

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 23rd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. RINGNALDA (Netherlands)

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AGENDA ITEM 69: DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION
(A/36/3Add.2, 4, 12-17, 29; A/36/8, 19, 25, 37, 39, 45, 47, 141, 142
143, 223, 240, 260, 470, 475; A/C.2/36/L.2; A/CN.11/21)

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1. Mr. BLAIN (Gambia) said that the euphoria that had greeted the completion of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade had been misguided because the new round of global negotiations which had been intended to provide the framework within which the Strategy would flourish had still not been launched. The international community's failure to reach consensus on the launching of those negotiations inevitably aggravated world economic stagnation, exacerbated the poverty that undermined stability in developing countries and endangered international peace and security. His country, one of the least developed of the developing countries, accordingly hoped that no effort would be spared to have the Substantial New Programme of Action adopted at the Paris Conference on the Least Developed Countries fully and speedily implemented.

2. With regard to food security, which was the most serious problem currently facing developing countries, his Government was disquieted to note the international community's continued failure to supply the food aid (10 million tons annually) provided for in the new Food Aid Convention. It was also disturbed by the fact that the international community was likewise incapable, largely owing to lack of political will among the industrialized countries, of supplying the resources and technology required for the agricultural development of third-world countries and the implementation of their national food strategies.

(Mr. Blain, Gambia)

3. Gambia which, like all Sahel countries, was affected by persistent drought, naturally saw a link between food problems and drought. Drought had not only altered the ecological balance of the region but had virtually nullified all efforts to speed up development and to raise the living standards of the population. He commended the efforts of the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office to mobilize the necessary resources for the early implementation of the medium- and long-term anti-desertification programmes in the Sahel. It was regrettable, however, that despite the international community's concern over the phenomenon of desertification, the funds provided for the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification in the Sudano-Sahelian Region were not large enough. His delegation accordingly welcomed the participation of the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office in the Pledging Conference for Development Activities and urged donor countries to be particularly generous. In that connexion, his delegation was gratified by the generosity of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, which had offered emergency assistance amounting to \$210 million to the drought-stricken Sahelian countries and had committed itself to providing additional resources to help them to cope with that serious problem.

4. Despite the progress made in some of the international negotiations conducted under the auspices of UNCTAD, the continuing deterioration in the world economic situation was increasing the debt burden of developing countries and aggravating their balance-of-payments problems. There was therefore a need to establish a linkage between the prices of the commodities exported by developing countries and those of the goods they imported from developed countries, to remove artificial trade barriers in developed countries and to liberalize the trade policies of those countries so as to enable their imports from developing countries to expand.

5. The restructuring of the international monetary system was long overdue. His delegation welcomed the active role to be played in future by IMF in the recycling of surplus funds and by the decision to increase the capital of the World Bank by \$40 billion. His delegation urged, however, that a financing facility to help non-oil-producing developing countries to overcome their balance-of-payments problems should be established within the IMF. Moreover, it wished to see greater participation by developing countries in decision-making within the Fund and reaffirmed its opposition to the proposal that their participation should be proportionate to the level of contributions to the Fund's resources.

6. With regard to the vital question of industrialization, his delegation found it regrettable that the international community had reached no consensus on the constructive measures envisaged in the New Delhi Declaration, adopted at the Third General Conference

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of UNIDO. Lack of progress in that field was clearly due to the lack of political will among the industrialized countries. His delegation accordingly believed that the international community should endeavour substantially to increase the transfer of technology and attendant resources if the new international economic order and the Lima and New Delhi Declarations were to be translated into practice.

7. His delegation was gratified by the launching in November 1980 of the International Drinking Water and Sanitation Decade. There was abundant proof that high mortality rates among children and even adults in the rural areas of the developing countries were due to numerous water-borne diseases. It was for that reason that Gambia hoped that donor countries would firmly commit themselves to attaining the objectives of the Decade, particularly in relation to the transfer of resources.

8. In conclusion, he said that the Cancún summit provided a unique opportunity to resume the North-South dialogue and to discuss the modalities of establishing a more equitable economic system.

9. Mr. RAMOS (Cape Verde) said that the question of international economic co-operation had long been a major item for discussion in the Committee. The deterioration in the world economy had significantly hampered the economic growth of developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, and augmented their dependency and vulnerability. It was time to ask what response there had been to the problems of the latter group of countries. The International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade had virtually ignored them. The Immediate Programme of Action embodies in UNCTAD resolution 122 (V), which envisaged urgent measures to alleviate the plight of the least developed countries and which should have been in operation in the period 1979-1981, had remained largely unimplemented. The International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade embodied in General Assembly resolution 35/6, contained a section on the special problems of the least developed countries which stipulated that one of the priorities of the Strategy would be an intensification of the efforts to transform the economies of those countries and accelerate their social and economic progress. The implementation of the Strategy could certainly give impetus to the development process of the least developed countries, but his delegation was disappointed with the degree of its implementation so far.

10. It should be noted, however, that the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, recently held in Paris, had been constructive to the extent that the problems of the least developed countries had been analysed in detail. The Substantial New Programme of Action adopted at that Conference considered, among other things, the country programmes submitted by the least developed countries,

(Mr. Ramos, Cape Verde)

including that of Cape Verde. The country programme of Cape Verde focused on its first five-year plan, which laid down priorities in various economic and social sectors. The success of that plan would, however, depend on the timely flow of appropriate financial assistance equivalent to \$253 million (at 1980 prices) for the period 1982-1985 and to \$412 million for the period 1985-1990.

11. The Substantial New Programme of Action also emphasized the need to address the problems of agricultural backwardness and dependency in the least developed countries, which was largely attributable to lack of infrastructure and particularly unfavorable forces of nature. His country, which was affected by those factors, had intensified its efforts in the agricultural sector, to which a large proportion of its investments was devoted. Until such time as food self-sufficiency could be attained, by augmenting the area under irrigation policies, rehabilitating arable land and instituting agrarian reform, Cape Verde would still have to rely for international assistance for its food security. It therefore urged donor countries to try to attain the target of 10 million tons per annum provided for in the Food Aid Convention and even to revise that target upwards, together with providing 500,000 tons of grain for the International Emergency Food Reserve.

12. In conclusion, he said that the least developed countries expected much from the activities of the current Decade and particularly from the Substantial Programme of Action adopted at the Paris Conference. The international community, and in particular the industrialized countries, should propose practical action which would improve the living conditions of millions of people.

13. Mr. ZWAYNE (Syrian Arab Republic) said that the world was at present divided into the "haves" and the "have nots" and was faced with a difficult choice in the early 1980s. The slow growth and rapid inflation of the industrialized countries, the deterioration in the terms of trade and the contradictions of international trade required the industrialized countries to reconsider their intransigent policies vis-à-vis the developing countries, to open their markets to the manufactures and semi-manufactures of the developing countries, to guarantee price stability, to make their information facilities and technology available to those countries on favourable terms, to lighten the burden of their debts and to restrain the upward movement of their interest rates.

14. Referring to the World Bank's report for 1981, which emphasized the continuing wide gap in income between the developing countries and the industrialized countries, he proposed to review the question of co-operation and development in the Arab countries in the light of the region's historical, political, economic and social situation. The Arab nation had undergone the painful experience of colonialization

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which had plundered its natural wealth. After achieving independence, Syria had suffered the effects of the establishment of a foreign entity on Palestinian soil in 1948. The occupation of Palestine and certain Arab territories belonging to independent States had exacerbated the economic problems of those countries. Since 1948 Syria had taken in more than half a million Palestinian refugees and had had to bear an additional economic burden which had disrupted its development plans. Thanks to the pragmatic policy of its Government, however, it had taken practical steps to increase its national per capita income in spite of the Zionist propaganda policy aimed at undermining its stability and economic progress and in spite of a high level of population growth. It had also devoted particular attention to science and technology for development in order to promote social and economic progress and consolidate international relations in the interest of all peoples.

15. He reminded Member States of the acts of aggression committed by Israel, which had turned the region into a laboratory for its technical innovations in offensive weaponry, and drew their attention to the need for establishing international relations based on humanitarian principles and the moral values endorsed in international practice and agreements. Syria realized that the transfer of technology could not take place in a context of aggression and occupation. The installation of industries and laboratories and the training of national personnel called for unflagging long-term efforts, whereas one or two air raids on industrial sites, such as those carried out during the war of 1967, the aggression of 1973 and the attack of 1981 against the nuclear reactor in Iraq, were sufficient to destroy what such initiatives had created.

16. His delegation was also disappointed to see that no resolution had been adopted concerning the United Nations Financing System for Science and Technology for Development at the resumed third session of the Intergovernmental Committee concerned. He hoped that the negotiations on that matter at the current session would make it possible to provide the System with the necessary resources early in 1982, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 34/218.

17. Effective action should be taken by the countries of origin and of immigration to offset the harmful effects of the brain-drain on the economies of the developing countries.

18. The sociological, economic and technical problems of agriculture continued to be acute in the countries of the third world. Agriculture was the basis of the Syrian Arab Republic's economy; it was its main source of national income and employed the majority of the labour force. His Government had taken steps to develop that sector and to eliminate the aftermath of bygone eras. It had, for

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example, completed the construction of a major dam on the Euphrates, had built a tractor and fertilizer factory and had set up livestock and food production centres. For 50 years Syria had worked on maintaining its rangeland and had established an agency to counter the effects of drought. Thanks to the assistance of WFP and FAO, it had introduced new plants to combat desertification.

19. With regard to the environment, Syria was well aware of the need to protect its natural wealth from industrial pollution and called upon all the countries concerned to prevent the pollution of the Mediterranean Sea.

20. Several studies carried out in the Syrian Arab Republic had emphasized the importance of new and renewable sources of energy and the Government was giving close attention to the applications of solar energy in agriculture and to the development of biomass, geothermal and wind energy.

21. His delegation had studied document A/36/260/Add.1 concerning the living conditions of the Palestinian people, congratulated the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements on his efforts to improve those conditions and expressed his gratitude to WHO, ILO and UNDP for the numerous projects carried out in the interest of the Palestinian people in the territories occupied by Israel. The improvement in the Palestinian people's living conditions was not due to any improvement in employment opportunities under the occupation but to the continuing financing and the assistance which Palestinian families received from their children working in other Arab countries, because one major feature of the occupied regions was an agricultural economy based on economic units and manpower which were both unorganized and lacking in technology. The economy of the occupied territories was dependent on political decisions imposed by Israel in its own interest and not in the interest of the Arab Palestinian inhabitants.

22. He stressed the importance of the results of the High-Level Conference on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries, held at Caracas in May 1981, and called upon the developing countries of the region, particularly those with the means to do so, to show greater solidarity and provide financing and investment assistance by granting long-term low-interest loans.

23. Lastly, whatever the outcome of the Cancún summit conference might be, Syria considered it important to initiate a North-South dialogue in the hope that further meetings would give the countries of the North a better understanding of the difficult economic situation of the South, a situation which they had often helped to create.

24. Miss LIANG (Singapore) said that the Third Development Decade had begun in a world of growing inflation, high unemployment, balance-of-payments problems and slow economic growth. The oil-importing developing countries were particularly affected and the gap between the North and South continued to widen.

25. The Brandt Commission report stressed the interdependence of the global economy and the need to initiate structural reforms. It was therefore necessary to break the stalemate in the North-South negotiations, and co-operation not confrontation must be the thrust of the North-South dialogue. It was therefore her hope that the General Assembly would reach a decision on the launching of the negotiations at the current session.

26. With regard to trade and development, economic growth in the past decade had been fastest in the market-economy developing countries. The well-being and prosperity of developing countries could be built up through industrialization and a free market economy for trade. There was therefore a need to ensure that market access was not denied, in both developed and developing countries, to exports from developing countries. Singapore, which depended on international trade for its survival, was concerned at the current trend towards greater protectionism. New barriers, such as the so-called "voluntary" or negotiated export restraints and other similar measures had recently been added to the traditional tariff and non-tariff barriers against the products of the developing countries. GATT had recently identified 800 new types of non-tariff measures imposed by developed countries.

27. The developed countries should, instead, focus on the restructuring of their economies so that free market forces would enable non-competitive industries to be phased out. Protectionism only postponed the need for change and adversely affected the international trading system. Singapore had already made a start on restructuring within its own economy and was moving away from labour-intensive and lower value-added manufacturing to skill-intensive and higher value-added industries.

28. Commenting on economic and technical co-operation among developing countries, her delegation welcomed the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s, adopted in September 1981 at the Paris Conference, and the Programme of Action, adopted by the High-Level Conference on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries, held at Caracas in May 1981.

29. At the regional level, Singapore and four other independent and sovereign States had established, in 1967, the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) which had made substantial progress in various fields, especially in industry and trade under the

(Miss Liang, Singapore)

preferential trade arrangements, 6581 items were enjoying tariff preferences. Other fields of co-operation included food, agriculture and forestry programmes, energy, science and technology, transport and communications, and social and cultural development.

30. The political stability of the ASEAN countries had attracted foreign investors and had been key factors in the rapid growth rate - 7.3 per cent per annum from 1972 to 1978 and 8 per cent predicted for 1980/1981 - of the ASEAN group, whose successful efforts should be seen as a specific example of economic and technical co-operation among developing countries.

31. Mr. SINCLAIR (Guyana) said that the debate on agenda item 69 had so far highlighted a generalized perception of a world economy in deep-rooted crisis and a future of manifest unpredictability. The economic problems were, indeed, enormous and derived from an economic system of deep structural imbalance. Economic relationships continued to be characterized by their unfairness towards the developing countries and, in that regard, his delegation fully agreed with the analysis presented by Mr. Bedjaoui, the Ambassador of Algeria, in his capacity as Chairman of the Group of 77.

32. Some countries would like to accord priority to bilateral exchanges at the expense of multilateral co-operation and maintained that a healthy global economy was dependent on the prior resolution of domestic economic problems. The developing countries found themselves lectured about the so-called superiority of the free play of market forces, while it sufficed to analyse the situation in which certain developed countries found themselves to question the validity of that argument.

33. The International Strategy for the Third Decade, adopted by the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session did not go as far as the developing countries would have wished, but it nevertheless had the merit of reality and constituted a framework for international economic co-operation for development. His delegation urged all countries to respect the various elements of the Strategy and, in particular, the developed countries to increase their public assistance to development to 0.7 per cent of their gross national product.

34. At its seventh ministerial session held in May 1981 the World Food Council had not failed to recall that the food situation was still one of the critical concerns of the international community. Not only had the eradication of hunger within the current decade proved unfeasible, but the food situation of millions of people in developing countries was painfully precarious. The eradication of hunger was a moral imperative of the times, and it was inadmissible that so many people should suffer that affliction when enormous sums were wasted to feed the arms race.

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(Mr. Sinclair, Guyana)

35. The resolution of the food problem required coherent action at national and international levels. Guyana, for its part, had given to food the highest priority in its development programme and had become a net exporter of food in 1980. However, national efforts must be complemented by those of the international community. His delegation called for increased contributions from the developed countries to multilateral institutions concerned with food development, including the World Food Programme and IFAD.

36. Uncertainty also marked the energy situation, and the Nairobi Conference on Sources of New and Renewable Sources of Energy had been a recognition of the necessity for global solutions. The development of energy resources required considerable financial means, which the developing countries did not have, and it was regrettable that the Nairobi Conference had been unable to reach agreement on the establishment of an energy affiliate in the World Bank. He recalled the proposal to that effect made by Commonwealth Heads of Government in Melbourne and expressed the hope that agreement could soon be reached on that point.

37. The lack of scientific and technological capabilities of the developing countries constituted a major obstacle to their development in the field of energy, as in the field of food or industrialization. That question had been seriously addressed in the Vienna Programme of Action, which had proposed, in particular, the establishment of a financing system to strengthen the scientific and technological capacities of the developing countries. Unfortunately, the Interim Fund had fallen far short of its target of \$250 million. His delegation regretted that, owing to the resistance of some developed countries, the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development had been unable to reach agreement at its resumed third session on the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on the elements of a financing system. His delegation hoped that those developed countries that had been unable to support those proposals in August would be in a position to do so and thus to make the financing system operational by 1 January 1982.

38. The serious economic plight of the least developed countries had been a special concern of the international community, and his delegation was therefore particularly gratified at the results of the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held at Paris in September 1981, as reflected in the Substantial New Programme of Action.

39. The effective participation and integration of women in development was among the priority items on the agenda of international economic co-operation. Guyana had made considerable progress in that field, and today women represented 30 per cent of the total work force, as compared to only 18 per cent in 1970. Guyana intended to accelerate

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the process and aimed at integrating women in all aspects of the nation's life. However, with regard to the participation of women in industrial development, which was dealt with in document A/36/470 prepared by UNIDO, it was to be deplored that a number of the activities proposed by UNIDO, as in the case of many other United Nations agencies, had been compromised by inadequate financial resources.

40. All the economic problems besetting the international community, and especially the developing countries, were global problems requiring global solutions. It was therefore imperative to launch global negotiations without delay, as had been called for by the developing countries. He would recall in that regard the importance of the success attained by the developing countries with regard to co-operation among themselves. The High-Level Conference on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries had resulted in substantive decisions of an action-oriented nature and the elaboration of co-operation machinery. The Caracas Programme of Action reflected the developing countries' new awareness of the fact that development in an interdependent world must be based on mutually beneficial relationships.

41. In conclusion, he recalled that, at that very moment, 22 heads of Government of developed countries and developing countries were meeting in Cancún (Mexico); Guyana, which was participating in that conference, hoped that it would provide the necessary impetus for unblocking the impasse and launching global negotiations.

42. Mr. KITTIKHOUN (Lao People's Democratic Republic) said that, if prolonged, the continual deterioration of the terms of trade might plunge some developing countries into absolute poverty, amplifying even further the current crisis of the world economy. The developed countries, which had undertaken to liberalize international trade, were continuing to intensify protectionist measures aimed at blocking access to their markets for the products of the developing countries. The latter were thus led to wonder whether the current international economic system did not condemn them to perpetual exploitation by the capitalist industrialized countries.

43. Moreover, current trends in international economic relations appreciably impeded the promotion of industrialization, the key to the development of the developing countries. Despite some progress, his delegation noted with deep concern that the essential still remained to be done, particularly in certain very important sectors, such as industrial financing or the transfer of technology.

44. With regard to science and technology, he recalled that in 1979, the General Assembly, by resolution 34/218, had recognized the urgent need to develop the scientific and technical capacities of the

(Mr. Kittikhoun, Lao People's
Democratic Republic)

developing countries in order to enable them to apply science and technology to their own development so as to eliminate the inequalities in that field. It was regrettable, however, to note that, in spite of that access of awareness, it had not been possible to reach a consensus on the United Nations system of financing for science and technology for development.

45. With regard more particularly to the least developed countries, he stressed that the deterioration of their economic situation was becoming a truly alarming problem, because those countries were the most vulnerable in the current economic crisis situation. The international community must therefore intensify efforts that had so far not been sufficiently bold and take urgent and appropriate measures to avoid catastrophe for those countries.

46. The Lao People's Democratic Republic, which belonged to the group of least developed countries, was gratified by the results of the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries because, while it had failed to meet expectations, it had given some grounds for hope. His delegation would like all the developed countries and those countries in a position to do so, as well as all international co-operation agencies, to take appropriate measures to implement the new Substantive Programme of Action adopted by the Conference.

47. In view of the seriousness of world economic problems, it was not sufficient to identify the obstacles to a balanced development of the developing countries; rather the Western countries, instead of letting themselves be befogged by circumstantial problems, should demonstrate the necessary political will to find specific, global and pragmatic solutions which would meet the legitimate needs of the peoples of the developing countries.

48. Mr. ABU-KOASH (Observer, Palestine Liberation Organization), referring to the Secretary-General's report on the living conditions of the Palestinian people (A/36/260 and Add.1), noted that the report, which had been prepared in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 35/75, had only 26 pages, 18 of which contained a study submitted by the Israeli occupation authorities which sought to describe the occupation of Palestinian territory as a process promoting growth and development. In order to give an accurate picture of the situation, his delegation would introduce a draft resolution requesting that a study should be prepared on the effects of Israeli occupation on the occupied territories of Palestine.

49. He proceeded to give some facts about the Palestinian people, a population of 4.5 million which had been dispersed or forced to

(Mr. Abu-Koash)

live in occupied territory since 1948, with that process reaching its climax in 1967 with the occupation of the Gaza Strip. The occupation policy, which consisted of mobilizing the resources of the occupied territory and undertaking projects of benefit only to the occupiers, was clearly illustrated by the situation now prevailing in the occupied territories. For example, the Israeli authorities had closed the Arab banks in the occupied territory, thus blocking the financing of Palestinian projects and had opened their own banks to finance their own projects. They had also prevented the population of the Gaza Strip from receiving assistance from other Arab countries, thus prohibiting them from controlling their own economy. In addition, as shown by the report of the ILO visiting mission to the occupied territories, Arab workers employed by the occupying Power were being exploited: the average wage of the Arab worker was 50 per cent lower than the wage paid to Israeli workers for the same kind of work. Moreover, although the Palestinian workers did not enjoy any fringe benefits - paid holidays, social insurance, etc. - a sum amounting to 30 per cent of their wages was withheld as a social assessment. It should also be noted that while two thirds of Palestinian labour had no other option but to work for the Israeli economy, often in menial jobs which the Israelis refused to take, since the recession in the Israeli economy, that is, since 1974, the Palestinians were the first to be fired, many of them having to leave the occupied territories to find jobs elsewhere. Most of those emigrants were experts and young managerial personnel whose participation in the future rebuilding of the Palestinian economy would be quite valuable.

50. Industry in the occupied territories was also in great difficulty because the Israelis had destroyed its infrastructure so that the Palestinians were wholly dependent on the Israeli economy. Furthermore, the occupation authorities had seized more than a third of all the lands in the occupied territories to satisfy their expansionist aims, in particular, to carry out their plans to establish settlements. In addition, the occupation authorities were creating artificial obstacles to the development of the Palestinian agricultural sector by inciting the Palestinians, in exchange for material rewards, to destroy their farms and attempting in every way to prevent irrigation of the land and the provision of drinking water.

51. With regard to the Israeli plan to link the Mediterranean with the Dead Sea by means of a canal, he drew the attention of the Committee to the resolution adopted on that question, with a single negative vote cast by Israel, by the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, which had strongly censured Israel for its plan and condemned that aggression against the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people and its occupied territory.

(Mr. Abu-Koash)

52. He invoked the Charter on the Economic Rights and Duties of States, which stated that all States had the right and duty to eliminate colonialism, apartheid, racial discrimination, neocolonialism and all forms of aggression, occupation and foreign domination together with their economic and social consequences, and noted that the Palestinian people was determined to regain its rights and to establish an independent Palestinian economy. His delegation reiterated the view that the United States, and its unlimited support of the occupation forces, was largely responsible for perpetuating the situation prevailing in the occupied territories and that it had a duty to help the Palestinian people to free itself from occupation rule and to exercise its right to self-determination. Lastly, he offered his sincere thanks to the many peoples which were encouraging the Palestinian people in its efforts to regain its independence.

AGENDA ITEM 72: SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE (A/36/3/Add.28, Add.31 and Add.32 (part I and Corr.1 and 2 and part II) A/36/38, 73 and Add.1, A/36/183, 208 and Add.1, 259, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 272; E/1981/16 and Corr.1, E/1981/37 and Corr.1 and E/1981/86; A/C.2/36/L.4)

53. Mr. KORDS (German Democratic Republic) said that, as indicated in the reports before the Committee, the countries in emergency situations or which had been struck by disasters needed prompt, well-organized and effective bilateral and multilateral assistance. The United Nations could play a decisive role in that respect, although its efficiency still needed to be enhanced. The problems could not be overcome merely by establishing new organs or expanding the activities of existing bodies without motivation. Attention also had to be given to the long-term effects of assistance programmes and, consequently, to assessing to what extent a particular programme contributed to alleviating the most urgent economic and social problems of the country concerned and whether the relief measures helped to consolidate its economy. The last-mentioned criterion was of particular importance because it was not enough to relieve short-term problems, it was essential to create the conditions necessary to prevent their recurrence.

54. It was also necessary to use the funds earmarked for the preparation of particular economic assistance programmes more efficiently and it would therefore be useful to examine whether the various organs and organizations of the United Nations system already working in the various countries might take over the task that would otherwise be performed by special missions.

55. He recalled that the countries hardest hit by disasters were those which had suffered from colonialism or neo-colonialism and had

(Mr. Kords, German Democratic Republic)

therefore been unable to develop their economy or been forced to become single-crop countries. Those practices were frequently continued by transnational corporations and they and their metropolitan countries bore a special responsibility for the situation. For its part, his country, in the context of the 1980 special relief assistance programmes, had sent food, medicines and drugs, clothing and shelter to the Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Nicaragua, Lebanon, Mozambique, Guinea-Bissau, Cape Verde, Sao Tome and Principe and to the Palestinian people.

56. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 35/86, which had called upon the international community, inter alia, to send emergency food aid to the countries of the Sahel, the GDR, in January 1981, had sent assistance amounting to several million marks to Guinea-Bissau, Niger, Mali and Cape Verde. It would continue to provide that kind of assistance within the limits of its resources.

57. Mr. HILLEL (Israel), speaking in exercise of his right of reply, remarked that the Syrian delegation had exceeded its rights by subjecting Israel once again to a barrage of insults, distorting facts and rewriting history. If the Syrian Arab Republic had agreed to participate in the peace negotiations, the economic and political situation in the Middle East today would be entirely different. The presence of 30,000 Syrian soldiers, who occupied one third of Lebanon, was a major obstacle to the consolidation of the Lebanese Government's authority over its territory and to the restoration of peace in the region. Israel had chosen the path of peace and hoped that that peace would extend to the whole of the region so that all its resources and energies could be completely devoted to the economic and social development of the various countries.

58. Mr. ZWAYNE (Syrian Arab Republic) said that in the statement made a little earlier, his delegation had merely described the facts and presented a picture of the situation in which the population of the occupied territories lived. The measures taken by the Syrian Arab Republic in Lebanon were simply in response to the appeal legitimately made by Lebanon. In his view, the peace chosen by Israel was a peace characterized by occupation and plunder and was therefore disastrous for the Arab people.

59. The CHAIRMAN said that a number of delegations had requested that the time-limit for submitting proposals under agenda item 69, "Development and international economic co-operation" (part I) should be postponed until Wednesday, 28 October at 6.00 p.m. It seemed like a reasonable request and if there was no objection, it would be so decided.

60. It was so decided.

CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
(Agenda item 12)

61. The CHAIRMAN announced that China had become a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.6 on the World Communications Year and that Panama had become a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.2/38/L.8 on the World Tourism Organization.

TRAINING AND RESEARCH (Agenda item 71)

62. The CHAIRMAN announced that the United Republic of Tanzania had become a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.10 on the United Nations University and that Mali and the United Republic of Tanzania had become sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.11 on the United Nations Institute for Training and Research.

The meeting rose at 5.45 p.m.