



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 7th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. PAPADATOS (Greece)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.25 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 73: TRAINING AND RESEARCH (continued)

(b) UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY

1. Mr. SOEDJATMOKO (Rector of the United Nations University) said that during the period covered by the annual report of the Council of the United Nations University (July 1981-June 1982), the Council had not only been consolidating the gains but also putting into place the necessary instruments and working relationships for dealing with increasingly pressing global problems. In that connexion, he emphasized the importance and appropriateness of the Medium-Term Perspective.

2. Within the framework of the Perspective, the University had undertaken a number of new activities during the year. It had also begun a process of external evaluation of its projects as evidence of its intention to draw lessons from its early programmes of work as it moved to broaden the scope of its activities. In thus widening its perspective, the University showed that it was aware that in an increasingly interdependent world, the only practical solution to a problem was one which took into account its local, national and international implications.

3. It was in a climate of deterioration of the human condition under the threat of nuclear war, violence, poverty and the worsening economic crisis (which the Secretary-General had called "a new international anarchy") that a new programme of work of the University had taken shape which, with its particular approaches and methodologies, should bring out its specific character. The programme was organized around a number of themes. The first was the maintenance of peace and conflict resolution. To that end, the University was not only seeking better understanding of the roots of violence but was also searching, at various levels, for mechanisms that would enhance the capacity to resolve conflict in less violent ways. The second major priority of the University, which cut across a number of its activities, was to eliminate poverty and meet basic human needs, a prerequisite for resolving conflict and maintaining peace. The University was also continuing, through a series of studies and by developing its training activities, to devote particular attention to the problem of world hunger and specifically to the food and energy problems of poor countries. The studies should help to develop policies that would meet the special needs of the poorest of the poor.

4. The third priority of the University was its search for more relevant integrated theories of development that would bring about structural change in a more democratic manner. It was concerned, in that connexion, not only with macro-sociological and historical changes but also with changes arising at the micro-sociological and micro-economic levels and it was taking into account such dynamic factors as massive migration and technological change. By thus moving into new areas, with the benefit of its accumulated research, the University was adhering to its philosophy of continuity with change.

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5. The fourth major priority of the University was to increase learning capacity, not only of individuals but also of groups, institutions and societies. Many of the studies in that field, under the aegis of the Global Learning Division, were grounded in the increasing awareness that the fears of common people were beginning to express themselves in demands that posed new political, social and economic challenges to Governments and other institutions. Coping with those demands and enabling mankind to solve the problems facing it, would require the development of new forms of public education.
6. The United Nations University was not the only institution concerned with the problems he had mentioned. Its specific character, however, derived from the approach and methodology that it had adopted. Positioned at the intersection of the world's international organizations and the world's scholars, the University could provide a valuable service to and draw valuable insights from the United Nations system and the academic community.
7. It was only natural that the United Nations and its intergovernmental bodies should concentrate on immediate issues of high political content. The world of the University, on the other hand, by taking a more detached view, strove for the longer view and was often remote from everyday realities. The contribution which the United Nations University could make was to help those differing approaches to converge to their mutual benefit, and from that a number of responsibilities flowed.
- 7a. Within the United Nations system, the University could help to define the potential relevance or irrelevance of particular problem areas and to formulate policy options. It could, on the other hand, as stipulated in its Charter, mobilize the world scholarly community and co-ordinate that community's research programmes with those of the University and with the activities of the United Nations and its agencies. In recent years it had increasingly turned its efforts to performing both those roles.
8. Within the United Nations system, for example, the University had developed closer ties with a number of agencies, including UNESCO, the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development and the International Food Policy Research Institute. It had also established closer contacts with the world's academic and scientific communities by participating in meetings and symposia of several important international scientific associations, by exploring areas of collaboration with the International Council of Scientific Unions and by expanding its co-operation with various other associations.
9. That policy bore witness to the University's intention to become a more decentralized and multi-centred global institution, in accordance with the general goal of the Medium-Term Perspective. It was also trying to make greater use of the full range of resources available at some of the institutions with which it had been associated in the past.
10. With regard to the incorporated institutions, the Council of the University had approved two recommendations aimed at establishing an international economic

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policy research institute and an institute for natural resources in Africa. The latter institute, the establishment of which was urged by several distinguished African scientists, would be a small establishment, suitably equipped and supported, and linked to national institutions through a college of research associates. It should be capable of concentrating scarce talents and resources and of assisting national and other institutions in developing graduate courses, research programmes and consultancy services. A number of Governments had indicated significant interest in those two proposals.

11. Another important goal of the Medium-Term Perspective was the enhancement of the intellectual strength of the Tokyo Centre. In that connexion, he reiterated the University's gratitude to the Government of Japan and the city of Tokyo, which had made available a plot of land in central Tokyo for the permanent headquarters of the University.

12. Among other activities, the Centre had been host to a meeting of the Palme Commission in December and had sponsored a Workshop on disarmament and international security, which illustrated the University's close interaction with the intellectuals and Government of Japan. The Centre's intellectual and operational strength had been increased by the appointment of two new Vice-Rectors.

13. Reviewing the University's programmes, he said that the Development Studies Division focused on resource management, food and nutrition policies and rural energy systems. The Regional and Global Studies Division prepared studies on peace and global transformation and also explored new activities that could broaden the University's research on the socio-cultural dimensions of development and demographic change and the social and ethical implications of technology. That Division was particularly concerned that the problems it dealt with should be examined regionally and within their historical context. The Global Learning Division tried to respond to the problems created at the national and international levels by rapid and complex societal changes.

14. In the final analysis, of course, the University would be judged by what it had accomplished. The Council of the University had, accordingly, been gratified by the generally positive conclusions drawn by the Joint Inspection Unit in its report on the University and its support of the new directions and broad intellectual concerns set out in the Medium-Term Perspective.

15. A number of the University's original projects had been brought to a close, as planned, during the year.

16. As to quantitative indicators, 367 fellowships had been awarded to date and 110 publications had been issued during the period covered by the report.

17. The credibility of the United Nations University had apparently become established, something which was essential if it was to be able to fulfil its mandate and was also important in practical terms, because the community so far created still consisted of only a handful of institutions and scholars. That was

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why the University was examining the possibility of undertaking parallel or complementary activities through which its programme activities could be linked up with areas of concern to a large number of individuals and institutions in the world's academic community and which would enable it to have a real impact on the problems that its charter required it to resolve.

AGENDA ITEM 72: OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT (continued)

(e) UNITED NATIONS FUND FOR POPULATION ACTIVITIES (continued)

18. Mr. SALAS (Executive Director, United Nations Fund for Population Activities), reporting on the activities of UNFPA in 1981, said that income had dropped from \$128 million in 1980 to \$125.5 million in 1981. There had also been a shortfall of more than \$20 million between income and the level of programme execution that had been hoped for. Project allocations had risen to \$131.2 million, of which \$13.9 million represented unexpended allocations carried over from the preceding budget. Expenditures had totalled \$136.4 million, compared with \$147.5 million, in 1980. The project implementation rate had been 93.3 per cent, the highest attained so far. In 1981 209 new projects had been approved, representing a total cost of \$11.3 million.

19. Despite international economic difficulties, which also affected UNFPA, the fund remained financially and managerially sound. Furthermore, the Governments of seven developed countries, meeting at Versailles, had announced their intention to give special encouragement to programmes to address the implications of population growth.

20. The Governing Council understood the resource and programming problems confronting UNFPA and had approved changes in the criteria for the determination of countries to be placed on the priority list, which had resulted in the inclusion of a further 13 countries. It had also approved the conclusions of UNFPA's examination of its own programme for the period 1982-1985.

21. It had also been agreed that the annual increase of resources should be 10 per cent. In that connexion he reiterated the Governing Council's appeal to all countries to contribute or to increase their contributions to UNFPA as soon as possible; an annual increase of 10 per cent was quite feasible because it represented, in absolute terms, relatively small increases for each donor country.

22. Despite the efforts made in the previous ten years in the field of population, which had led to a decline in global population growth rates, complex problems persisted. That was why there was still a need to expand family planning programmes and to improve their execution in nearly all developing countries, to adopt fresh policies to deal with rapid urbanization and to take appropriate measures for the growing number of aged people throughout the world. Internal and international migration and their impact demanded adequate research, and there was a need for programmes to strengthen the role and participation of women in population and development activities, for community involvement in family planning

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programmes to be further extended and for more funds to be allocated for biomedical research into new methods of contraception.

23. In view of those problems, it was particularly appropriate that the International Conference on Population should be held in 1984. As Secretary-General of the Conference, he reported that \$300,000 had been raised from extra-budgetary sources for 1982 and that, if the targets for 1983 and 1984 were reached, total extra-budgetary resources would amount to \$1.5 million, leaving \$800,000 to be allocated from the regular budget for the Conference. The Government of Mexico would act as host for the Conference. Four expert group meetings would be held in the first half of 1983 and would be followed by a session of the Population Commission, as the Preparatory Committee of the Conference, in early 1984.

24. The 1984 Conference and the United Nations Population Award would serve to focus attention on urgent population issues and the efforts being undertaken by Governments to solve them.

(h) UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND

25. Mr. GRANT (Executive Director, United Nations Children's Fund) said that UNICEF was continuing to promote basic services for children and their families, particularly primary health care, the supply of safe drinking water, early childhood development, income-generating activities for women, and nutrition, while giving particular attention to community participation, use of paraprofessionals and advocacy, as stated in UNICEF's 1982 annual report. To illustrate the action undertaken by UNICEF in 1981, he stated that it had equipped 311,600 institutions and centres, financed the training or orientation of a large number of national personnel, contributed to the construction of water and excreta disposal systems benefiting more than 19 million people, concluded its lead agency responsibility for the relief operations in Kampuchea and widely disseminated one of its publications, The State of the World's Children Report, 1981-1982. It had been possible to carry out those activities, which UNICEF performed in the name of donor Governments, owing to generous contributions - totalling \$291 million - paid by those Governments and intergovernmental organizations, as well as by the National Committees for UNICEF, other non-governmental organizations and individuals. In addition, UNICEF continued to collaborate closely with other United Nations agencies and other partners in development co-operation, taking advantage of their activities to meet the particular needs of mothers and children.

26. The above list provided proof that UNICEF's activities were continuing despite the many difficulties encountered in 1981. Over the year, changes in exchange rates had reduced the value of pledged contributions and reserves by some \$40 million, and new "losses" in revenues were expected in subsequent years; UNICEF's Executive Board had had to meet three times to consider budgetary problems and emergencies in Africa and Asia; the organization had been compelled to reduce levels of spending authorized earlier; and the economic crisis had obliged the Governments of both industrialized and developing countries to reduce the amount of resources committed to services and assistance for poor people and children.

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Despite those difficulties, UNICEF's income for 1981, after deducting contributions for Kampuchea, had increased by 10 per cent in real terms compared with 1980, which had allowed programme expenditure to increase by some 6 per cent in real terms. That increase in resources demonstrated that, even in a period of crisis, Governments and other donors were prepared to continue and increase their support for UNICEF, since they were convinced that its assistance helped those people who were most in need of help, namely children, and that it made the best possible use of the resources placed at its disposal.

27. While no one could contest the validity of the first of those assertions, it was more of a challenge to defend the second. Although it was comparatively easy for UNICEF to maintain a high level of return on its investments, it was more difficult to raise that level substantially, particularly since its resources were insignificant (less than 1 per cent) in terms of the volume of resources needed to meet the needs of children in developing countries, and since the world economic crisis was likely to increase the number of children in need. UNICEF thus strove constantly to secure the maximum profit from its investments, and was therefore seeking ways to improve the effectiveness of its administration and programmes. In order to improve administrative efficiency, UNICEF had regrouped its supply operations in Copenhagen, which should reduce the number of people engaged in such operations from 140 to approximately 100 and cut delivery time by 15 per cent. Moreover, it had been decided to limit the increase in the numbers of staff responsible for programme delivery and not to take on additional headquarters staff before the end of 1983, despite programme expansion. It was to be hoped that that policy could be maintained until the end of 1985. In order to apply it, UNICEF was engaged in rationalizing its activities and eliminating lower-priority posts.

28. Stressing that UNICEF was the most decentralized organization in the United Nations system, which enabled it to be as close as possible to its beneficiaries, he noted that, to maximize the profitability of UNICEF programmes, equal priority had been accorded to the following five areas: use of low-cost prevention techniques rather than costly treatment; primary health care, the cost of which was lower than hospital treatment; the use of lower-cost and more appropriate methods, such as oral rehydration; co-operation with other assistance agencies and non-governmental organizations; and learning by doing, based on experience. In addition, to make more efficient use of its resources, and thus reduce the per capita programme cost, UNICEF would take advantage of the synergistic relationships between the various elements of social development, a principle on which the basic services strategy was based.

29. Recalling that, according to the World Bank, investments in sectors affecting children were among the best that a country could make, he welcomed the fact that many countries and the international community in general had added social development to general development objectives, as exemplified by the adoption by the General Assembly of the International Development Strategy. Other sources, such as the World Health Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Food Council, had pointed out that relatively small

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amounts of supplementary resources were needed to overcome some of the most tragic human problems, including hunger, malnutrition and the need for immunization.

30. He drew the attention of the members of the Committee to the decisive progress made in the treatment of diarrhoea, the principal cause of infant mortality. Oral rehydration, which could be performed at home using a remedy prepared in the home or rehydration salts manufactured at low cost in the country, or even in the village, had replaced the complex and difficult intravenous rehydration, which had to be carried out in medical institutions, often far removed. Governments and private groups should now be encouraged to promote the use of that method so that every family became aware of it and shops in the most widely scattered hamlets would have rehydration salts available. If that promotion campaign was successful, oral rehydration could, every day, save the lives of thousands of children.

31. Initiatives such as the International Development Strategy and the realization that appreciable results could be obtained with relatively limited resources gave the impression that the final assault on poverty and under-development was at hand. That was far from being the case. Under the effects of the persistent economic crisis, many countries seemed rather to be on the verge of giving up. The conviction that all the inhabitants of the globe, particularly children, should be able to enjoy benefits such as life itself, health and education, was questioned in many countries, at the very moment when, despite the world economic crisis, they had the means available to realize such goals.

32. How realistic an objective was often depended as much on the degree of priority accorded to it as on the means available to attain it. Thus the international community, if it so wanted, had the means available to attain such minimum objectives as the elimination of hunger, malnutrition and access to primary health care and education in the 1990s, at an annual cost considerably below the amount spent on military expenditure every month by the United States or Western Europe, for example. The international community, which was willing to spend almost \$600 billion a year to increase its military power, should realize that, by allocating an additional amount equivalent to less than 10 per cent of such expenditure to the struggle against under-development, it could not only save the lives of millions of human beings, while restraining the population explosion, but also ensure decent living conditions for a billion other people and increase the prospects for a return to prosperity in both rich and poor countries.

33. Bringing about a significant improvement in the lives of the world's hundreds of millions of poor children by the end of the century would certainly require a significant increase in the resources available for the task, but it was equally crucial to rethink social programmes so as to reduce their per capita cost and thus expand their coverage. Several of the large and small countries of Asia, with widely differing economic and political systems, had demonstrated that it was possible for countries at income levels comparable to those in North America and Western Europe in 1800 to achieve, through effective social organization, child mortality and life expectancy levels not attained in the industrial countries until the middle of the twentieth century. That showed that most countries could, if

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they gave the task sufficient priority, improve the well-being of mothers and children by using existing resources more efficiently.

34. Noting with satisfaction that the contributions to general resources and the supplementary funding for 1982 had exceeded the estimates substantially, he expressed his gratitude to the donor Governments and to the non-governmental sector, which included the National Committees for UNICEF, the non-governmental organizations and the public at large, all of which had recognized the need to help UNICEF even more in such dark times. Among the various private initiatives should be singled out those of the Special Envoy for UNICEF, His Royal Highness Prince Talal bin Abdul Aziz al Saud of Saudi Arabia, which had, among other things, led to the establishment of the Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations Development Organizations, currently one of the largest sources of income for UNICEF. In other countries, the initiatives of private citizens had moved in concert with the efforts of parliamentarians and Governments in spearheading concern for UNICEF. In Italy, for example, the activities of private organizations and the public had elicited a response from by the Italian Government, which had decided to quadruple its official development assistance over four years and to concentrate that increase essentially on human needs. Furthermore, the Italian Government, which stood in the forefront of contributors to UNICEF, had at the beginning of 1982 pledged an additional \$US 85 million, to be made available over a period of five years, to support a major WHO/UNICEF programme in the field of nutrition.

35. Consequently, the past year had on balance been a positive one: the staff of UNICEF had proved that the amount of money which they had to spend was not necessarily a measure of the value of their assistance; the co-operating Governments had proved that they were able to adapt to the regrettable but unavoidable reduction in UNICEF assistance and still provide the maximum possible benefit to their peoples; the donor Governments had proved that despite their difficulties they could make an extra effort on behalf of UNICEF; the membership of the Executive Board of UNICEF had been expanded from 30 to 41 members, thus enabling more countries, whether major donor countries or developing countries, to participate in policy-making; and millions of people throughout the world had remembered that in difficult economic conditions children suffered most and required the most help. Such support had enabled UNICEF to weather the storm and intensify its programme of assistance to children.

AGENDA ITEM 74: SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE (continued)
(A/37/508 and Add.1)

36. Mr. AKHUND (United Nations Co-ordinator of Assistance for the Reconstruction and Development of Lebanon), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on assistance for the reconstruction and development of Lebanon (A/37/508 and Add.1), said that annex II of the report, on the reconstruction and development activities carried out in Lebanon since the last report and up to the Israeli invasion of June 1982, showed that several projects had been brought to completion and that some essential infrastructure had been put in place despite administrative problems and a lack of funds. However, work had come to a halt with the Israeli

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movement into Lebanon in June 1982. The events following those military operations and the efforts mounted by the United Nations and other international, national and private organizations to bring immediate relief to the people were described in annex I. When the active fighting had stopped in August 1982 and the needs of the population in terms of emergency assistance and medical care had been met, attention had been turned to the equally urgent and more serious problem of rehabilitation. The basic infrastructure (water supply systems, power stations, schools, hospitals, roads and means of transport) of the cities of the south and of Beirut had been extensively damaged. Public buildings and private housing had also been heavily damaged and some refugee camps had been virtually razed to the ground.

37. The sudden Israeli incursion into West Beirut on 15 September had disrupted the efforts undertaken and inflicted fresh damage on the city, affecting some areas which had been spared in the previous fighting. The inhabitants who had begun to return and patch up their homes, had suffered further dislocation. The refugee camps of Sabra and Shatila had been subjected to the horror of a massacre which had cost hundreds of lives. To deal with the immediate aftermath of that dreadful event, a task force had been set up consisting of representatives of UNICEF, the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (UNDRO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and headed by the Director of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). The group, working closely with the Lebanese authorities concerned, had responsibility for organizing emergency relief and rehabilitation work. The first task had been to bury the dead and remove debris and rubble, a dangerous operation owing to the presence of unexploded rockets and mines; it had, however, been facilitated by the assistance of mine-clearing experts of the French contingent of the Multinational Force. Mention should also be made of the Lebanese voluntary agencies and ICRC, which had attended to the burial of the dead and the provision of emergency relief to the survivors, Mr. Rafik Hariri, a Lebanese businessman and philanthropist, who had made available to relief workers men and machines from his construction firm to clear the rubble, UNICEF, which had arranged the supply of water to the inhabitants, and UNRWA, which had organized the distribution of rations and other necessities to the affected people. The repair of the two hospitals in the area (Akka and Gaza) had also been undertaken.

38. As for the general relief picture, one of the difficulties was that exact information was still not available as to the number of people killed or wounded in the military operations, displaced from their homes or in need of assistance of one kind or another. Since large parts of the country continued to remain under foreign military occupation and the government administration was not able to operate effectively in those areas, it was difficult to determine accurately the number of displaced persons at any given time. In addition to those who had been wounded or whose homes had been damaged, there were those who needed assistance because the war had deprived them of their employment or means of livelihood. On the basis of available information, the Government estimated that not less than 750,000 persons would stand in need of relief assistance for some time to come. Obviously, as economic activity resumed, that number would diminish; but, given the

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fact that foreign military forces were still present in some parts of the country, the possibility of new incidents or a further deterioration of the situation and therefore the need for further relief aid could not be excluded.

39. The food aid pledged to Lebanon consisted of about 51,000 tons of cereals, 2,800 tons of milk, 2,600 tons of oil and 1,000 tons of sugar, quantities which should suffice to meet the current needs despite the explosion on 23 September which had destroyed some warehouses containing foodstuffs, worth about \$1.7 million, which represented a significant portion of that aid.

40. With respect to health, a joint Lebanese Government/United Nations group headed by the WHO representative had made a preliminary assessment of the damage to the medical infrastructure and the repair work which must be done within the next six months in order to re-establish essential medical services. The programme, whose total estimated cost amounted to about \$75 million, provided for the repair of a number of hospitals and health centres, and the supply of vaccines and products for water purification. Under a separate project, UNICEF would repair and re-equip a number of hospitals and clinics in the south of the country under an extension of an ongoing project administered jointly by UNICEF and the Lebanese Government's Council for the Development and Reconstruction of Lebanon.

41. The most important problem at present was that of finding shelter for the homeless and providing them with mattresses, blankets and cooking utensils. The explosion mentioned earlier had also destroyed \$2 million worth of such articles, donated by the Government of Spain to the Lebanese authorities; it was hoped that they would be replaced.

42. It was remarkable that, despite the suddenness with which the crisis had struck Lebanon, assistance had been provided so rapidly. Even before the agencies concerned could take action, UNIFIL had provided humanitarian assistance, within the limits of its capabilities, to the people of southern Lebanon, thereby helping to save many lives. Other bodies and organizations of every kind, such as ICRC, UNICEF, the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator had made similar noteworthy efforts. It should likewise be noted that the co-ordination system set up in Beirut in 1979 under General Assembly resolution 33/148 had performed flawlessly. Tribute should also be paid to the enterprising spirit of the Lebanese people and their courage in the face of adversity. West Beirut had managed to survive despite having been cut off from electricity, water and fuel for two months. It should be stressed that United Nations organizations and their staffs, along with other international and private organizations, had remained in West Beirut to help the population in any way they could.

43. At present, the priority task was the rehabilitation of the country, which would call for a more sustained effort, increased funds and a greater organizational effort on the part of the Lebanese Government and the international community. Before the work of rehabilitation could begin, the rubble left by the fighting would have to be cleared away. That had already been done in the town of Sidon,

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thanks to the personal contribution of Mr. Rafik Hariri. In contrast, much work remained to be done in the old town of Tyre. To that end, attention should be paid at once to the preservation of ancient monuments which were among the world's important archaeological treasures. Naturally, the scale of the problem at Beirut was far greater. There too, Mr. Hariri's company was helping the Government and municipal authorities to clear away the rubble, carry out the necessary demolition work and remove refuse. The biggest problem was providing temporary shelter for the population and repairing and reopening schools. The latter was, in fact, a twofold problem, since if the schools were to reopen on time, the numerous homeless persons who had taken refuge there would have to be relocated. UNICEF, which had conducted a survey of the damage sustained by schools, would undertake immediately the repair of 26 of them in the south. In West Beirut, many damaged schools could be repaired quickly if the necessary funds were secured.

44. A United Nations housing team had visited Lebanon from 13 August to 17 September and would shortly submit its report to the Lebanese Government. The findings of that mission regarding the housing sector were as follows: more than 2,500 dwellings at Tyre had suffered some degree of damage (469 had been entirely destroyed or severely damaged). The electrical, water supply and sewerage systems of the municipality of Tyre had sustained damages provisionally evaluated at 35 million Lebanese pounds (\$US 8 million). At Sidon, a total of 3,400 dwellings had suffered some degree of damage (1,500 had been totally destroyed and 1,230 had been severely damaged). In the case of utilities, most of the municipality's public-works equipment had been destroyed in the course of a bombardment.

45. Of the dwellings in West Beirut (excluding the Palestinian camps), according to the United Nations mission's estimates, approximately 10,500 had been destroyed and 16,000 others had been severely damaged. Those figures did not include the additional damage sustained during the brief occupation of West Beirut by the Israel Defence Forces. To those figures should be added the damage suffered by the city since 1976, notably the destruction of the commercial centre of Beirut, whose reconstruction would cost several hundred million dollars.

46. The Lebanese Government was naturally unable to compensate fully all citizens who had suffered damage, but it was obligated under Lebanese law to issue low-cost loans to those who wished to repair or rebuild their homes. To date, those loans had been financed from the national budget, but in view of the extent of the damage which now had to be repaired, assistance from the international community had become indispensable.

47. The housing of Palestinian refugees presented a special problem. Proportionately, there were many more displaced and homeless persons among the Palestinians. According to UNRWA estimates, of the 350,000 Palestinians living in Lebanon, 78,000 were homeless. It was therefore clear that arrangements should be made immediately to find new housing for those persons. UNRWA had 13,000 tents and was awaiting permission from the authorities to erect them.

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48. In addition to solving the urgent problems, plans should be made to deal with the considerable and more long-term task of rebuilding and developing the country's infrastructure, production capacity and social services destroyed or disrupted during eight years of war or civil disturbance. That task could be accomplished only in the context of a comprehensive plan for reconstruction, development and reform encompassing all sectors of economic and social activity. A reconstruction programme costing \$US 7 billion had been prepared at the end of 1977 by the Lebanese Government's Council for Reconstruction and Development (referred to in the Secretary-General's report submitted to the Economic and Social Council in February 1980) and had been scheduled to be implemented within five to eight years. However, the launching of the programme had had to be abandoned because of the Israeli invasion of southern Lebanon in March 1978. In 1979, a summit conference of the League of Arab States had pledged \$2 billion over a five-year period for the implementation of that programme. For various reasons, those funds had not been received at the anticipated rate; by June 1982, less than half of the amount pledged had been received. In 1980, the Government had planned to carry out the implementation of a less ambitious annual plan, set up on the basis of funds actually available and existing administrative resources and taking into account the constraints imposed by the prevailing insecurity. A similar plan had been drawn up for 1981. However, despite their relatively modest objectives, the two plans had been only partially implemented, as described in document A/437/508, annex II.

49. Of the problems hampering the reconstruction and development of Lebanon, the lack of funds was perhaps not the greatest, since Lebanon's credit rating had remained relatively high and the country could obtain the necessary loans. However, Lebanon could rebuild only if it established political stability and guaranteed the requisite security at its borders and within the country. Developments in that direction could already be seen: the unanimous election of the Lebanese President in September 1982, in the manner and on the date prescribed by the Constitution and despite adverse circumstances, was a striking demonstration of the Lebanese people's will to unite and build a new future. It should be borne in mind that the reconstruction of Europe had taken many years and could not have been accomplished without an extensive programme of external assistance, the Marshall Plan. While the situation in Lebanon was not in every way analogous, comparable solidarity would have to be shown by the international community in order to enable that country to overcome the difficulties it was currently experiencing. The United Nations system, while limited in its resources, played an increasingly important role in the reconstruction and development of Lebanon and remained ready, if the Government so wished, to intensify its assistance. The fact that an item relating to the reconstruction and development of Lebanon had been included in the agenda of the General Assembly for the third consecutive year clearly showed that the world continued to be concerned with the future of Lebanon. It was to be hoped that the international community, particularly the countries and institutions most directly involved, would show the same generosity and foresight in helping Lebanon in its undertaking.

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50. Mr. SHWAYRI (Lebanon) thanked the United Nations Co-ordinator of Assistance for the Reconstruction and Development of Lebanon for the efforts he had made and the information he had gathered under difficult and often dangerous conditions. Noting with satisfaction the Co-ordinator's optimism concerning the future of Lebanon, he expressed his conviction that the Lebanese people and Government would be equal to the difficult task awaiting them and hoped that the United Nations system and the entire international community would provide Lebanon with the necessary assistance.

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 71: DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (continued)

51. Mr. IVERSEN (Denmark), speaking on behalf of the 10 States members of the European Economic Community, said that the present economic situation was the grimmest ever and that the recession had again demonstrated the reality of the interdependence among all the countries of the world. He therefore appealed to all Member States to take an active part in the efforts to restore stable economic growth and sustained development in the world, in particular in the poorer developing countries.

52. During the closing meeting of the thirty-sixth session of the General Assembly, the Permanent Representative of Denmark had stated that the States members of the Community were in favour of the continuation of the North-South dialogue and that important progress had been made in the efforts to launch the global negotiations. It was important to keep up the political momentum in that issue in order to reach a positive decision on the subject during the present session of the General Assembly. In that connexion, the States members of the Community regarded the four amendments proposed at the Versailles Summit as clarifications to the draft resolution submitted by the Group of 77 that fully respected the balance and the spirit of that draft. They remained of the conviction that the compromise text presented by the Group of 77 at the spring session of the Economic and Social Council and the amendments thereto constituted the best possible basis for launching the global negotiations. The States members of the Community were confident that the ministerial meeting of the Group of 77, which was to be held in a few days, would carry out an over-all assessment of the situation and make yet another constructive contribution to the efforts to launch the global round.

53. As had been pointed out by the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, two major international conferences would take place during the coming months in order to achieve constructive results in sectors of vital importance to developing as well as developed countries. They were the GATT ministerial meeting which, it was hoped, would reaffirm adherence to the international trade rules, strengthen resistance to protectionist pressures and promote an even better participation of developing countries in world trade and the international trading system. Members of the Community were confident that the conclusions reached at that meeting would have a positive impact on the sixth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development which was to be

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held in June 1983. In that connexion, members of the Community were pleased that agreement seemed to be emerging on the agenda and organizational structure of that session. Although that conference could not replace the global negotiations it would still be an important occasion for making an over-all assessment of the world economic situation and identifying ways of improving it.

54. They also hoped that agreement could soon be reached on the institutional and financial framework for an increased economic co-operation among the developing countries themselves, since such co-operation was a valuable supplement to North-South co-operation. Future negotiations on the subject should continue to be based on an appropriate balance between pragmatism and principle.

55. The International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade was particularly valuable because of its broad scope and the fact that it set goals and objectives for developing countries, industrialized countries and for United Nations bodies. As barely two years had elapsed since the adoption of the Strategy it would seem difficult, at that stage, to evaluate its effects. However, since all States and organizations were faced with the obligation to carry out the first review and appraisal of the Strategy in 1984, it would be helpful if the General Assembly could already, during the present session, reach agreement on the time schedule and the institutional framework for the exercise and on the necessary preparations.

56. Like many others, the States members of the Community had ratified or were in the process of ratifying UNIDO's new constitution designed to establish it as a specialized agency. They looked forward to taking part in the consultations envisaged on the modalities and timing for UNIDO's new statutes to enter into force and they were glad that the consultations were open to all major contributors to UNIDO even those which had, as yet, to ratify the new constitution.

57. The States members of the Community had voted in favour of the resolution on industrial development adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its summer session for they regarded industrialization as one of the important ways of promoting economic and social development in the developing countries. The provision of suitable forms of technical assistance was another important tool in those endeavours.

58. Although the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development had made considerable progress at its recent session, major problems were still outstanding on both the institutional and financial aspects. While those aspects were closely related, lack of progress in one field should not be taken as a pretext for avoiding further negotiations in the other with a view to reaching an over-all agreement. Accordingly, all States and groups of States should make a sincere effort to bring those negotiations to a successful conclusion during the current session of the General Assembly, for agreement on the important subject of science and technology would demonstrate a further area in which progress could be made in co-operation between developing and developed countries.

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59. World food problems continued to be an issue of the utmost importance. Owing primarily to lack of time the Economic and Social Council had been unable to finalize discussions at its summer session on a draft resolution concerning the report of the World Food Council. States members of the Community would be pleased to participate in further constructive discussions on the subject during the current session for they were seriously concerned at the enormous problem of hunger in the world and had already taken a number of concrete steps to alleviate the problem.

60. At its meeting in June 1982, the Interim Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy had made some progress in the implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action. In recent years the international community, particularly the World Bank and a number of United Nations technical assistance agencies, had dramatically increased their emphasis on the development of new and renewable sources of energy and had focused, in particular, on the search for solutions to the energy problems of the developing countries.

61. The reports submitted by a number of countries had demonstrated that a growing share of official development assistance as well as non-concessional flows were being directed towards the energy sector. However, the General Assembly would still have to deal with a number of important issues at the financial and institutional level in order to promote the most efficient implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action. In that connexion, the States members of the Community felt that there was no need to set up new mechanisms but that ways should be sought to ensure a more effective and co-ordinated use of existing resources and institutions.

62. Turning to the question of commodities, he said that Members of the Community recognized the need to guarantee commodity producers fair and stable prices. While sufficient progress had not been made in the implementation of the agreement to establish the Common Fund the progress made in the field of some individual commodities, for instance, the finalization of the Jute agreement, was very gratifying.

63. The attention of the international community must also continue to be drawn to the plight of the least-developed countries whose problems remained extremely serious. Most donor institutions - including the Community - were directing an increasing share of official development assistance towards those countries. However, the resources available to those countries were far from adequate both in terms of their actual needs and in terms of the objectives accepted by the international community and the commitment expressed in connexion with the adoption of the Substantial New Programme of Action adopted in Paris, in 1981. In the context of efforts to reach and, where possible, surpass the target of 0.7 per cent for official development assistance it should be recalled that the States members of the Community were aiming to allocate 0.15 per cent of their GNP as official development assistance to the least-developed countries.

64. However, the major problem for most least-developed countries was not only the volume of assistance but also its efficiency. More attention should be paid to a

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more efficient co-ordination among donors with a view to facilitating the tasks of the weak administrative infrastructures of most least-developed countries. In that context he paid tribute to UNDP, in particular, for organizing round table meetings between least-developed countries and bilateral and multilateral donor institutions, and to the World Bank for continuing its activities within the established aid consortia. Also, the technical meeting to be held in October under the auspices of UNCTAD, on co-operation modalities between donors and recipients would be a very useful contribution in that area.

65. Finally, the States members of the Community were pleased with the agreement reached in the Economic and Social Council on the issue of the revitalization of the Council and they stood ready to participate in any further consultations on the matter.

66. For many years, one of the virtues of the Second Committee had been the fact that it spent as little time as possible on general statements with a view to concentrating instead on issues of substance. The States members of the Community once more pledged to co-operate fully in the work of the Committee and hoped that the Committee could enter into substantive negotiations as soon as possible.

The meeting rose at 5.40 p.m.