



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 13TH MEETING

Chairman: Mr. SBIHI (Morocco)

later: Mr. VALTASAARI (Finland)

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AGENDA ITEM 63: TRAINING AND RESEARCH (continued)

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

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

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

Substantive debate

1. Mr. GHAFFAR (Bahrain) said that the main objective of operational activities was to assist the developing countries in changing their backward economic structures and to give them an impetus which would enable them to overcome underdevelopment and related drawbacks. Operational activities were a practical way of applying the guidelines for the establishment of the new international economic order on the basis of mutual confidence and solidarity among peoples, as no group of States could live in isolation and separate from the rest of the international community.

2. In resolution 34/213, the General Assembly regretted that the major premise underlying the integration measures in section V of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197, namely that it would stimulate substantially higher levels of voluntary contributions to operational activities for development, had yet to be fulfilled. The report of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation (A/35/224, annex, para. 16) stated that concessional finance for development had lagged significantly behind disbursement from other sources of capital flows, with the result that the share of net official development assistance flows in total transfers had declined significantly, to less than 30 per cent in 1978. That situation created anxiety and discouragement in the developing countries as they needed to receive that assistance. His delegation therefore urged those countries which were able to do so to transfer resources in real terms so that the developing countries could tackle their serious economic and social problems.

3. For some time a new trend had been emerging in the criteria underlying operational activities, whereby one or more groups of countries would be deprived of the technical assistance provided by the United Nations system owing to the relative increases in their per capita GNP. If that trend were to persist, serious problems would arise and very negative precedents would be set which would weaken the principle of universality, according to which every country should be able to benefit from the operational activities for development. In his opinion, the level of per capita income and other economic indicators currently used in the developed countries did not constitute accurate criteria for evaluating the development of the third-world countries. Many of those indicators did not enable the essential differences existing between national socio-economic systems, especially those arising from the different cultures of various societies, to be appreciated. It was necessary to take seriously into account the fact that, generally speaking, the third-world countries had traditional cultures with very ancient roots and that their social organization had characteristics very distinct from those of the industrialized countries.

(Mr. Ghaffar, Bahrain)

4. The trend to impose new criteria had been very obvious during the eleventh special session of the General Assembly and at the two previous sessions of the UNDP Governing Council. It was most necessary to check that trend in order not to divert the international organizations from their normal courses of action, and it must be borne in mind that there were other possible solutions without having to resort to criteria and indicators which led to such discrimination between countries.
5. With regard to the effectiveness of the actions of the components of the United Nations system dealing with assistance and co-operation, obviously some shortcomings could be found in some aspects of the programmes. In General Assembly resolution 32/197 concerning the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system, efforts had been made to remedy those weaknesses and to increase the effectiveness of the organizations. In that spirit, his delegation expressed its support of most of the criteria set forth by the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation in his report and, in particular, his observations concerning the need to strengthen operational activities and their funding and also to reduce the excessive administrative expenditures of most organizations.
6. Mr. BARREIRO (Uruguay) said that one of the most positive and constructive aspects of the work carried out by the United Nations system was operational activities for development. Uruguay therefore wished the operational activities to be intensified in the spirit which had prompted their establishment.
7. He reaffirmed that the strength and value of UNDP lay in its universality, which meant that all countries could request technical co-operation and that the activities of the Programme should cover all fields in which such co-operation could be provided. Another basic principle was implicit from the principle of universality: that of non-discrimination which required that all developing countries should be treated alike. Another guiding principle was that of the voluntary nature of the contributions made to the Programme; in that connexion it should be recalled that the Latin American countries had been increasing their voluntary contributions to UNDP, in real terms, and had greatly exceeded the annual increase target of 14 per cent.
8. In view of those principles, his delegation considered that per capita income and population size were not adequate criteria for determining indicative planning figures. The size of the external debt of the countries and its effects, the progress achieved in planning and the extent to which technical assistance already received had been utilized must also be taken into account. UNDP, by its nature, was not an organization for the mere transfer of resources; its functions were also connected with assistance and co-operation in the transfer of know-how and the promotion of investment. It must be recognized that it was the countries which had reached a certain level of development which were best able to absorb technical co-operation, as technological inputs produced a greater multiplier effect in countries at an intermediate stage of development. To reduce the flows of technical assistance to those countries meant, in practice, punishing them for

(Mr. Barreiro, Uruguay)

the development efforts they had already made. To make arbitrary differences between developing countries in the matter of technical assistance was to create a division between them and to overlook the fact that one of the common denominators of the developing countries was the overriding necessity to increase their scientific and technological capacity.

9. In the light of the foregoing, Uruguay was dissatisfied with decision 80/30 on the preparations for the third programming cycle, adopted at the twenty-seventh session of the UNDP Governing Council, and would be seriously concerned if the criteria set forth therein were to be extended to other operational activities for development, as it believed that that would have disastrous implications for the smooth operation of the system.

10. Referring to the report of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation (A/35/224, annex), he said it was his understanding that the comprehensive policy review of operational activities was a very positive effort to avoid duplication and excessive administrative costs. He also fully agreed with the statement in the report concerning the need for a substantial increase in the funding of operational activities and that the increase should be more foreseeable and definite so that the Governments of the developing countries could plan their technical assistance inputs bearing in mind the resources available in the United Nations system.

11. The automatic replenishment of funds would be highly desirable but that would necessitate a careful study, as it would be difficult to introduce an international taxation system which did not affect the sovereignty of States and the rights of individual taxpayers. It should be remembered in that connexion that Uruguay, as one of the keystones of its current economic policy, had been reducing the pressure of taxation so that the private sectors of the economy could operate more freely.

12. For those reasons, his delegation noted with concern the recommendation in paragraph 29 of the report of the Director-General that a tax should be levied on international trade. Such a tax would have a negative impact on the expansion of international trade and would also be harmful for the developing countries, because the industrialized countries would always find some way of passing on the tax to the final consumer or to the developing countries purchasing products with a high technological component. The study to be made on automatic financing would also have to take into account the problems of the energy-importing developing countries.

13. The technical assistance provided by the United Nations system should be based on the national objectives and priorities established by the Governments of the recipient countries, in accordance with the annex to General Assembly resolution 3405 (XXX), on new dimensions in technical co-operation.

(Mr. Barreiro, Uruguay)

14. From the outset, the United Nations Fund for Population Activities had accomplished much in its sphere of competence, given the seriousness of population problems. Uruguay had for many years maintained constant co-operation with the Fund and at the same time had received valuable assistance from it. His delegation therefore supported the request by the Executive Director that all countries should increase their contributions in order to provide the Fund with the necessary resources.

15. Mr. PLECHKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that, in evaluating the implementation of United Nations decisions on operational activities, the Soviet Union started from the premise that those activities must contribute to the general task of restructuring international economic relations on a just and democratic basis. His delegation was pleased to note that there had been a definite improvement in the use of the resources available to the UNDP Administration, including contributions in national currencies. The proportion of resources allocated to programme implementation had increased, UNDP planning had improved and greater attention was being given to the proper use and control of budgetary resources. The number of regional projects had increased, which was significant in the light of the decision adopted at the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly conferring the status of executing agencies on the regional commissions. Greater assistance had been given to the least developed and most seriously affected countries, including countries like Viet Nam, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Ethiopia.

16. The future of UNDP depended primarily on the way in which it applied, in all areas of its activity, the basic principles of universality and voluntarism embodied in the 1970 Consensus. It must therefore be asked what the aims were of the campaign launched by a few Western countries at recent sessions of the UNDP Governing Council in order to discredit the voluntary contributions in national currencies made by the Soviet Union and other countries. That campaign ran counter to the goals of UNDP and the voluntary nature of contributions. No such situation prevailed in UNIDO, or in UNICEF, or in other international organizations. UNDP was in a paradoxical position: at a time when it desperately needed resources for development, attempts were being made, for purely propagandistic purposes, to devise artificial ways of preventing developing countries from benefiting from the assistance of the Soviet Union and other States which contributed wholly or partly in national currencies. Those efforts must cease because they were detrimental and unacceptable.

17. A technical assistance organization was comparable neither to a bank nor to a private enterprise; thus, purely commercial criteria of efficiency could not be applied to institutions like UNDP. Furthermore, it was common knowledge that, for every dollar which they contributed to UNDP, some Western countries received in return two or three dollars, or even more, in the form of payments for expert services, equipment supplies, consultancy services, and the like. In the light of those facts, it was relevant to ask who obtained greater material benefits from UNDP activities: the recipient countries or the so-called donor countries, which

(Mr. Plechko, USSR)

included the major Western countries. In that connexion, the UNDP Governing Council had at some time in the past recommended to the donor countries whose enterprises were making healthy profits from services provided through technical assistance that they should increase their contributions to a level in excess of the profits generated by UNDP activities.

18. His delegation must emphasize that the Soviet Union did not impose its assistance on anyone. At the same time, however, the Soviet Union rejected any attempt to impose conditions on its voluntary contributions, which were in total conformity with the existing financial regulations. Its only source of assistance was its national income, which was generated by the work of the Soviet people. For that reason, the Soviet contribution was 75 per cent in national currency and 25 per cent in convertible currency. The Western countries, on the other hand, generated their income in a very different way and their contributions to UNDP were made in the same currencies as the profits they derived in the developing countries.

19. Such national currencies as the Soviet rouble could be used without any difficulty whatever. The rouble was used to finance thousands of enterprises and projects in many countries, on a scale greater than that of the totality of UNDP activities. It was hoped that UNDP would adopt a more positive attitude in that regard and would use more actively the contributions in question to help the developing countries.

20. Certain officials responsible for administrative services were not observing the principles to which operational activities were subject. Decisions concerning the allocation of resources to programmes or projects in individual countries had been breached; that was evident, in particular, with respect to countries which had decided to steer a revolutionary course towards development, as in the case of Afghanistan. There must be an end to all attempts to exert pressure on Governments through the assistance provided by the United Nations system; that type of blackmail could be extended in the future to any developing country.

21. It was clear from the documents under consideration that there were plenty of ways in which the United Nations system of technical assistance could increase its efficiency. Planning methods and programme implementation could be improved. Mention should be made in that regard of projects being imposed on developing countries which were unrelated to their stage of development and which, in fact, did little to meet their needs. The units responsible for technical assistance activities should endeavour to reduce administrative costs, adopt specific rules on priorities, and control more rigorously their technical assistance budgets.

22. Fruitful co-operation had been established between Soviet bodies and UNFPA. Moscow University held training courses for population specialists, and an additional amount of hundreds of thousands of roubles had been contributed to the Fund for the period 1980-1983. Yet, there had been an unjustifiable delay in the use of that contribution in roubles, a delay which was understandable only in the context of what he had previously stated with regard to contributions in national currencies. The procrastination was totally unnecessary, in view of the interest shown by developing countries in the Moscow courses.

(Mr. Plechko, USSR)

23. The work of UNICEF as the agency entrusted with co-ordinating activities for the International Year of the Child deserved mention. Those activities should form part of the normal work of UNICEF and should be integrated into the task of its secretariat. Efforts should be made to achieve a reduction of administrative costs, increased efficiency and an equitable distribution of resources.

24. Soviet organizations wished to participate more actively in programme implementation. There had been breaches of the principle of equitable geographical distribution of personnel, to the detriment of Soviet nationals. In 1979, only 20 of the 1,648 experts in the field had been from the Soviet Union. Once again, that demonstrated the pressure exerted by a small group of Western countries.

25. The socio-economic development of all countries, and in particular of developing countries, required an enormous volume of resources, and operational activities could not be separated from general socio-economic problems. Nothing could be done to further development until effective steps were taken towards achieving international peace and security, ending the arms race and bringing about genuine disarmament. Military budgets increased yearly, while at the same time difficulties with respect to food, education and health grew worse for millions of persons. At the current session of the General Assembly, the Soviet Minister for Foreign Affairs had confirmed yet again that his Government was prepared to embark on negotiations aimed at making specific reductions in the military budgets of the members of the Security Council and other countries with a considerable military capacity. An agreement could also be reached on the amounts which each State would contribute, after reducing its military budget, to assistance for developing countries. It was hoped that that proposal would evoke a response in every country.

26. Mr. RAMBISOON (Trinidad and Tobago) said his delegation welcomed the consensus that had been reached at the twenty-seventh session of the UNDP Governing Council on resource allocations for the third programming cycle and looked forward to continued co-operation with UNDP and its executing agencies during the third cycle. His delegation supported the precepts contained in the 1970 consensus, in particular the universality and voluntary nature of the Programme, which was a multilateral venture open to all developing countries regardless of any difference in their levels of income.

27. There was no direct relationship between a country's per capita GNP and its ability to participate in technical assistance schemes. One of the effects of the faulty link between the two was that it reduced the indicative planning figures of those countries which had a per capita GNP above a certain level and penalized countries which were making strenuous efforts to develop.

28. The per capita income criterion when coupled with that of population, tended to discriminate against small countries, and in particular small island countries. Although their per capita incomes were not high, they were not placed in the category of least developed countries. However, the economies of those islands

(Mr. Rambissoon, Trinidad and Tobago)

were not built on a firm industrial base but were dependent to a large extent on agricultural exports and tourism. The peculiar needs and problems of small island developing countries required special consideration. Unfortunately, the weight given to population and per capita GNP in the allocation of indicative planning figures bore little relationship to the needs of those countries. Countries with small populations received the least from UNDP and, in addition, were required to repay most of the little that they received.

29. The concept of reimbursement targets which was to be found in paragraph 6 (e) of decision 80/30 of the UNDP Governing Council was a dangerous trend away from the 1970 consensus. Under that provision, recipient countries had been stratified according to their per capita GNP, and targets and time frames had been set for increasing their reimbursements to the Programme, depending upon the category into which the recipient country fell. Although the increases would be voluntary, one wondered to what extent the concept of "voluntariness" was compatible with fixed targets and time frames. In fact, that provision seemed to be completely contrary to the voluntary nature of UNDP, since it instituted a system of compulsory or quasi-compulsory reimbursements from certain developing countries and might imply an attempt to shift the responsibility for providing resources to UNDP from the traditional donors to the middle-income developing countries. It was the understanding of Trinidad and Tobago that countries retained the right to determine their own response to the appeals made in decision 80/30.

30. If the per capita GNP criterion was a suitable indicator for determining the resource requirements of developing countries and for reimbursement targets, it would be equally valid for determining the contribution targets which the developed countries should attain. His delegation recognized the need for UNDP to increase its programme resources and therefore endorsed the call to countries to increase their voluntary contributions to the Programme. The success or failure of the implementation of the decisions taken at the twenty-seventh session of the UNDP Governing Council would be determined by the growth of resources made available to the Programme, and his delegation hoped that the target of resource growth of 14 per cent would be met. UNDP was the principal source of technical assistance for all developing countries, and none should be excluded from participating in it either during the third cycle or in future cycles.

31. Mr. MAYIRA (Rwanda) said that his delegation was gratified by the consensus reached at the twenty-seventh session of the UNDP Governing Council on resource allocations under the indicative planning figures, the desire expressed by all delegations that a larger proportion of UNDP's resources should be allocated to the neediest developing countries, and the reaffirmation of the fundamental principles of the universality and voluntary nature of the Programme.

32. However, his delegation regretted that it had not been possible to reach agreement on decision 80/30, paragraph 16 (b) and (c), regarding voluntary contributions in convertible and directly utilizable currencies. It was necessary

(Mr. Mayira, Rwanda)

for all States, and particularly those whose voluntary contributions to UNDP were made in non-convertible currencies and could not therefore be used for the Programme as a whole, to consider the financial problems confronting UNDP. The target of a 14 per cent annual increase in contributions was far from having been achieved, and the growth rate was estimated at present to be 4.7 per cent.

33. There was close co-operation between UNDP and Rwanda, which had been placed in the category of least developed countries. UNDP's contribution to solving Rwanda's problems was very valuable. In co-operation with UNIDO and with the Government, UNDP had completed the execution of a large-scale project, the construction of a pyrethrum refinery, which was a genuine example of multilateral co-operation.

34. His delegation supported the target of a 14 per cent annual increase in voluntary contributions, and hoped that both the basic criteria and the supplementary criteria would be applied in such a way that the least advantaged countries would receive UNDP assistance on the fairest possible basis.

35. The importance of the assistance provided by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities to Rwanda, which had a serious population problem, needed to be stressed. The Government of Rwanda had recently set up a National Population Bureau to study the problem, which had become a priority, and looked forward to fruitful co-operation between UNFPA and the Bureau. His delegation endorsed the decisions adopted by the UNDP Governing Council regarding UNFPA's future role and hoped that the number of co-ordinators in the African region would be increased. It also regretted the lack of resources for the United Nations Special Fund for Land-locked Developing Countries and hoped that generous donations would be made to the Fund at the next Pledging Conference. In conclusion, he expressed his country's support for the activities of the United Nations Children's Fund, the World Food Programme and the United Nations Volunteers programme.

36. Mr. CUDJOE (Ghana) said that his delegation attached great importance to the work of the World Food Programme, especially its activities in low-income countries. Although countries must not be over-dependent on the aid they received, the frequent occurrence of natural disasters meant that the role of the Programme would continue to be of major importance and should be strengthened. For that reason, his delegation was concerned that the Programme might be able to commit only \$450 million to new development projects in 1980, as compared with \$463 million committed in 1979.

37. It needed to be stressed that, since attending to the welfare of children was one of the best means of ensuring the stability and progress of all countries, the international community should continue to focus attention on the activities of UNICEF. His delegation joined in the appeals which had been addressed to all Governments to increase their voluntary contributions to UNICEF so that the Fund might reach its income target of \$350 million for 1982.

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(Mr. Cudjoe, Ghana)

38. His delegation appreciated the role that UNDP had played over the years in support of development efforts, and it therefore welcomed the consensus achieved on resource allocations for the third programming cycle and endorsed the decision to allocate 80 per cent of IPFs to countries with a per capita GNP of less than \$500. However, intercountry programming should continue to receive urgent consideration, in view of the importance it had assumed in the context of economic and technical co-operation among developing countries. In that connexion, it was to be hoped that the decision to enhance the collective involvement of developing countries in intercountry programming would be translated into reality.

39. His delegation endorsed UNDP's intention of according priority to questions of public management during the coming decade. It took note of the Governing Council's decision that the Programme should play some role in helping developing countries to meet their critical energy exploration and pre-investment needs; however, that initiative should not in any way affect the outcome of the review of the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration. It was evident that the effectiveness of UNDP in the coming decade, as in the past, would depend on the availability of resources. His delegation therefore urged donor countries and other countries in a position to do so to increase their voluntary contributions to UNDP to enable it to attain the established planning target of 14 per cent.

40. Commenting on the report of the Director-General for Development and International Technical Co-operation on policy issues relating to operational activities, he said that his delegation saw an urgent need to increase the availability of real resources for those activities, with automatic replenishment and long-term commitments to support development programmes. To assist Governments in planning their programmes, they should be informed of the total magnitude of the resources available from the United Nations system over a given period. As the report pointed out, one of the key issues relating to the mobilization of funds had to do with the integration measures to be taken in respect of the existing United Nations programmes and Funds for development financed from extra-budgetary resources. While a case might be made for avoiding an unnecessary proliferation of Funds, there were equally important considerations militating against the integration of already established Funds. In the view of his delegation, the larger the Fund, the more unwieldy it became and the more difficult to administer, with the risk that it might become less responsive to the needs of the recipient countries.

41. In the context of bringing operational activities into harmony with national policies and priorities, developing countries should participate to a greater degree in decision-making processes relating to those activities. Moreover, operational activities should be increasingly geared towards promoting the objectives of the new international economic order. His delegation was therefore concerned at the gaps in operational activities identified in the Director-General's report. The situation was all the more serious as the gaps existed in such crucial areas as technical co-operation, economic co-operation among developing countries, strengthening the bargaining power of developing countries

(Mr. Cudjoe, Ghana)

and in sectors like science and technology, industry and energy, where success was essential for the restructuring of the international economy.

42. While, in theory, it was the responsibility of the Economic and Social Council to undertake periodic reviews of operational activities, the Council had not been in a position to perform that function, as pointed out in paragraph 107 of the report. Pending the establishment of a single governing council to administer and control operational activities, as provided in paragraph 35 of the annex to resolution 32/197, his delegation recommended that the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, in consultation with the various agencies of the system, should submit periodic reports on those activities to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council.

43. Mr. Valtassaari (Finland) took the Chair.

44. Mr. DOMOKOS (Hungary) said that, while there was no denying the need for regular increases in the volume of funds made available for operational activities, that form of financing was unlikely to become the main source of assistance available to developing countries. Operational activities could only be of a complementary nature. Nevertheless, they were sufficiently useful and important to warrant a comprehensive policy review by the Second Committee.

45. The Hungarian delegation noted with satisfaction that the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation regarded universality as one of the most important principles guiding operational activities. By consistent application of that principle, the very base of those activities was constantly being widened. For example, Hungary took part in UNDP activities not only as donor but also as recipient. Although UNDP-assisted projects in Hungary had been designed primarily to help attain its national development objectives, the developing countries also stood to benefit from them in many ways. On the other hand, such avenues of co-operation could not have been found without the participation of UNDP in the execution of the projects. Consequently, any step tending to restrict the application of the principle of universality was bound to weaken the capacity of the system itself.

46. Hungary attributed paramount importance to the principle of voluntary participation in operational activities. It should be pointed out, however, that the applicability of that principle was questioned from time to time. The Director-General's report (A/35/224, Annex), for example, contained ideas whose implementation would constitute a step in that direction, specifically, the idea of levying a tax on international trade or that of financing operational activities partially from the regular budgets of the organizations concerned. There was no doubt that the resource needs of developing countries were enormous and that the vigorous inflation experienced in the capitalist world resulted in an almost daily decline in the real value of the funds available for operational activities. Still, the financing of those activities could only be based on the principle of voluntary participation.

(Mr. Domokos, Hungary)

47. That principle should apply not only to the volume of contributions, but also to the currency in which they were made. It could not be claimed that advantage would accrue from a rule that contributions to technical co-operation could be made in convertible currencies only. A country might be willing to increase the volume of its voluntary contributions in national currency regularly, whereas the same country, owing to foreign exchange scarcity, might be constrained to refrain from increasing its contributions if they were required in convertible currency. What beneficiary countries received in the framework of operational activities was not currencies, but rather goods, services and training facilities, for which national currencies could be used just as well. The only precaution to be taken was not to concentrate operational activity inputs on sources of supply from only a couple of developed capitalist countries. It was therefore all the more regrettable that decision 80/30 of the twenty-seventh session of the Governing Council of UNDP reflected an attempt to depart from the principle of voluntary contributions to the Programme. Hungary was one of the countries that contributed to UNDP resources in national currency, and its utilization posed no problem. However, Hungary's contributions could be utilized more efficiently if UNDP and its executing agencies were to update their information on goods and services available in Hungary periodically.

48. His delegation did not share the view that pledges of contributions should be announced for several years ahead with a view to establishing five-year country IPFs. Experience had shown that since the establishment of the system of country programming, there had been no need to reduce the IPFs due to shortage of financial resources. On the other hand, many countries would find it impossible to introduce multiyear pledging when their national budgets were determined for only one year ahead.

49. While it would be quite useful to undertake comprehensive policy reviews of operational activities in future, very frequent in-depth analyses were not justified. Detailed analyses could be coupled with the review and appraisal machinery established for the implementation of the new international development strategy and with the programming cycles of UNDP. He expected that the documentation to be submitted for comprehensive reviews would provide an adequate basis for objective conclusions.

50. At its twenty-seventh session, the UNDP Governing Council had adopted an important decision concerning the third programming cycle which was unfortunately based on World Bank data for the allocation of country IPFs. Hungary could not agree either in principle or in practice with a procedure whereby important decisions were not based on official statistical data which countries made available to the United Nations. It was particularly unacceptable in the case of countries which were not members of the World Bank. Moreover, Hungary did not regard the World Bank data as reliable, as evidenced, for example, by the fact that indicators published by the Bank had varied by more than 20 per cent for the same year, depending on the approach used in deriving the data. With that reservation, he stated that the UNDP-assisted projects executed in Hungary had, without exception, been successful.

51. His delegation favourably assessed the activities of UNICEF, particularly those carried out in Kampuchea, to which Hungary had contributed by sending a team of doctors, and the follow-up activities of the International Year of the Child,

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(Mr. Domokos, Hungary)

which were to be incorporated in the every-day work of UNICEF. Hungary was co-operating with the United Nations Fund for Population Activities; a seminar on family planning held in Budapest represented Hungary's contribution to resolving the demographic problems of the developing countries.

52. His delegation also attributed great importance to the training of qualified national personnel because it believed that capital investments could not achieve their full impact if they were not coupled with adequate investments in human resources. Today, some 2,000 persons from developing countries were receiving training in Hungary under various schemes of bilateral and multilateral co-operation and many Hungarian experts were being sent to developing countries to assist in the training of professional personnel. In that connexion, the report of the Administrator of UNDP on the role of qualified national personnel in the social and economic development of developing countries (DP/443) was to be commended.

53. He concluded by pointing out that co-operation among countries could only flourish in conditions of peace. He therefore supported disarmament measures and the utilization of the funds thus released for purposes of international technical and economic co-operation.

54. Mr. EL-JEAAN (Kuwait) said he agreed that technical co-operation in its broadest sense was an indispensable agent of transition to a new global economic order. The third world countries found themselves in a vicious circle, owing to the prohibitive costs of modern technology and the lack of resources to purchase it, and UNDP had done excellent work in institutionalizing the transfer of technology. While the transfer of technology was very important, his delegation considered that economic co-operation in the form, for example, of liberalization of international trade and reform of the international monetary system would give an impetus to technical co-operation. The mere transplantation of modern technologies and research methods from the developed to the developing countries was usually futile because of the difference in conditions between the two groups of countries.

55. Kuwait welcomed the UNDP Governing Council's decision whereby, for the next programming cycle, 80 per cent of the IPFs for country programming would be allocated to countries with per capita GNP of less than \$500. It also welcomed the decision authorizing the Administrator to seek and accept voluntary contributions to help developing countries to meet their energy needs. Kuwait had always supported the developing countries in their efforts to develop indigenous energy sources. Recently, the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation had become a full participant and shareholder in the International Energy Development Corporation, which would be promoting the development of energy sources in third world countries. It should also be mentioned that the energy and food sectors, especially in the least developed countries, were the areas receiving priority in the activities of the OPEC Fund for International Development.

56. Kuwait and some other OPEC countries used bilateral means extensively to channel resources to developing countries, and he therefore felt that UNDP should establish means of co-ordinating its activities with the assistance given to developing countries on a bilateral basis. The Government of Kuwait had decided to increase its contribution to UNDP for 1980 by 14 per cent.

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(Mr. El-Jeaan, Kuwait)

57. Population management was a valuable solution to many chronic problems facing developing countries. For that reason, the increasing role which UNFPA was playing in connexion with the economic and social planning of those countries, whose capacities in data collection and analysis, and particularly in conducting censuses, the Fund was helping to strengthen, was very valuable. UNFPA was also promoting awareness of the social, economic and environmental implications of population problems. It therefore deserved all the support that the international community could muster.

58. The food problem was extremely serious in the developing countries; however, the international community in general was ignoring the cries of the hungry. Kuwait had contributed generously to that sector. The concentration of grain production in a few countries and its frequent use as a political instrument was bound to influence importing countries in their planning for trade and production. The International Fund for Agricultural Development, established in 1977, was helping to solve food production problems in the developing countries.

59. His delegation attached special importance to the recent meetings on economic co-operation among developing countries held in Vienna and New York under the auspices of the Group of 77. It hoped that the conference to be held in 1981 would strengthen such co-operation and help developing countries to achieve self-reliance.

60. Lastly, he would like to refer to decision 79/18 of the UNDP Governing Council on assistance to the Palestinian people. The Administrator had undertaken consultations with all interested parties in an effort to start implementing some projects identified by UNDP in collaboration with all elements of the United Nations system, but implementation had not been possible owing to continued harassment and inhuman practices by the occupying authorities. Such assistance should not be channelled via the occupying authorities but should go directly to the Palestinian people through the United Nations agencies and organs in co-operation and consultation with the local Palestinian organizations, because it had been proved that the occupying authorities had spared no effort to retard the advancement of the Palestinian Arabs.

61. Mr. VU SONG (Viet Nam) said that the report of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation (A/35/224, annex) was in keeping with the policies and guidelines expressly laid down in the relevant General Assembly resolutions. The operational activities of the United Nations system should, in the first place, take into account the overriding need to ensure the economic independence of the developing countries by promoting planned long-term national efforts aimed at optimum use of their resources. Secondly, they should promote the participation of the developing countries in the restructuring of international economic relations by creating an institutional framework which would ensure that they had a hand in decision-making and by combating all manifestations of neo-colonialism. Lastly, they should strengthen economic and technical co-operation among developing countries in order to consolidate their individual and collective self-reliance and strengthen their position in the North-South negotiations.

(Mr. Vu Song, Viet Nam)

62. The UNDP country programming system met the requirements of long-term development planning in the recipient countries, and the Programme's approach in that respect should be adopted by other organizations.
63. The activities of the World Food Programme concerning emergency food aid, the co-ordinating activities of UNICEF - especially in connexion with the International Year of the Child and humanitarian relief - and the measures adopted by UNFPA with respect to family planning were praiseworthy. However, to make those operational activities even more effective, the ties between research and analysis of such activities must be tightened, the costs of engaging experts for projects must be cut to the absolute minimum by using local experts instead and undertaking training activities, and administrative and support costs must be reduced so that the resources involved could be used for development.
64. Co-operation between his country and the United Nations organizations he had mentioned had developed satisfactorily, and representatives of UNDP, UNICEF, WFP and UNFPA had set up offices in the capital of Viet Nam. Officials of those organizations had visited the country and had seen the tremendous efforts the Vietnamese people was making for national reconstruction and economic development.
65. However, there were surreptitious forces which were trying to obstruct international assistance to Viet Nam, particularly from the World Bank and WFP. They were the same forces which had bloodied and burnt the soil of Viet Nam, namely, the United States imperialists and the Chinese hegemonists and expansionists. Those manoeuvres must be stopped so that the activities of the United Nations could proceed without hindrance.
66. Mr. BA-ISSA (Democratic Yemen) said that, although the report of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation (A/35/224, annex) did not deal exhaustively with policies relating to operational activities, it was extremely valuable and important. It showed that operational activities offered a unique opportunity to help the developing countries to become self-reliant and make greater use of the material and human resources available locally, in order to achieve the objectives they themselves had set and contribute to the establishment of the new international economic order. The report also pointed out a number of short-comings and negative aspects, including the tendency to ignore certain fields, such as trade and relations with transnational corporations, which ought to be given greater attention. He wished to stress the need to increase the efficiency of international organizations and reduce the percentage of administrative costs by avoiding waste, so that the best use might be made of the resources available. He also wished to mention the importance of co-ordinating the activities of the different organizations in order to avoid duplication of effort and its adverse effects on programmes.
67. The main obstacle to technical and economic co-operation was the decrease in the transfer of real resources to developing countries. It was essential for all members of the international community without exception to meet their commitments; in view of the continual changes and fluctuations in the world economic situation and the backwardness which afflicted the developing countries, especially at a time

(Mr. Ba-Issa, Democratic Yemen)

when the world was preparing for the start of the Third United Nations Development Decade. Attention should be drawn in particular to the enormous waste represented by the resources used for the production of weapons of destruction and to the machinations of certain countries which sought to divert the attention of the peoples of the world from the real problems and to focus it on secondary conflicts and preparations for war.

68. A further reason for concern was the fact that a great proportion of all the resources transferred to developing countries had gone to middle-income countries. In his view, a special effort should be made to channel that aid to the least developed and poorest developing countries, so that they could use it to overcome their structural problems, exploit their resources and develop their own institutions with a view to improving the level of living of their populations. The eleventh special session of the General Assembly had brought out that need, and also the need for developing countries to achieve self-reliance and to establish closer technical and economic links among themselves and take advantage of the complementarity of their resources and economies. He drew attention also to the major role that the regional economic commissions could play.

69. His delegation endorsed the conclusions reached at the most recent meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 and reaffirmed its support for the decisions adopted during the most recent session of the Governing Council of UNDP, which established criteria for the allocation of assistance in the third programming cycle. The criteria worked out at that session represented a step forward towards social and economic justice. It was not possible to support the consensus achieved during that session without at the same time advocating a substantial increase in the assistance that donor countries were to provide over the next few years.

70. His delegation commended UNDP for its initiative relating to the exploitation of the potential energy resources of developing countries. On a number of occasions emphasis had been placed on the great possibilities of those countries as far as oilfields, gas and new and renewable sources of energy were concerned. It must, however, be recognized that exploitation of such sources of energy called for enormous investment, which entailed considerable commercial risk. He expressed the hope that during the forthcoming United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy a fund to handle such special financing problems would be set up. Democratic Yemen hoped that the countries and organizations that were in a position to do so would assist in achieving that important goal.

71. His country hoped to achieve a quantitative and qualitative improvement in its relations with the organizations of the United Nations system responsible for carrying out operational activities, particularly UNICEF, and commended those organizations for the great efforts they had made and for the assistance they had provided to developing countries. The same could be said of the World Food Programme.

72. Countries that were the victims of foreign aggression and racial discrimination should receive special assistance to enable them to regain their

(Mr. Ba-Issa, Democratic Yemen)

rights. In particular, the Palestinian people must be assisted in their struggle against the Zionist usurpers, who were violating the high principles that all States Members of the Organization advocated. He expressed the hope that close co-operation between the various United Nations agencies and the representatives of the Palestinian people would continue so that that people might pursue its struggle for liberation until final victory.

73. Mr. LIPTAU (Federal Republic of Germany) expressed his delegation's appreciation of the fact that, for the first time, a comprehensive report had been prepared on operational activities (A/35/224, annex). That report contained a number of ideas that had been generally accepted, such as the principle of universality, the principle that all countries had something to contribute to operational activities and the principle of the sovereignty of the recipient Governments in determining their own development priorities. Although there might be general agreement with regard to the objective of operational activities, namely, to achieve national and collective self-reliance for the developing countries, there were different views as to the most suitable policies for achieving that goal.

74. The great challenge that the international community must meet was mass poverty in the developing countries, and the primary objective of his Government's development policy was to satisfy such basic needs as food, drinking water, health, housing and education through bilateral and multilateral assistance programmes. Satisfaction of such needs would increase the populations' working capacity and would thus constitute the basis for sustained and independent economic growth. The chief goal was, therefore, that persons living in absolute poverty should derive direct benefit from the programmes in question. All countries should be involved in co-operation for development, and it was a matter of considerable concern that the bulk of the expenditure on operational activities was borne by a small number of countries, including his own. He wished to emphasize once again that the fundamental principle governing the financing of operational activities was the voluntary character of contributions.

75. His delegation endorsed the recommendation in the report of the Director-General that the least developed and other low-income countries should receive a greater share of United Nations assistance over the next few years. His Government was channelling nearly 50 per cent of its total bilateral official development assistance to countries with an annual per capita income of less than \$300, and it hoped to increase that proportion even further. It was also in favour of strengthening the procedures for evaluating the operational activities of the United Nations system and it hoped that the organizations concerned would draw up proposals for programme and project evaluation procedures. It was also necessary for the Governments of the recipient countries to be involved, wherever feasible, in the execution of technical assistance projects financed by the United Nations system, since that would considerably strengthen the institutional capacities of the developing countries.

76. His delegation wished to express its satisfaction at the consensus achieved during the most recent session of the Governing Council of UNDP with regard to the third programming cycle. However, the target of \$6.5 billion could be reached only

(Mr. Liptau, Federal
Republic of Germany)

if major donors and other countries in a position to do so increased their voluntary contributions in the next few years. It was to be hoped that at its next session the Governing Council could reach agreement on pending problems concerning non-convertible currencies.

77. In his delegation's view, the role of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities with regard to population programmes and family planning policies was a decisive factor in the economic and social development of the developing countries. He stressed the contribution made by his country, through its Government and its National Committee for UNICEF, to the work of the United Nations Children's Fund, with regard to both emergency situations and its function of lead agency for activities relating to children.

78. His delegation wished to express its support for the World Food Programme and its regret that contributions for 1979 and 1980 had not yet reached the planned target of \$950 million. It hoped that donors that had not already done so would make the contributions announced at the 1978 pledging conference. With regard to the United Nations Volunteers, he noted that from 1979 to 1980 the number of volunteers had increased by some 60 per cent, which showed the growing interest of the developing countries in that programme. However, its rapid expansion might pose a problem where adequate project preparation was concerned. His Government had always supported that programme and assisted in recruiting volunteers in the Federal Republic of Germany.

79. Mr. Sbihi (Morocco) resumed the Chair.

80. Mr. BAGBENI (Zaire) said that adoption at the sixth special session of the General Assembly of the Declaration and Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order called for the acceptance by all States Members of the United Nations of a new code of international solidarity and a new approach to changes in the international economic structures to achieve an equitable distribution of prosperity in the world and to remedy natural inequalities.

81. However, very limited progress had been made with the establishment of the New International Economic Order, and the economic crisis had reduced the possibilities for promoting economic co-operation. An increase in operational activities for development should, therefore, be promoted both at the level of multilateral relations and at the level of voluntary action on the part of States that had the necessary resources at their disposal. In fact, the report of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation (A/35/224, annex) recommended a series of measures to establish a closer link between operational activities and the vaster and more diverse issues of international co-operation and development. During the eleventh special session, the General Assembly had been unable to take a clear and unequivocal decision on those measures, and it was now for the Committee to devote the necessary attention to the current difficult situation.

82. In accordance with paragraph 28 of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197, there must be a real increase in the flow of resources for operational activities on a predictable, continuous and assured basis. The delegation of Zaire was grateful to the developed countries which were endeavouring

(Mr. Bagbeni, Zaire)

to increase the financial resources at the disposal of UNDP, WFP, UNIDO and UNITAR and other organizations by means of voluntary contributions. Those and other countries must respond to the appeal for international solidarity which would permit those organizations to continue their activities aimed at achieving the objectives and priorities set by the recipient countries. The mobilization of resources was of special relevance in view of the fact that the target of 0.7 per cent of the GNP established for official development assistance in the 1970s had not yet been reached. The present volume of official development assistance was only half that figure.

83. Nevertheless, it was clear from a number of studies and reports that the total flow of resources to the developing countries was increasing. What was happening was that it was primarily composed of credits secured on the international money market, principally on a bilateral basis. There was a certain reluctance on the part of the developed countries to provide less onerous assistance on a multilateral basis. Although the United Nations system did offer an important mechanism for the transfer of assistance to developing countries, its share of the total volume of assistance was marginal compared to the total amount of foreign aid. That meant that the system's capacity to provide assistance and the availability of assistance on flexible terms were small.

84. Chapter IV of the Director-General's report was exclusively devoted to technical assistance, but in his delegation's view operational activities should also promote scientific and technical co-operation among developing countries with the object of ensuring their collective self-reliance. It was likewise important for those activities to be oriented towards world food security, particularly in regions severely affected by agricultural and food deficits.

85. Aid could only achieve maximum effectiveness if the operational agencies strove to reduce their administrative costs and use local natural and human resources so as to increase the innovative and productive capacity of the recipient countries; his delegation fully endorsed the idea of operational responsibility being exercised at the country level.

86. The strengthening of regional and subregional co-operation would have positive effects on the economies of the countries concerned. Within the context of strengthening and diversifying operational activities for development in Africa, the Lagos Plan of Action for the implementation of the Monrovia strategy for the economic development of Africa (A/S-11/14) and the resolution recently adopted by the Second Committee on the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa should be borne in mind. He expressed the hope that the countries of Africa would give unconditional support in those specific fields, since their out-of-date transport systems were a serious obstacle to the growth of the African economies, and the Decade provided an opportunity to improve them.

87. In each country, the resident co-ordinator's function should be to give direct assistance to the Government in its relations with the international financing institutions such as the World Bank in order to facilitate those institutions' perception and understanding of the Government's objectives and priorities.

(Mr. Bagbeni, Zaire)

88. Turning to the particular problems facing his country with regard to transport, transit and access to foreign markets, he noted that in its resolution 34/193 the General Assembly had endorsed UNCTAD resolution 110 (V) on that subject, and had requested the Secretary-General to take the necessary steps to enable the Economic Commission for Africa to accelerate the implementation of that resolution, and report to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session. His delegation was awaiting the Secretary-General's report on the subject with keen interest.

89. Environmental protection and nature conservation were fundamental concerns for Zaire. The destruction of natural systems brought about by over-consumption of resources inevitably led to the destruction of the ecological systems. His delegation had therefore proposed the inclusion in the agenda of the current session of the General Assembly of an item entitled "Draft World Charter for Nature", which was intended to be a code of conduct governing relations between man and nature. Ecological considerations should also form one of the new guidelines for operational activities and should be borne in mind in the preparation and approval of development programmes.

90. Mr. KITIKHOUM (Lao People's Democratic Republic) expressed satisfaction with the activities undertaken by UNDP, which had considerably increased in real value in 1979 despite the inflation resulting from the world economic crisis, which, in turn, was a consequence of the inequalities in international economic relations. However, because of the conditions prevailing in certain countries, there were still some procedural difficulties, which might be overcome by applying more flexible methods and with the aid of closer contacts between the Resident Representative and the Government of the country concerned.

91. The third UNDP programming cycle (1982-1986) would coincide in part with the five-year plan of the Lao People's Democratic Republic (1981-1985), which explained the importance his country attached to UNDP assistance for the restoration of its economy. However, he stressed that, although he supported the decisions taken by the Governing Council at its twenty-seventh session concerning the Indicative Planning Figures (IPF) for the third cycle, he could not forget that earlier promises of assistance to overcome his country's difficulties had never been translated into reality.

92. Furthermore, the delegation of the Lao People's Democratic Republic wished to express its strong indignation at the attitude of one economically and militarily powerful country which had vainly attempted to prevent the Governing Council from adopting the development projects for the Lao People's Democratic Republic by making libellous charges of violations of human rights. Attitudes of that kind were highly prejudicial to the activities of UNDP, which had always been a non-political body and must continue to be so. In any event, those charges would be duly refuted at the appropriate time and place.

93. As a land-locked country, the Lao People's Democratic Republic appreciated the efforts made by the international community in establishing a United Nations Special Fund for Land-Locked Developing Countries and in adopting UNCTAD resolution 123 (V), which stressed the need for international institutions and

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

donor countries to increase the flow of technical and financial assistance to land-locked developing countries. It was to be regretted, however, that because of the limited resources at the disposal of the Fund, the decisions reached after such arduous efforts had not been implemented.

94. He appealed to all donors and other countries in a position to do so to co-operate in seeking a solution which would permit a substantial increase in the resources available to UNDP and the other organizations of the United Nations system, whose growing activities were out of all proportion to the financial resources at its disposal.

95. Many of the objectives specified in the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade, particularly the social objectives, had not yet been attained. But during that Decade positive steps had been taken to improve the condition of children, and the International Year of the Child had aroused universal awareness of the rights and needs of children. In recent years increasing stress had been laid on the important role played by UNICEF in obtaining larger allocations of resources for children and in promoting innovative action to improve their well-being and to encourage inter-country exchanges of information and experience. As the Alma Ata Conference on Primary Health Care had entrusted important activities to UNICEF, there must be an increase in the resources available to the Fund commensurate with its new responsibilities.

AGENDA ITEM 63: TRAINING AND RESEARCH (continued):

(a) UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE FOR TRAINING AND RESEARCH: REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (A/C.2/35/L.6)

96. The CHAIRMAN announced that Bangladesh, Egypt, Norway, Pakistan, Peru and Zambia had joined the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/35/L.6.

The meeting rose at 6.25 p.m.