at the 1972 level. In the circumstances his delegation supported the appeal by the Executive Director for another grant-in-aid from the regular budget of the United Nations in the current year so as to meet the Institute's deficit. The provision of such grants should not, however, become a regular affair, and the Institute must make a serious attempt to balance its budget.
35. Mr. LEIDO (Philippines) said it was gratifying to note that the first phase of the project on the legal aspects of the new international economic order had been completed in time to be submitted to the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session. UNITAR must be given further support in order to complete the second phase, which would involve initial steps in the consolidation of the norms and principles of international law as they related to the new international economic order.
36. The report of the Executive Director of the Institute (A/36/14) pointed out that there had been a shift in the focus of the Project on the Future from simple growth to poverty-related issues, employment, distribution and mass participation in the decision-making process, but failed to indicate the various sources or studies from which the analytical results had been derived. Some of the conclusions showed the great complexity of and ambiguity in the choice of development policies: they included export-led policies which resulted in worsened income distribution and terms of trade; capital transfers that affected the terms of trade; the failure of redistribution through welfare policies which did not make allowance for the operation of markets; and tax policies that maximized savings but decreased investment. Useful though those results were in reappraising development policy, they were too briefly stated to allow delegations to form an opinion on their validity. Paragraph 90 of the report, for instance, suggested that selective protectionism might be an adequate international response in certain strategies. The Institute should elaborate on such generalizations in the context of the widely differing situations facing developing countries.
37. The programme on energy and natural resources was of particular relevance to the current crisis in the world economy. It would be desirable if practical policies on pricing and optimal rates of exploitation could be devised from the model in the programme. Additionally, that aspect of the Institute's research would be directly related to the programme of the United Nations University on the use and management of natural resources.
38. The Philippines, an archipelago with more than 16,000 kilometres of coastline, was especially interested in the University's sub-programme on resource policy and management in coastal zones currently being conducted in Indonesia and the Pacific region. Particular attention should be given, within the context of the six top-priority projects of the World Hunger Programme, to the role of the international



(Mr. Leido, Philippines)

food trade in alleviating or worsening world hunger. The reports of the Economic and Social Council and UNITAR appeared to point to highly unequal exchange relations between developed and developing countries, especially where the food trade was concerned.

39. The considerable expansion of the University's human and social development programme seemed to be resulting in considerable overlap with the work of UNITAR, especially on the global problématique of the new international economic order. The same was true of its research into regional perspectives within the third world. Such duplication would seem to indicate that any broadening of the scope of the University's research activities should be undertaken with caution.

40. Regarding the institutional and financial aspects of training and research, it seemed clear that considerable benefits accrued to the world community from the human resource development resulting from training and how the deeper understanding derived from research into the development process. Yet few countries were prepared to give the resources needed to carry on such work. His delegation urged the countries with the necessary financial means to give more support to the United Nations University and UNITAR. Grants-in-aid to meet budgetary deficits were a stop-gap measure: it was time to find innovative and long-term solutions.

41. Mrs. SHALABY (Egypt) expressed her delegation's thanks to all those who had conveyed their sympathy on the tragic death of President Anwar El Sadat.

42. UNITAR was performing a valuable role, particularly for the developing countries. It was appropriate to mention the training courses and various seminars designed for delegates to conferences and members of permanent missions in New York and Geneva and the regional training and refresher course in international law, organized in compliance with General Assembly resolution 2099 (XX), which had been held in Cairo from 28 February to 13 March 1981. It was therefore logical to support the request for increased budget allocations for similar regional courses in the future. She noted with satisfaction the rearrangement in the Institute's Department of Research and the choice of topics and the research carried out, particularly in the field of regional co-operation for development and the new international economic order. In addition, she supported the Executive Director in his appeal to all Member States to increase their contribution in accordance with General Assembly resolution 35/53 B and thought it appropriate to consider the possibility of allocating a stable core budget to UNITAR in order to guarantee its financial stability.

43. Having considered the report of the Council of the United Nations University (A/36/31) she said it was evident that the University played an important role, particularly when its three main programmes were considered. She noted with satisfaction that revenues were sufficient to cover expenditures on the University's operations for the year 1980-81. It was to be hoped that that healthy financial situation would continue into the future so that the expected increase in University activities could be covered. Finally, the Egyptian delegation thought that closer co-operation between UNITAR and the United Nations University was necessary.

44. Mr. ter Horst (Venezuela) took the Chair.

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45. Mr. HASAN (Pakistan) said that although UNITAR had done admirable work since its creation, it had not been provided with sufficient financial resources to continue its activities, as was evident from the fact that its general fund had been exhausted. The General Assembly had decided by its resolution 35/53 B to provide the Institute with a grant-in-aid on an exceptional basis. Nevertheless, its financial situation remained precarious and it was again facing a deficit in 1981 and its Board of Trustees had once again requested a grant-in-aid from the Assembly. It was evident that in order to avoid a recurrence of the situation in the future, the Institute must be provided with secure and stable financing. While voluntary contributions were an important source of finance, in order to make the Institute a viable body it was essential that its core budget for essential staff and facilities should be financed from the regular budget of the United Nations. It was a pity that, whereas huge sums of money were spent on destructive activities, only relatively insignificant amounts were allocated for such valuable activities as training and research. Although Pakistan was facing severe financial constraints and massive development needs it had raised its contribution to UNITAR in the current year two and a half times, to demonstrate the support which the Institute deserved.

46. Pakistan had been particularly gratified by the Institute's work on the New International Economic Order, energy and natural resources, and regional and interregional co-operation, and was ready to co-operate fully in that sphere of UNITAR's activities. However, greater emphasis might be given to applied research, the results of which could be of direct benefit to the economic and social development of the developing countries. For example, programmes similar to the energy programme could be elaborated in other fields such as technology, monetary and financial co-operation, food and agriculture, agro-industry and rural development. Pakistan had taken advantage of the Institute's training programmes for diplomatic personnel and had participated in seminars, conferences and training programmes in various fields and it would continue not only to contribute regularly to the Institute's funds but also to co-operate with it in all its activities.

47. With regard to the United Nations University, Pakistan was largely in agreement with the priorities and programmes in the fields of world hunger, human and social development and the use and management of natural resources indicated in the report of the Council of the University (A/36/31). Although the report showed the relationship between the various programmes it was not very clear. His delegation was pleased to see that the University had established a world-wide network of relations with institutions engaged in training and research and was entering a new phase placing greater emphasis on global development problems and a medium-term perspective for the period 1982-1987. In that respect, Pakistan attached great importance to the call for assistance in the establishment of scientific institutions in third world countries. That was the key to solving the problem of scientific development in the developing countries. It was only through such institutions that developing countries could really solve their problems and acquire the capacities needed to be self-reliant. Pakistan therefore urged that that aspect of the University's work should be given priority.

48. With regard to the financing of the University, it was regrettable to note that although the University had envisaged an Endowment Fund of \$US 500,000,000 to be achieved by 1981, pledges to that Fund had been made so far by only

(Mr. Hasan, Pakistan)

34 governments and totalled no more than \$US 114,000,000. During the past year, only \$US 4.3 million had been pledged or contributed. Fortunately, the University had been able to begin its activities thanks to the generous contribution made by the Government of Japan. But that did not absolve the other industrialized and rich countries from their responsibility to ensure that the University was endowed with sound financial foundations. It would be regrettable if a world which had benefited from the work of great universities were to see a university set up by the combined efforts of all nations languish and disappear for want of funds, and Pakistan would strive to see that that did not happen.

49. Pakistan's co-operation with the University went back to the latter's inception and had been reflected by the participation of a national of Pakistan in the University Council and the establishment of co-operative relations between the University and scholars and institutions in Pakistan. Thus, the University of Karachi and the University of Engineering and Technology in Lahore had been integrated in the solar energy information network which was part of the University's natural resources programme. Working contacts had also been established in the field of arid lands management, which was a field of particular interest to Pakistan.

50. In the context of the priority programme areas, it was appropriate to stress that the programmes on world hunger and human and social development should focus on the developing countries where those problems were greatest. It was also necessary to maintain a balance among the various regions and to allocate the activities and programmes of the University in an equitable and productive manner. Financial contributions to research projects could not be the sole criterion for affiliating an institution to the University; priority should be given to those developing countries which had not yet benefited fully from the University's programme when selecting scholars for fellowships and institutions for affiliation.

51. Mr. NTAMBI (Uganda) assured the Egyptian delegation of his delegation's deep sympathy on the tragic death of President Anwar El Sadat.

52. Questions of training and research should be examined in the context of the efforts which had been started to eliminate the obstacles—such as galloping inflation, the scourge of hunger, the unbalanced distribution of the benefits of science and technology, the intensification of the arms race, the weakening of détente and energy problems—which stood in the way of the establishment of a new world order. Both UNITAR and the United Nations University, as well as the proposed University for Peace, must play an important role in that context, especially for the benefit of third world countries. Those benefits should be in the form not only of personnel training and general research, but also of applied research.

53. His delegation congratulated UNITAR on the results of its activities, which, on the one hand, enriched the knowledge of those who took part in them, and on the other hand, dealt with major international problems in the socio-economic sphere with a view to formulating policy and programme options, for example, with respect to the New International Economic Order.

54. In taking any decisions with respect to the Institute, it must be borne in mind that it generally carried out its activities by using short-term staff,

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(Mr. Ntambi, Uganda)

partly because it was neither economical nor feasible given the nature of those activities to maintain permanent staff. Moreover, the training activities were conducted in different places and for periods of a few weeks. While the activities of the Institute therefore tended to be expensive, inefficiency and extravagance were not to be condoned, hence the insistence on the part of the Ugandan delegation on the need for the administration of the Institute to pursue efforts such as those outlined in the documents before the Committee, in order to derive the maximum benefit from the available resources and to increase efficiency of the Institute. The financial problems of the Institute could be attributed to an imbalance between its level of responsibility and its level of authority since the resources for performing the functions clearly set out under its terms of reference were far from assured. It might therefore be advisable to explore the possibility of financing its core budget from the United Nations regular budget.

55. Much of what had been said regarding the Institute was equally applicable to the United Nations University. The Rector's efforts to raise funds and the activities carried out in the three priority areas deserved to be commended and supported. However, greater efforts must be made to promote a greater awareness of the objectives of the University among Governments, the international academic community and other national and international institutions concerned, as stated by the General Assembly in resolution 35/54.

56. Finally, on the subject of the establishment of the University for Peace which was supported by Uganda, the University must not confine itself to making an academic analysis of the various facets of peace as a concept but must find ways and means to make peace a secure and permanent reality.

57. Mr. PEREZ (Costa Rica) said that his delegation would, as was its duty, report to the international community on the action taken in connexion with the University for Peace. The world had entered a particularly tense and dangerous phase in which mankind ran the risk of annihilation, a third world war was considered inevitable and the belligerent Powers, on the pretext of maintaining a "balance of power" or "equivalent forces", continued to increase their destructive capabilities to the point of producing bombs designed not to cause major material damage but "only" to destroy life. Furthermore, the unlawful seizure and annexation of territories, the defiance of decisions adopted by United Nations bodies and violations of human rights persisted, resulting in a generalized erosion of respect for human dignity. The common weal depended on such respect and ultimately on the right not to be murdered and the right to refuse to murder. The variables capable of triggering a catastrophe were so numerous that the ultimate madness could occur in the next five minutes. Education for peace had therefore come to be regarded by many as illusory. Costa Rica had rejected that view outright when it had proposed the establishment of the University for Peace being convinced that, as borne out by its history, peace was possible. The path to peace was through education and particularly education for peace. The budget of Costa Rica therefore earmarked for education funds that were allocated in other countries to the armed forces, an institution abolished under its Constitution. There was still time for mankind to educate for peace and thereby to avert the possibility of a twenty-first century in which the world would consist of an uninhabited dump for used military hardware whose production, at a time of

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(Mr. Perez, Costa Rica)

ever-worsening economic misery, constituted the cruellest form of violence because it was both systematic and sustained, in the words of Mahatma Gandhi.

58. It was worth noting that the University, the establishment of which had been proposed by the President of Costa Rica and adopted by consensus by the General Assembly in resolution 35/55, already had twenty participating countries signatories to the Agreement, namely: Costa Rica, Venezuela, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Panama, Pakistan, Senegal, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Bangladesh, Peru, Democratic Kampuchea, Honduras, Spain, Mexico, Surinam, Togo, Sri Lanka and Guatemala. For its part, Costa Rica had fulfilled its original commitments with regard to setting up the University, lending financial support to the Commission on the University for Peace and sponsoring the initial meetings of specialists on the various aspects of the problem of peace. In addition, the site for the University was already available although its use would require a decision by the Council of the University. The site consisted of 100 hectares for the University proper and 300 hectares of forest with abundant fauna and flora to be handed over to the University with the sole proviso that it should be preserved. Progress had also been made on the infrastructural work and preparations were under way for tenders for the building of the access roads, while several million colons had been earmarked for the building of the administrative areas.

59. The Council of the University was expected to assume its functions on 19 November 1981 and to begin its activities in 1982. The Council, whose members had been appointed with skill by the Secretary-General, comprised leading academic figures and representatives of the Government of Costa Rica, the United Nations, UNESCO and the United Nations University. It was hoped that the Council would initiate negotiations with the United Nations University in order to establish the institutional links provided for in the Agreement. It was also worth noting that the International Association of University Residents, grouping representatives of roughly 750 universities throughout the world, had decided unanimously at its last triennial meeting to support the University for Peace and had proposed the designation of a World Peace Year and a World Peace Day.

60. In a world which was passively witnessing the allocation of one million dollars per minute for destruction, the only real choice was between non-violence and non-existence. Peace was a challenge to the survival of mankind to be met only by striving daily to discard the so-called "established order" and to create a universal atmosphere for promoting material and spiritual factors conducive to achieving peace. Costa Rica trusted that the University for Peace, in which all peoples could participate without any legal or financial obligations, would prove the means of fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah that peace and justice would walk hand in hand.

61. Mr. Verceles (Philippines) resumed the Chair.

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

62. Mr. BEDJAQUI (Algeria) said that he would be speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 in order to express, on the basis of unity and solidarity, the ideas and views of the Group on development and international economic co-operation.

63. A clear exposition of the philosophy of the Group of 77 with regard to the essential topics of international economic co-operation and a global development was

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a necessity at a time when obsolete doctrines and anachronistic and distressing economic policies were making a comeback. That comeback, which affected true international economic co-operation, called for the reaffirmation of the principles constituting the essence of a dialogue intended by the Group to usher in a universal era of progress.

64. Multilateral co-operation was the very essence of the United Nations. It was both the means and the condition for instituting the new universal order of peace and progress. To leave the task of promoting development to unpredictable market mechanisms was tantamount to leaving the fate of peoples and nations to chance. Given the complexity of the problem, it was equally illusory to base multilateral co-operation on the free movement of private capital, and, finally, to assign the task of restructuring the existing economic framework exclusively to the transnational corporations was to take a cavalier attitude to the aspirations of two thirds of mankind for a new international economic order.

65. The development of the third world must be the economic and political fact of the current age. It was the pre-condition for ushering in a world-wide era of prosperity and peace. A form of international co-operation reduced to narrow bilateralism in favour of selective co-operation policies centred on strategic concerns would mean a return to an era of serfdom and captive markets far removed from any true form of co-operation. The free play of market forces perpetuated dependence in that it increased the prosperity of already prosperous regions and exacerbated the poverty of already underprivileged regions. The new philosophy of international economic co-operation for which the foundations were being laid had all the hallmarks of an age which had once seemed to have vanished for ever. Such a philosophy reduced the much needed restructuring of the over-all framework to a mere breaking down of the barriers to the wholesale integration of the developing world into the existing international division of labour, turned the expansion of the investments of transnational corporations in the developing countries into the vehicle for that integration and disregarded the fundamental reality of the failure of that international division of labour.

66. The current acute world crisis could only be tackled by initiating a world-wide development cycle to be carried out through the establishment of an international economic co-operation finally freed from the shackles of domination and exploitation. To achieve that, certain conditions would have to be fulfilled. First, such co-operation would have to be seen in a structural perspective because the current crisis, which was structural in nature, had been brought about by the collapse of structures which were now played out. A realization of that fact, and of the fact that under-development was not a residual effect of recession, would necessitate the establishment of the new international economic order. International co-operation for development must also be based on the principle of universality as a method and framework for dealing with problems. That required a democratization of the decision-making process at the world level. Furthermore, problems should not be considered in isolation; their relations with the over-all economic order would have to be taken into account. The world-wide nature of the crisis itself made it necessary to try to find comprehensive solutions to global problems.

67. Moreover, genuine international economic co-operation implied responsible dialogue. The crisis and problems were so deep-rooted and serious that they

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would have to be solved at the competent decision-making levels. Finally, genuine international economic co-operation should establish, as an inviolable principle, that the North-South relationship must cease to be viewed through the distorting prism of East-West relations. To base international co-operation on geopolitical considerations and subordinate it to prerequisites of strategic loyalty, would be to negate the very essence of any co-operation, which was fruitful exchange respecting the options and identity of each party.

68. The initiative to hold global negotiations converted egalitarian and responsible dialogue into an instrument for seeking concerted solutions and opened up prospects of dynamic negotiations which did not define development and economic growth in mutually contradictory or exclusive terms. By eliminating the false dilemma whereby economic growth was considered a prerequisite for development or development a prerequisite for economic growth, it outlined a new approach which subjected all the problems to a common treatment for the good of all.

69. The future of the North-South dialogue lay in global negotiations. For that reason and on behalf of the Group of 77, he deplored the fact that only one country had prevented unanimity from being reached on the initiation of a process with an undoubtedly audacious but enlightened vision of a future of progress for all. The Group of 77 was firmly committed to that process and was prepared to participate constructively and with an open mind in future consultations on the initiation of global negotiations.

70. The South-South axis of co-operation was also responsible in part for that future project of genuine international economic co-operation. Economic co-operation among developing countries formed an integral part of the task of establishing the new international economic order. From that viewpoint, the Caracas Conference would have made an unquestionably qualitative contribution to the organization of that vast zone of trade and mutual assistance among countries of the South and would have further intensified the co-operation which should be maintained among the countries of the South.

71. Development was the prerequisite for world peace. It was the key to the new universal era which had to be organized. But world peace was also a prerequisite for development and it should be the crucible for its fruitful development. Tomorrow's reality would have to reserve a place for the right of all to development, democratic access to the common property and the equitable use of all the opportunities and sources of prosperity. Today, one law must take precedence over all others: the right of everyone to well-being. That was the conviction of the Group of 77 and it was the ideal which it would faithfully and unremittingly strive to pursue.

72. Mr. BELINGA (Observer, Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation) said that the objectives of his Agency were similar to those set forth in the United Nations Charter; its aim was essentially to maintain and develop multilateral co-operation among its members in the field of education, culture, science and technology. Its range of activities was centred on three main areas: development, education and scientific and technical co-operation, and the promotion of national cultures and languages. Those areas had been selected in the belief that the current crisis was not only economic in nature but also, and above all, that it had a cultural dimension.

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(Mr. Belinga, Agency for Cultural  
and Technical Co-operation)

73. What was being sought today in a confused and groping fashion was a new humanism; it was an attempt to bring human beings to terms with themselves and their natural environment. By undertaking the overwhelming task of ensuring sustenance for the immense population of the world, the new international economic order should reserve a place for the cultural phenomenon and encourage its development. That basic concern had been upheld by the key Declaration adopted by the First Conference of Ministers of Culture of the 34 countries members of the Agency held at Cotonou from 17 to 18 September 1981.

74. A new economic order worthy of the name would not be established by treaties and still less by resolutions and declarations, if it was not based on a new spiritual order resting on three equally important pillars: a spirit of objectivity which would permit economic events to be analysed without being influenced by prejudices, ideologies or romanticism; a spirit of solidarity which would keep human selfishness within its proper bounds and uphold faith in the future, in other words, confidence in one's own ability to make realistic diagnoses and plans of action, confidence in other people and other human groups and in other cultures different from one's own; and willingness to contribute to the changes required in the modern world.

75. With respect to its specific activities, the Agency was trying to act as a catalyst in the field of human settlements by promoting innovative ideas in architecture in order to improve housing. Also with respect to the environment, it sought to co-ordinate from the approach of practical applications for development a regional co-operation project aimed at preserving and enhancing the ecological system of the south-western islands of the Indian Ocean. Similarly, it was carrying out a programme to combat desertification in the Sudano-Sahelian region, in keeping with the objectives defined in resolutions 34/184 and 34/187 of the General Assembly.

76. In the area of new and renewable sources of energy, the Agency was focusing on solar, wind and biomass energy. In those sectors, it had undertaken a broad programme of horizontal co-operation and assistance in order to disseminate techniques which had already been perfected by the developed countries. Mention should also be made of the assistance given to member States in formulating their energy policies and in preparing the national papers submitted to the Nairobi Conference.

77. With regard to technical co-operation among developing countries, dissemination of information and the exchange of scientific data, the Agency had established a network of soil data banks and had prepared an international format for exchanging those data. It had also drawn up a list of researchers and research institutions for the development of member countries. It also organized practical courses on various questions such as planning, hospital administration and management of school and university services as well as seminars, and it granted specialization fellowships for studies in the training institutes of its member countries.

(Mr. Belinga, Agency for Cultural  
and Technical Co-operation)

78. The Agency wished to strengthen its co-operation with the United Nations on a more concrete, efficient and continuous basis. Similarly, it advocated a consensus on a common approach to the future in a spirit of tolerance and mutual political will. Such a consensus was the only way of creating a climate of convergence which would permit the United Nations and other international organizations to tackle the current crisis in the bold manner expected of them by the peoples of the world.

The meeting rose at 6.15 p.m.