



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 31st MEETING

Chairman: Mr. VERCELES (Philippines)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.55 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 72: SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE (continued)
(A/C.2/36/L.28)

1. Mr. BLAIN (Gambia), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.28 on behalf of the sponsors listed in the document and also Bangladesh, Ecuador, France, Senegal and the United Republic of Cameroon, pointed out that Finland had mistakenly been listed as a sponsor.
2. The serious problem posed by the persistent drought in the Sahel had paralysed the efforts to accelerate the social and economic development of the countries in that region. Indeed, the serious food situation in the Sahel had been aggravated by the prolonged drought, badly distributed and unseasonable rains and the encroachment of the desert which was estimated to be advancing at the rate of 6 kilometres annually. A lasting solution to that problem depended on the provision by the international community of the financial resources, the inputs and the technology needed for the implementation of recovery and rehabilitation programmes for the Sahelian countries within the framework of the projects identified by the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel and the intensification and expansion of the activities currently being undertaken by the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO).
3. To date, 116 national and regional projects - costing an estimated \$656 million - had been submitted to UNSO by the Governments of the States Members of the Permanent Inter-State Committee and it was gratifying to see that UNSO had already secured a significant portion of that amount. The mobilization of the necessary resources for the remaining projects would be actively pursued by UNSO. He took the opportunity to urge the international donor community and the Governments of all countries to contribute generously to the United Nations Trust Fund for Sudano-Sahelian Activities in order to enhance UNSO's capacity to respond to the pressing needs of the countries in the region.
4. Mr. SAUNDERS (Assistant Secretary-General and leader of the multi-agency drought mission) said that, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 35/90 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1981/48, the mission had visited Djibouti, Kenya, Somalia, the Sudan and Uganda between 20 September and 25 October 1981, and had prepared a report on each country. The mission's task had been to assess the medium- and long-term needs of the Governments for their drought-affected populations and, in the case of Kenya, to assess also the short-term needs.
5. Although the mission's terms of reference referred also to natural disasters, the mission had found that it was fully occupied with the problem of drought. It had become evident that there were widely different views on the definition of drought. Accordingly, the mission urged each Government to reach an understanding of the nature of the problem in its country, and to disseminate the view widely, so as to permit a better integration of the work. It had proved very difficult to separate measures aimed at general economic development from those designed to

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(Mr. Saunders, Assistant
Secretary-General)

mitigate the effects of drought but the mission had tried to draw a distinction between the two. Although the mission had recommended to donors a number of pressing projects, in general it had concentrated on outlining the steps required in order to lay down a general policy and programme which would permit the development of well-based high-priority projects.

6. The five countries visited had encountered drought over many years and it was not until the last two or three years that they had found themselves in difficulties because of it. The reasons for the present crisis were the following: in the rural, traditionally poor areas, the human and animal population had been increasing rapidly and the margin of subsistence on which they were living had become so narrow that when the drought persisted it brought in its train catastrophe, suffering and death; in the richer rural areas and in the urban areas, rising population and a demand for a better and more varied diet had begun to produce difficulties when national food production had fallen as a result of the drought. Whereas in previous years the shortages could have been met by importing food, in recent times, owing to the unfavourable world economic climate, such a recourse had become financially very difficult. Lastly, countries had experienced added burdens on their weak national services and budgets because of displaced persons and refugees or because of security problems.

7. The unique problems of Djibouti consisted of a lack of natural resources, absence of potential for agricultural development and a critical shortage of water; the economy lacked a substantial domestic base and approximately two thirds of the country's population lived in the city of Djibouti; in addition, there was a chronic lack of trained and experienced staff. The mission proposed that the Government arrange for a census of displaced persons and refugees to provide a basis for a policy of response to the situation. There was also a pressing need for a careful analysis of existing projects and proposals so that the modest quantities of skills and funds available could be put to the most effective use. It was not yet evident that there were sufficient employment or resettlement possibilities to cover the needs of all the people living in camps; large numbers of whom appeared to be children. The mission recommended that steps be taken to pool information and co-ordinate action through a working group, to be established by the Government, consisting of representatives of government departments and United Nations, bilateral and voluntary agency programmes, with the UNDP Resident Representative acting as secretary.

8. The President of Kenya had stated that the basic aim of Kenya's food policy was for the country to become self-sufficient in basic foods. He had spoken of the challenge posed by a high birth rate and had added that, as drought was by no means unknown in Kenya, the farming industry should be ready for it and should not be taken by surprise. Kenya would probably have been able to handle a drought without external assistance had it not been for the combined effect of the recent drought and global economic problems. Accordingly, Kenya would continue to need some assistance with food supply though that need would not persist indefinitely.

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The mission had made recommendations regarding the establishment of a drought control policy, a national drought mitigation programme and arrangements for co-ordination, for all of which external assistance would be needed.

9. In Somalia, major natural disasters had been superimposed on a structurally weak, less developed economy whose difficulties had been further compounded by the large influx of refugees and the rapidly rising cost of energy. Although the Government had been receiving help to deal with the refugee problem, it had only meagre financial resources for development; in addition, despite the fact that the refugee situation had eased, some of its consequences would remain for a long time. Another obstacle was the lack of trained and experienced staff. The mission had noted that, until 1970, Somalia had been self-sufficient in staple food such as sorghum and maize. Given the improvement in food production in the past year the mission suggested that donors should consider the possibility of supplying Somalia with agricultural inputs such as fertilizer and pesticides in partial replacement for food. Somalia would still face many major difficulties and would need much help over a long period of time.

10. The long-range prospects for the Sudan were encouraging but there were major difficulties to be overcome first. Although 50 per cent of the population was concentrated on 15 per cent of the total area, the remaining land had an agricultural potential which had not yet been utilized. Accordingly, there was every reason, in principle, for the Sudan to become a major food exporter in the long term. Global economic problems had exacerbated the domestic difficulties and, in that context, the drought had become a threatening element. Had it not been for the fact that the crises had all come at the same time, the Sudan might have handled the drought crisis without external aid. Given the size of the country, however, drought appeared in different places, at different times and with different consequences. A comprehensive policy was needed to respond flexibly to the whole range of difficulties, which included the great shortage of internal transport facilities to move food from one part of the country to another. There was also a severe lack of experienced personnel because of the many workers who had taken jobs abroad. In the view of the mission, the Sudan should develop a well-integrated programme to carry out a comprehensive national policy for dealing with drought. In that connexion the UNDP Resident Representative could further enlarge his assistance to the Government and to donors. In summary, while the Sudan should be able eventually to extract itself from its drought difficulties, it would require a good deal of external assistance in the meanwhile.

11. Uganda had at one time been self-sufficient in food and there was no reason why it should not be so again; however, the events of earlier years combined with the recent drought and the impact of the global economic crisis had pushed into the future the time when that could be achieved. The mission had thought that agriculture and livestock should be revitalized as a first step towards the reattainment of self-sufficiency in food. Special programmes would be needed for the Karamoja region and to restore a minimum transport capacity for the movement of agricultural produce. There was also a problem of population growth and it was essential to improve the security situation in and around Kampala.

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Secretary-General)

12. With regard to the measures of regional co-operation referred to in operative paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 35/90, the Governments of Kenya, Somalia, the Sudan and Uganda had welcomed the idea of such measures enthusiastically while the Government of Djibouti had said that it would respond after it had studied the mission's reports. Those reports mentioned a number of tasks which the Governments thought could be entrusted to a regional body, for instance: control of the movement of people and animals across frontiers; exchange of information and experience on drought control; consideration of common transport problems; improvement of telecommunications; common facilities for research on drought-resistant crops; pooling of weather and drought-forecasting information; sharing of experience on the use of arid lands; availability and utilization of common water resources; and pooling of experience on primary health care for nomadic populations.

13. Among the steps which should now be taken, each Government must establish a policy for dealing with drought as a recurring phenomenon, instead of tackling each drought as a new emergency. Such policies must take into account a wide range of factors and the need to integrate the objectives set for the various sectors of the economy. Those policies should have clearly defined goals and be widely publicized so that they could draw on the support of all those whose co-operation would be needed. Since no country possessed all the resources it needed, policies should set clear priorities. Such policies should also be reflected in detailed national programmes which, while referring specifically to the mitigation of drought, should be firmly placed within the context of national development plans and must also be related to the desertification control projects on which several Governments were already working.

14. Governments would need more facts and information in order to prepare policies and programmes. The mission had frequently encountered substantially different views on how many displaced persons or refugees there were, what were the age and education needs of which groups of children were involved, etc. That had at times prevented the mission from advancing beyond general statements in recommending possible measures of assistance. The mission also believed that there was a need for improved co-ordination of planning and execution among government departments, among donors, and between donors and governments, and had suggested a number of approaches to the general problem of the shortage of trained and experienced personnel. It was also necessary to meet Governments' concern that camps for displaced persons and refugees should not turn into semi-permanent settlements whose occupants were unable to become self-sufficient in food and other resources.

15. In view of the various Governments' evident interest in some form of regional co-operation, it was now for those Governments to look carefully at the obligations to be undertaken and the benefits to be derived by each partner under co-operation agreements, given the substantial differences among them as to problems and resources. Those Governments would also find it useful to conduct a formal review of their relations with multilateral, bilateral, governmental and non-governmental donors. *Not all of the governments and organizations that had given valuable help in the past were convinced of the need for further help now.* The mission, which

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(Mr. Saunders, Assistant
Secretary-General)

was convinced that there were major problems to be tackled, therefore suggested the need for a renewed dialogue with donors. In that connexion, the mission had stressed to the five Governments the need to explain their case more clearly and factually to possible donors, since their requirements were not self-evident and in any event the global economic climate was such that donors themselves were experiencing financial difficulties. The UNDP Resident Representatives had a key role to play in such a dialogue and the mission suggested that the five Governments should take early steps to review with UNDP the question of their relations with donors and prepare a plan covering future measures.

AGENDA ITEM 69: DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (continued)
(A/36/3/Add.2, Add.4, Add.13, Add.14 and Add.29, A/36/15, A/36/37 (Parts I, II and III), A/36/39, A/36/45, A/36/47 (Parts I and II), A/36/116 and Corr.1, A/36/240, 333, 356, 380, 419 and Add.1, 421, 477, 483, 497, 528 and Corr.1, 536, 538, 566, 573, 576, 577, 584, 605 and 631 and Corr.1; A/CN.11/21; A/CONF.100/11; A/CONF.104/22 and Add.1; A/C.2/36/L.2, L.3, L.27, L.31/Rev.1 and L.32.

(c) TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

(e) SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT

(h) ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

(i) RESTRUCTURING OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SECTORS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

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(k) HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

(l) LONG-TERM TRENDS IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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16. Mr. BAGBENI (Zaire), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.27 on particular problems facing Zaire with regard to transport, transit and access to foreign markets, recalled that since the Secretary-General had been requested, in resolution 34/193 of 19 December 1979, to take the necessary steps to enable the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) to accelerate the implementation of UNCTAD resolution 110 (V), there had been little progress in that direction. Moreover, in view of Zaire's special geographical situation, its Executive Council believed that a national highway should be built connecting eastern Zaire to the Atlantic Ocean. Zaire had only 36 kilometres of coastline for a total area of 2,345,000 km² and it must therefore improve its roads and transport conditions in order to overcome obstacles to both the movement of goods and merchandise within the country and their entry into and exist from the territory. Those obstacles also affected

(Mr. Bagbeni, Zaire)

the transit of merchandise from other land-locked countries which needed an outlet to the Atlantic.

17. Within the context of the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa, the trans-African highway was vitally necessary to give Africa the assistance it needed. He recalled in that connexion that 828 kilometres of that highway passed through Zairian territory which gave some idea of the magnitude of the financing that was required. Under the first phase of the Decade (1981-1983), Zaire's Executive Council had prepared a plan of action which included such priorities as the construction of the Matadi-Banana railway and a bridge over the river Zaire and various studies on the national rail transport system. With regard to maritime and river transport, feasibility studies must be carried out on the construction of a deep-water port at Banana and the improvement of navigational conditions on the river Zaire. Various projects to improve navigation on that river must also be executed. There were also plans to expand the port of Ilebo. Major investment in air transport was also needed to complete the considerable amount of work outstanding.

18. The magnitude of all the above efforts had forced Zaire to request additional assistance from the international community. That was why it had made an appeal for assistance at the fifth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) held in Manila, with the result that UNCTAD (resolution 110 (V)), the General Assembly (resolutions 34/193 and 35/59) and the Economic and Social Council (resolution 1981/68) had decided to provide it with technical assistance as soon as possible. The Secretary-General, in his reports contained in documents A/35/512 and A/36/538, had recognized the need to send a multi-disciplinary team of seven experts to Zaire to study the situation in the field. The Secretary-General had also acknowledged, however, that ECA had not been able to carry out many of the activities authorized in resolutions 34/193 and 35/59 owing to lack of funds.

19. His delegation believed that not even a beginning had been made with the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 34/193 and 35/59. No ECA mission had visited the country, a fact that was not mentioned by the Secretary-General; in his report (A/36/538), that point was referred to only in the first 6 of its 67 paragraphs. That report was in fact an evaluation of co-operation between various United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and other organizations and Zaire, when what it should have been was a report on the implementation of resolution 35/59. It was that situation and the delay in implementing the relevant General Assembly resolutions that had prompted his delegation to include in draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.27 the paragraph in which the Assembly would decide to make available to ECA the resources needed for the implementation of the activities provided for in resolutions 34/193 and 35/59.

20. Mr. ZWAYNE (Syrian Arab Republic), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.31/Rev.1, said that the Palestinians had been living through a tragedy for three decades, having found themselves deprived of the lands on which they had been living for thousands of years, from which they had been expelled by force. Since then the Palestinians had been denied their right to self-determination,

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(Mr. Zwayne, Syrian Arab Republic)

living all the while in destitution and under occupation. If they demanded their rights, they were said to be rebelling, and if they spoke of a homeland they were accused of seeking to destroy or of being terrorists. Meanwhile, those Palestinians who refused to abandon the land of their ancestors were being exposed to all types of psychological and economic pressure by the Israeli authorities, which after having built settlements on the outskirts of Arab villages in occupied Palestine, were now taking all sorts of economic and social measures to force the Palestinians to leave, without regard for the fundamental rules of civilized behaviour and the United Nations resolutions on the question. For all those reasons, his delegation was honoured to present, on behalf of its sponsors, draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.31/Rev.1 on the living conditions of the Palestinian people.

21. Mr. RICHARDSON (Jamaica), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.32, said that it had been drafted on the basis of the Study on financing the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, which was contained in the annex to document A/36/141. The study, prepared by a group of experts from several countries, contained a list of new means of financing the Plan, a financial analysis outlining the components and costs of a programme for combating desertification, and analyses and recommendations for mobilizing the resources required. Among the steps contemplated was the establishment of a financial corporation for financing desertification-control projects. In that connexion he recalled that while measures were being proposed in various fora to increase world agricultural production and improve soil fertility and other similar measures, every year 20 million hectares were lost in land that had ceased to be agriculturally productive because it had turned to desert. The urgency should therefore be recognized of the proposal to establish an organization exclusively concerned with the problem of desertification, and to do so on a large scale that could not be financed by recourse to existing institutions. Paragraph 136 of the study, for example, indicated that the projects the corporation would be expected to finance would for the most part have to be financed primarily with funds provided on an interest-free basis, which States would have to be ready to provide on a long-term basis.

22. The group of experts, responding to the request made in paragraph 9 (a) (i) of General Assembly resolution 35/73, had also outlined a series of additional measures for financing the Plan of Action. Those measures included: (a) generalized trade taxes; (b) International Monetary Fund gold sales and reflows; (c) the link between special drawing rights and development finance; (d) the Common Fund for Commodities; (e) international revenues from seabed mining; (f) taxes or "parking fees" from geostationary communications satellites. He pointed out that not all the resources derived from measures (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) could be assigned to financing the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification. As the study indicated, the experts were of the opinion that the Plan could reasonably hope to receive only one tenth of the resources so obtained. Concern over that fact he led to the drafting of operative paragraphs 3 (a) and (b) of the draft resolution, requesting the Secretary-General to examine the recommendations on the additional means of financing and decide, within the context of continuing efforts to strengthen international economic co-operation, the amount that would be made available for desertification control.

(Mr. Richardson, Jamaica)

23. With regard to financial participation in the independent corporation, the group of experts proposed that countries supplying such funds should do so for a minimum forward term of seven years. They also proposed that the financial corporation should receive capital contributions of \$500 million per year, of which \$US 250 million should be provided by the industrialized countries. The General Assembly would decide which countries should contribute the remaining \$250 million. The experts recognized that the petroleum-exporting countries, countries with centrally planned economies, and the developing countries, except for the least developed, should contribute towards the total remaining \$250 million.

24. His delegation hoped that the Committee would have no difficulty in approving the request in draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.32 that the Secretary-General should obtain the views of Member States on their interest in participating financially in the independent corporation according to the plan proposed. His delegation would also welcome suggestions from other delegations on the wording of the draft resolution.

25. Mr. KALACHINSKY (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade had assigned a high priority to international trade, in recognition of the prospects it offered for promoting economic growth, provided the principles of equality and justice were respected without the application of discriminatory or protectionist measures or artificial barriers prejudicial to the weaker countries. Studies made by UNCTAD had shown that if the barriers to trade in 37 primary and semi-manufactured products were eliminated, by 1985 the income of the developing countries could increase by \$6 billion.

26. It was therefore essential that both UNCTAD and the other competent United Nations organs should concentrate on eliminating protectionism in general and barriers to trade between East and West in particular. UNCTAD must also monitor the progress of the trade negotiations and the implementation of any agreements adopted. With regard to trade between countries with different economic and social systems, UNCTAD must examine trade not only between the socialist countries and the developing countries but also between the socialist countries and the developed countries. UNCTAD also had to give greater emphasis to promoting trade in raw materials, which was of particular importance to the developing countries.

27. Western countries were constantly stressing the advantages offered by the private sector and the role played by assistance to the developing countries from private sources. Something which should be borne in mind, however, was that the goals of foreign investments of private capital were not the same as the aims of the developing countries. It was a fact that the capitalist countries drew from the developing countries much more in resources than they put in, a process in which the transnational corporations played a primary role. It was therefore necessary for UNCTAD to study the net outflow of resources from the developing countries, along with measures to protect them from the influence of the capitalist countries and the transnational corporations. That would also hasten the drafting of a code of conduct governing the practices of those corporations.

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(Mr. Kalachinsky, Byelorussian SSR)

28. The Byelorussian SSR believed that science and technology offered immense possibilities to the developing countries and that governments had a primary role to play as catalysts in that area. The United Nations should further the progressive application of science and technology by making the organs concerned with it more effective, strengthening the activities of the Economic and Social Council in that field and acting at all times within the context of the Charter and in accordance with the Declaration on the Use of Scientific and Technological Progress in the Interests of Peace and for the Benefit of Mankind (General Assembly resolution 3384 (XXX)).

29. The Byelorussian SSR had played an active role at the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, and never failed to support their efforts to overcome their present poverty and backwardness. The developed countries had a duty, in their relations with the less developed countries, to observe the provisions of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States and take steps to eliminate the effects of the colonial exploitation and domination of those countries. The socialist countries were constantly expanding their trade relations with the least developed countries and their assistance to them, but in the final analysis the real solution to the problems besetting those countries would depend on the efforts they themselves made to use their resources effectively, introduce reforms in the interests of their peoples, protect their full sovereignty over their natural resources and strengthen the role of the State sector in mobilizing their resources.

30. The United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy had yielded positive results, and it was now necessary for the measures envisaged in the Nairobi Programme of Action (A/CONF.110/11) to be implemented, using all existing United Nations bodies and available resources. The Committee on Natural Resources and the competent divisions of the Secretariat's Department of Technical Co-operation for Development should be responsible for the implementation of the Programme of Action, and the principle of voluntary contributions must govern any new financial machinery being considered. Furthermore, the technology transfer measures being planned must relate only to the energy sources considered at the Conference.

31. It must always be borne in mind that development was indissolubly linked with détente and disarmament, and that growth in peace would be impossible if the threat of war, and especially the threat of a nuclear catastrophe, were not first eliminated.

32. Mr. DIOUF (Senegal), referring to the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, said that his delegation favoured the establishment within the United Nations framework of an intergovernmental body to deal specifically with those energy sources, whose mandate would be to direct and monitor the implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action (A/CONF.100/11). Membership of that body should be open to all States Members of the United Nations, and it should report to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council.

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(Mr. Diouf, Senegal)

33. Since decisions relating to the establishment of that body were to be taken at the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly, it would be useful to set up an interim committee now which would be responsible for initiating the implementation of the Programme of Action and would meet once only in 1982. Senegal also hoped that the Second Committee would recommend that the Assembly adopt a resolution relating to the implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action, especially paragraphs 59 to 68 thereof.

34. It was unfortunate that the Programme of Action made no provision for any financing machinery which would ensure the implementation of the decisions contained in it, and he expressed the hope that the establishment of a World Bank energy affiliate would be welcomed by the few countries which had not yet supported it. He also expressed the hope that the recommendations contained in paragraphs 76 to 95 of the Programme of Action would be reflected in specific measures for the transfer of additional and substantial financial resources for the benefit of the developing countries.

35. Pursuant to the decisions adopted at the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development had been established, and its operation could be improved if steps were taken to ensure that the representation of countries in the Committee should be at a high level, as provided in General Assembly resolution 34/218, part II, paragraph 2. For that purpose, his delegation suggested that the Committee's sessions might be divided into two stages: the first, in which experts would participate, would last approximately one week, and the second, in which countries would be represented at a high level, would last only three days. Furthermore, the Committee's documents must be available in all languages at least one month before the opening of its sessions so that the competent authorities in each country could determine their positions on the subjects the Committee had before it. He expressed the hope that the organization of the Centre for Science and Technology for Development would gradually be improved so that it could take charge of the implementation of the various aspects of the Vienna Programme of Action.

36. In any event, the most intensive efforts had to be centred on the question of financing. The target of \$250 million for the Interim Fund had not been reached during the period 1980-1981, and in fact, contributions of only some \$20 million had been received. Moreover, as a result of the attitude of some developed countries, there were difficulties concerning the establishment of the long-term financing system, which should be set up as of 1 January 1982. Consequently, a new transitional period of a year should be planned and a pledging conference held in January 1982 so that contributions would not be interrupted. The characteristics of the transitional financing system should be determined pragmatically. Finally, his delegation supported the initiative of the ministerial goodwill mission which had increased the awareness of Member States, at the highest level, regarding the need for a long-term financing system.

37. Mr. BAKALOV (Bulgaria) said that the international economic crisis had slowed down the development of world trade and given rise to sharp fluctuations

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(Mr. Bakalov, Bulgaria)

in the demand for commodities and to enormous trade deficits in most countries. As a result, there was an increase in protectionist measures, tariff barriers and political discrimination on the part of a number of countries with developed market economies, as was indicated by the documentation submitted to the twenty-third session of the Trade and Development Board by the UNCTAD secretariat. All of those measures had a devastating impact on the economies of the developing countries. Bulgaria attached particular importance to the development of trade relations with developing as well as Western countries. It therefore wished to emphasize once again the need for the elimination from international economic relations of all manifestations of inequality, discrimination, diktat and restrictive monopolistic practices which were an impediment to the development of normal trade.

38. Bulgaria's trade with the majority of developing countries was marked by a stable rate of development and, owing to Bulgaria's preferential tariff system, it encompassed all kinds of commodities. No taxes were levied on imports from the least developed countries. Bulgaria's trade with the Western countries had been growing steadily for some time. However, there were circles in some Western countries which, unfortunately, perceived economic, scientific, technological and commercial ties as an instrument of pressure and confrontation.

39. The normalization of commercial ties between East and West was the basis for the development of just and democratic international trade relations for the greater well-being of all countries. Bulgaria attached particular importance to UNCTAD's efforts to restructure existing international economic relations on an equitable and democratic basis and supported the improvement of UNCTAD's effectiveness in the promotion of economic co-operation among all countries, irrespective of their level of development and socio-economic system.

40. Referring to new and renewable sources of energy, he said that the results of the Nairobi Conference had been positive. At the same time, his delegation believed that bilateral and multilateral co-operation should be based on each State's sovereignty over its natural resources and right to use them freely. The energy problems of the developing countries could be solved primarily through the mobilization of their own resources, the elaboration of national energy programmes, the training of personnel and the effective and rational use of financial resources for the introduction of new and renewable sources of energy.

41. In line with the joint statement of the socialist countries at the adoption of the Nairobi Programme of Action, his delegation wished to reiterate that it could not subscribe to those provisions of that Programme which entailed the over-estimation of external economic factors, particularly the role of foreign private capital in the development of the energy potential of the developing countries. It was also of the view that the implementation of the Programme of Action should help to limit the negative effects of the activities of transnational corporations in the developing countries. It also believed that there was no need to establish new organs within the United Nations system, since existing bodies could satisfactorily carry out the task of implementing the decisions of the Nairobi Conference.

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(Mr. Bakalov, Bulgaria)

42. Bulgaria was ready to increase its co-operation with the least developed countries. Their grave economic plight was a result of the colonial domination of the not-so-distant past and of the present neo-colonialist policies of some Western States, as had been indicated at the Paris Conference. Their basic problems could not be solved unless the fundamental issues which confronted the world, such as ensuring peace for the development of all nations, facilitating international co-operation for social progress and promoting disarmament in order to set aside enough funds for development, were kept in mind.

43. Mr. HILLEL (Israel) said with respect to the problems of the least developed countries that the highest priority should be accorded to the development projects which were designed to enhance the progress of the agricultural sector in order to assist those countries to attain self-sufficiency in food production. Similarly, efforts should be devoted to the implementation of constructive rural development programmes, to the improvement of the technical capacities of the rural population and to the development of the local food processing industry. Israel could contribute directly to alleviating some of the difficulties faced by the least developed countries. Since it was a developing country itself, Israel had concentrated its efforts on improving and modernizing its own agricultural production techniques. Over the past 20 years, Israel had shared with other least developed countries the experience and know-how it had acquired. It had placed special emphasis on agricultural projects in areas where water was scarce and it was willing to continue to place its experience at the disposal of other developing countries.

44. With respect to the situation in the territories administered by Israel, it was obvious that the motives behind most of the reports considered by the General Assembly each year were essentially political. Those reports formed part of a campaign against Israel, and their main purpose was to advance the status of the so-called PLO. In that connexion, he mentioned the report of 17 October 1980 (A/35/533) and General Assembly resolution 35/75 of 5 December 1980. Both the resolution and the report ignored many beneficial developments and productive activities of the Israeli authorities in the territories concerned. In addition, the resolution presupposed consultations and co-operation with the so-called PLO, whose declared aim was to destroy Israel. Notwithstanding those political difficulties, the Government of Israel co-operated with United Nations organizations which attempted to assist in the improvement of the living conditions of the inhabitants of the territories administered by Israel.

45. Despite the complexity of the situation in the territories, progress had been achieved in numerous fields, such as education, health, social services, building, agriculture and trade and development. The GNP of the administered areas had increased at an average annual rate of about 13 per cent in real terms; per capita income at an average annual rate of 11 per cent in real terms, and private consumption at an average annual rate of 9 per cent, also in real terms. The gap between the income levels in Israel and the territories had narrowed steadily since 1967. In education, the number of children in school had risen substantially, the total number of class-rooms had increased by 80 per cent and vocational training programmes had been established.

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(Mr. Hillel, Israel)

46. With respect to the agricultural sector, during the past 14 years the territories had absorbed new agricultural technology. Consequently, output had increased significantly and labour productivity in agriculture had grown considerably. The methods of irrigation and cultivation developed by Israel in response to the scarcity of water, had been extended to the administered areas. That new technology together with the water supplied by Israel had resulted in a 160 per cent increase in the areas under cultivation. Agricultural income in those areas had risen from \$32.5 million per year in 1967/68 to \$73.3 million in 1977-1978.

47. In the field of public health, the Israeli authorities had undertaken a wide-ranging programme of improvements. Between 1967 and 1968, the number of doctors, nurses and other medical personnel in the West Bank had tripled. In the Gaza District, the number of physicians and nurses had more than doubled from 1966 to 1978. The increase in personnel and the improvement in medical services had resulted in better health care delivery and, during the past decade, the crude death rate and the infant mortality rate had fallen markedly. Furthermore, the higher nutritional levels resulting from greater prosperity and a greater awareness of the principles of basic hygiene had also contributed to the improvement of health standards in the administered areas.

48. In contrast to the constant attempts to present a distorted picture of the living conditions in the administered areas, Israel had carried out a constructive programme of development marked by human concern and respect for the welfare of the Arab inhabitants. At the same time, his delegation was aware of the need to find a solution to the Palestinian issue and, in that connexion, negotiations on full autonomy for the Palestinian Arab inhabitants of Judea, Samaria and the Gaza District had recently been resumed. The concern expressed in the resolution and the report for the betterment of the living conditions of the inhabitants of Judea, Samaria and Gaza was overshadowed by the bias against Israel that they showed and by the manner in which they ignored many useful development activities in those territories.

49. Referring to the outcome of the Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, he said that there was a need to launch a vast international programme to assist third world countries in the survey and exploration of new resources and in their adaptation to local needs. In that sector, development projects should be chosen in accordance with priority plans which would take into account the financial, technical and professional capabilities of the developing countries. In spite of his country's severe limitations in terms of capital, area and population, it would be ready to join other nations in a common effort to implement projects designed to make full use of renewable sources of energy. His country attached great importance to research and development in the field of solar energy and had put into operation the largest solar pond currently in existence. Israel was also developing several projects for the utilization of solar energy in agricultural installations and implementing projects for the conversion of agricultural waste into renewable energy sources; such waste could

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be used partially to replace fossil fuel, particularly in rural communities. Israel was willing to share and exchange its experience and knowledge with other countries which desired to co-operate with it in such ventures.

50. Mr. ABU-KOASH (Observer, Palestine Liberation Organization) reminded the Committee that if Israel had diversified its sources of energy, which included even nuclear reactors, it had done so not only for peaceful but also for warlike reasons. Furthermore, while Israel expressed interest in co-operating with other countries with respect to new and renewable sources of energy, it had no intention of allowing the neighbouring Arab States to participate in such ventures, as had been demonstrated by the fact that Israeli aircraft had crossed the air space of two Arab countries to destroy the nuclear research facilities in Iraq.

51. At the Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, Israel had submitted a project for the construction of a canal between the Mediterranean and the Dead Sea. Of the three possible routes for the canal, it had chosen the only one which went through the Palestinian territory of the Gaza Strip, occupied by Israel since 1967. The project was definitely political in character; it was intended to deprive the Palestinian people of its inalienable rights and was a definite act of aggression against the people and territory of Palestine. The representative of Israel had expatiated on the wonderful conditions in the occupied territories, but no verbal artifice could convince anyone that the occupation was wonderful; it was ironical that the Jews and Zionists, who had suffered so much under the Nazis, should be causing the Palestine people harm and suffering that were at least equally serious, if not more so.

52. The representative of Israel had also mentioned the improvement in education in the occupied territories of Palestine. Nevertheless, as The New York Times had duly reported, there had been serious disturbances, intermediate and higher educational institutions had been closed in Bethlehem, Nablus and other places, the occupation troops had forced their way into university precincts, and the Israeli authorities were trying to impose a distorted version of their history on the Palestinians and to deny them the right to use textbooks on Palestinian culture. The representative of Israel had drawn attention to projects that were being carried out in the occupied territories but many projects had been rejected by the Israeli authorities, even though they had been approved by the competent United Nations bodies, including the Governing Council of UNDP.

53. Mr. LUTFI (Jordan) said that the Israeli representative's statements about the living conditions of the Palestinians were completely misleading. The delegation of Israel went on repeating those falsehoods year after year and had even included them in the information it had submitted on 25 March 1981 which was to be found in document A/36/260/Add.1. The representative of Israel had said that the report of the Group of Experts on the Social and Economic Impact of the Israeli Occupation on the Living Conditions of the Palestinian People in the Occupied Arab Territories (A/35/533, annex I) was obviously politically oriented. However, it should be borne in mind that that report had been prepared by three distinguished experts, none of whom was an Arab, so that it was absolutely untrue to say it was Arab propaganda. It should also be remembered that Israel had

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(Mr. Lutfi, Jordan)

refused to allow neutral observers into the occupied territories, which in itself was proof that the Palestinians' living conditions were not good.

54. For the preparation of its report, the Group of Experts had used information from many sources, including official publications of the Israeli Government, which showed how objective its work had been. The report clearly stated, for instance, that there was no settlement policy in the occupied territories and that the present policy applied only to the Jewish settlements, that there was no over-all economic and social development policy for those territories and that the prevailing uncertainty about property ownership and land tenure had had a prejudicial effect on the environment. The following facts emerged clearly from the report: the infrastructure of the territories had deteriorated since 1976; the environmental sanitation services had not been expended in proportion to the growth of the population, with the result that gastro-intestinal diseases had become one of the major causes of morbidity and mortality; the three universities which had been founded in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in the past few years were all private universities financed with Palestinian funds. Moreover, trade between the occupied territories and the neighbouring Arab countries had been almost completely cut off. He could have given many more examples to show what the living conditions of the Palestine people really were; he hoped to have an opportunity to give them at a later meeting.

The meeting rose at 1.20 p.m.