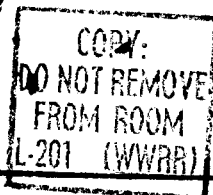


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THIRTY-SEVENTH SESSION

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SECOND COMMITTEE
18th meeting
held on
Thursday, 21 October 1982
at 3 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 18th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. FAFOWORA (Nigeria)

later: Mr. FAREED (Pakistan)

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1. Mr. TAKEI (United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization) said that UNESCO's terms of reference covered a wide variety of areas that were directly related to upgrading the scientific and technological potential of peoples, such as science policy, research in basic and applied sciences, scientific education and training, and the dissemination of scientific and technical information.

2. In its work UNESCO was guided by a strategy that embraced two types of activity: (a) encouraging intellectual co-operation by conducting international co-operative research projects, organizing international conferences and seminars, and issuing publications; and (b) operational project included in its technical

(Mr. Takei, UNESCO)

assistance programmes - which, in most cases, were executed by UNESCO's five regional offices for science (New Delhi, Jakarta, Cairo, Nairobi and Montevideo). In addition, in order to orient its work UNESCO periodically organized regional conferences of ministers responsible for the application of science and technology to development, the most recent of them at Manila in March 1982 for Asia and the Pacific region.

3. Co-operation between UNESCO and its member States in science and technology for development was constantly growing. In the previous decade government bodies responsible for science development had been established in many member States.

4. In view of the crucial role of fundamental research in the development of the natural sciences and their applications, UNESCO paid special attention to strengthening national research potentials in a wide realm of subjects, such as mathematics, physics, chemistry, genetics, physiology, ecology, hydrology and oceanography. To that end UNESCO had initiated a number of international research programmes which were widely known under their acronyms (IHP for hydrology, MAB for ecology, UNISIST for information science, for example). Moreover, UNESCO had intensively tackled certain key areas such as computer technology, biotechnology and new sources of energy.

5. Lack of appropriate human skills still lay at the heart of the problems of developing countries. In that field, UNESCO had been working to further the creation and adaptation of university and post-graduate training courses in the natural sciences. It likewise paid special attention to curricula and teaching methods and materials with a view to responding more efficiently to national requirements.

6. Another acute problem, particularly for developing countries, was the cost and other difficulties involved in establishing national systems for information, data processing and communications. It was in response to that need that UNESCO had launched an international programme for scientific and technological information, the UNISIST programme and was developing on an experimental basis a system for the international exchange of information on the application of science and technology to development, called SPINES.

7. UNESCO had oriented its science programmes in such a way as to comply with the recommendations of the Vienna Conference. In that connection, it had joined the Task Force on Science and Technology for Development with a view to participating in joint projects in the area of concentration defined by the Operational Plan for the Implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action. At the moment, UNESCO was chairman of the group set up by the Task Force for the planning of science and technology policies.

8. In conclusion, he said that the execution of the medium-term plan for 1984-1989 would enable UNESCO to reaffirm its aspiration to contribute to peace and the well-being of peoples. Instead of a sectoral approach, the Plan adopted a new intersectoral and interdisciplinary approach with a view to ensuring that UNESCO would fulfil its role more successfully.

9. Mr. DIOUF (Senegal), referring to the report of the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development, said that the Interim Fund had not yet reached the target of \$250 million laid down at Vienna after lengthy discussions and that the Financing System that had followed has experienced difficulties ever since the first pledging conference. New talks would have to be held to resolve pending issues concerning the financing of science and technology for development.

10. Combining forces at the world level, however necessary, was no substitute for the indispensable national effort. For that reason Senegal had in 1966 begun to equip itself with the tools for its technological emancipation by establishing an Office of Scientific Affairs that had since been converted into the Secretariat of State for Scientific and Technical Research, whose function it was to ensure the adoption of satisfactory national policies in that sphere. In June 1982 a series of national science and technology seminars had been held in Senegal. The recommendations that had emerged from those seminars had led the Government to take measures to encourage national scientific and technical activities.

11. Senegal had participated actively in the United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and it hoped that the Assembly would at its thirty-seventh session endorse the recommendations on the demilitarization of space. Senegal likewise hoped that measures would be taken to safeguard the inalienable right of all members of the international community to utilize geostationary satellites for communications, broadcasting, data transmission, meteorology and other purposes.

12. The delay in the implementation of the Nairobi Plan of Action was a matter of concern. His country which, like other developing countries allocated a significant proportion of its resources to meeting energy requirements for development.

13. The question of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy was of special importance for third-world countries. The applications of isotopes to the study of the water profile of soils and the dynamics of fertilizing factors and to many aspects of medical research and the treatment of disease deserved greater attention from the international community. His country was also a supporter of the denuclearization of Africa. Moreover, it believed that it was essential for the United Nations to take steps to protect the world from the effects of ionizing radiation and toxic substances.

14. The various activities he had mentioned depended essentially on the technical preparation of the individual, and training should therefore be a central theme in all multilateral co-operation programmes and in country programmes as well.

15. Referring to the manifestations of the current world crisis (inflation, unemployment, monetary instability, recession, deterioration in the terms of trade to the detriment of third-world countries), he maintained that it was a law of history that crises carried within them the seeds of change. Recent technological advances in biotechnology, data processing and energy and the new horizons man was

(Mr. Diouf, Senegal)

exploring - space and the oceans - held out vast possibilities of conquering hunger and disease, increasing the capacity to produce goods and services and satisfying the growing needs for energy.

16. Mr. SLIPCHENKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that his delegation attached special importance to the implementation of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States and to the General Assembly resolutions adopted at previous sessions aimed at establishing new just, egalitarian and mutually beneficial economic relations among States which would eliminate discrimination and domination. Some of the provisions of the Charter were of paramount importance in that they reflected the great truth that in order to achieve international socio-economic objectives, it was necessary to create a climate of peace, security and confidence, to eliminate threats of war, curb the arms race and take steps to bring about disarmament. Unfortunately, those conditions did not now prevail. Under the influence of the imperialist forces, the world political situation was undergoing a steady deterioration which might eventually have disastrous consequences for mankind.

17. The deepening of the chronic crisis of the capitalist economic system was paralleled by an intensification of neo-colonialist plundering by the United States and other Western Powers which, together with the transnational corporations, sought to perpetuate the dependency of the developing countries.

18. The application of sanctions and economic and trade restrictions against the socialist countries and the progressive régimes of Africa, Asia and Latin America directly contravened the spirit and letter of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States and constituted a blatant violation of the principles on which it rested. It was therefore particularly important to reaffirm the authority of that document and to ensure that all States complied scrupulously with its provisions. Otherwise, the establishment of the new international economic order and the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Decade of the 1980s would be frustrated. His delegation considered that the implementation of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, the investigation of the reasons behind the non-compliance with its provisions and identification of the guilty parties should be incorporated in the agenda of the United Nations General Assembly.

19. Implementation of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States also presupposed international co-operation in industry. His delegation took the view that UNIDO's activities were very important, particularly the steps it was taking to develop progressive approaches to industrial co-operation, to promote the study of the social aspects of industrialization and to conduct interdisciplinary programmes designed to work out management and administration guidelines for State enterprises in developing countries, especially in Africa.

20. His Government attached great importance to UNIDO's activities in the training of skilled personnel and the transfer of technology to the developing countries to help them shake off their technological dependence on transnational monopolies.

(Mr. Slipchenko, Ukrainian SSR)

The socialist countries had always supported the developing countries in that endeavour and would like to see more rapid progress made in the work on the Code of Conduct on the Transfer of Technology, which had been hampered by the Western countries. Attention should also be drawn to the important efforts of UNIDO to assist the peoples of Namibia and Palestine. That assistance should only be given through their legitimate representatives, namely SWAPO and the Palestine Liberation Organization.

21. UNIDO's activities were certainly not above reproach. Some ineffective and costly studies were being made which bore no relation to the principal tasks incumbent on the Organization under its Constitution. For example, the UNIDO secretariat wanted to establish an Industrial Development Bank despite the objections raised by many delegations to establishing another institution which would, moreover, be outside UNIDO's field of competence. In his view, it was more important for the UNIDO administration to adopt measures for the rational utilization of the financial and human resources now available to the Organization.

22. His delegation did not agree either that the System of Consultations should be expanded because in practice, it would create precedents enabling the transnational corporations and foreign monopolies to influence the industrialization policy of the developing countries and to impose projects which would mainly benefit private foreign capital. In that respect, his delegation associated itself with the statements on the subject made by the socialist countries at the Economic and Social Council's 1982 summer session.

23. The contributions of the socialist countries to the developing countries, and particularly the newly independent States, were substantial and they enabled the latter to have a share in world industrial production. Under bilateral agreements, the Ukrainian SSR sent the developing countries specialists, technical personnel, experts and teachers and provided them with assistance in building industrial plants and other kinds of installations. At the same time, it was assisting those countries in training personnel for local industries.

24. To enhance the effectiveness of UNIDO, it was indispensable that its activities should be universal and that they should take into account the particular characteristics of socio-economic systems and the industrial objectives of the various countries. It was also essential to respect the principle of equitable geographical representation both in the UNIDO secretariat and in its field offices. The Ukrainian SSR was under-represented in the UNIDO secretariat and his delegation therefore hoped that appropriate steps would be taken to increase the recruitment of Ukrainian specialists whose capability was only too well known.

25. Mr. SCHMID (Austria) said that the delegations which had spoken earlier had almost invariably stressed the consequences of the world economic crisis and the uncertain outlook for recovery in the short term. No group of countries and no region of the world had escaped that world crisis, which was unprecedented in the post-war era. Nevertheless, despite the universality of the problems, it should be

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(Mr. Schmid, Austria)

recognized that the resulting shortages had not affected all groups of countries equally. As the French Minister for Development Co-operation had pointed out in his statement in the Second Committee, there was no denying that the structural deficiencies of the developing countries made them much more vulnerable to the effects of the crisis than the industrialized countries. Per capita real income of the developing countries taken together had declined in absolute terms in 1981. The devastating effect on their economies of the stagnation in exports, the deterioration in the terms of trade and the increase in the debt servicing co-efficient, added to the reduction in official development assistance, meant that the prospect of achieving even the minimum targets specified in the International Development Strategy appeared more remote than ever.

26. However, it would be counter-productive to consider only the negative aspects of the world economic situation. Fuelled by the current downward trend in interest rates emanating from the world's strongest economy, that of the United States, a slight rebound in economic activity, which needed to be reinforced by policies designed to set the world economy on the path of continued growth, was on the horizon. In his address to the Economic and Social Council in July, the Secretary-General had expressed grave concern at the implications of the economic crisis for peace and stability and advanced a series of proposals for the recovery of the world economy through concerted international action. Drawing attention to the dilemma of how to make resurgent growth non-inflationary, the Secretary-General had indicated that recovery relied to an extreme extent on economic contraction as an anti-inflationary strategy and had added that the issue was not whether the battle against inflation should continue, since it obviously should continue. The issue was, rather, that of deciding what means should be employed in fighting inflation, as measures to promote recovery could not be set aside indefinitely. The Austrian delegation fully agreed with that assessment. With inflation having been reduced to manageable proportions in most industrialized countries, the time had come to reconsider the restrictive monetary policies pursued by some countries over the past two years and to aim for an appropriate policy mix designed to re-establish economic growth without fuelling inflation.

27. Even in the current difficult times, his country continued to advocate a free and open multilateral trading system governed by internationally recognized rules based on the principles of most-favoured-nation treatment and mutual benefit. Any attempt to resort to bilateral action, such as competitive devaluations or the introduction of new barriers to the free flow of goods and services would have to be vigorously opposed in order to prevent the resurgence of the "beggar-my-neighbour" policy that had so grievously affected recovery from the great depression of the 1930s. The ministerial meeting of GATT to be held in November 1982 would provide an opportunity to reaffirm and strengthen the functioning of the multilateral trading system and to improve that system in the interest of all nations, as indicated in the declaration adopted by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 at their sixth annual meeting. His delegation joined the Ministers in their appeal to all countries to take advantage of that meeting.

(Mr. Schmid, Austria)

28. His Government continued to believe that a lasting improvement in international economic relations could be brought about only through determined and imaginative co-operation between industrialized and developing countries, particularly through a genuine global dialogue. His country had therefore consistently supported the call for the global negotiations proposed at the Cancún summit conference the previous year and regretted that no agreement had as yet been reached in that respect. It was to be hoped that, with some flexibility on all sides, the draft resolution submitted by the Group of 77 in March and the modifications thereto proposed by the major industrialized countries at Versailles would enable Member States to reach agreement on the negotiations in the course of the current session.

29. However, the absence of such agreement was no reason for delaying action to facilitate economic recovery and to alleviate the intolerable pressure on developing countries. Such action was urgently needed, particularly in order to stem protectionist measures, to stabilize commodity export earnings and to maintain adequate flows of financial resources. In view of the level of commercial debts contracted over recent years, it was imperative to strengthen the role of international financial institutions, in particular IMF and the World Bank, and to provide such bodies with the resources required for carrying out their tasks. It was also important to maintain substantial levels of Official Development Assistance in order to provide low-income countries with the minimum amount of external assistance they required for financing their most urgent needs. It was gratifying to note, in that connection, that agreement had been reached at Toronto on the resources to be provided to the International Development Association (IDA) in 1983 and 1984 and that progress towards a significant increase in the resources available to IMF had been achieved. Those intentions must be translated into action at the following meeting of the Interim Committee in April 1983.

30. A heavy responsibility for maintaining international solvency fell on private banks. It would be disastrous if increases in international liquidity consented to in the framework of the World Bank were nullified by over-restrictive lending policies on the part of the international banking community, which had so far played a major role in recycling surplus funds to capital-deficient regions of the world. However, even taken together, concessional and commercial lending would not suffice to create conditions for self-sustained growth in the poorest regions of the world, where the physical infrastructure for setting in motion a process of accelerated growth was partly or totally lacking. At a time when huge productive capacities, particularly in the heavy-industry sector were lying idle in industrialized countries, producing intolerable levels of unemployment, the repeated calls for concerted international action to improve the infrastructure of developing countries, particularly their transport facilities, must be borne in mind.

31. In the absence of agreement on the adoption of comprehensive international action to come to grips with the current economic situation, more limited achievements and opportunities in a variety of areas should not be overlooked. Progress on specific issues could be crucial for continuing a worthwhile dialogue and avoiding a crisis of confidence in multilateral co-operation within the

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(Mr. Schmid, Austria)

framework of the United Nations. The establishment of the Financing System for Science and Technology for Development was a matter of great concern to his delegation. When he had proposed in the Committee at the previous session that the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development should establish a working group on the Financing System, he had hoped that negotiations on long-term arrangements for new machinery would be successfully concluded at the fourth session of the Intergovernmental Committee. Unfortunately, agreement had not yet been reached in that connection, although some progress had been made in recent months. At the resumed fourth session of the Intergovernmental Committee, which had been held in September, participants had agreed that there was a convergence of views on financial issues, in particular with regard to the level of resources, and accepted the proposals submitted by the Secretariat, as a viable basis for further negotiations. It was to be hoped that broad agreement could be reached in that respect at the current session. If the Financing System was to be viable, it would have to have the greatest possible financial support from all groups of countries. Consequently, the fact that some countries that could be major donors were not yet ready to assume their appropriate share of the financing endangered the system as a whole. His delegation supported the appeal made by the Secretary-General to ministers for foreign affairs and was grateful to him for his continuing support in that connection at a time when the success of the Financing System for Science and Technology depended to a great extent on a renewed political commitment.

32. Referring to the importance of agricultural development and food security, he recalled that balanced and sustained development could be achieved only if food was made a priority item in national and international agendas. His delegation had carefully studied the main conclusions and proposals adopted by the World Food Council at its most recent session, in particular the call for accelerated implementation of national food strategies and proposals for increased food security. Strong international support and increased financial assistance would be necessary to implement those proposals. His country's bilateral development efforts were being increasingly concentrated on rural development. Although food aid would remain essential for the foreseeable future to alleviate hunger and malnutrition in many low-income countries, the ultimate goal of national and international efforts must be self-sufficiency in basic foodstuffs, which could be achieved only through determined efforts to improve the living and working conditions of the rural population, including by providing adequate production incentives. Austria had recently become a party to the Food Aid Convention and had begun to contribute to the International Food Reserve of FAO, with particular emphasis in both cases on the African continent. It has also increased its contribution to the World Food Programme for the current biennium.

33. Referring to the statement of the Executive Director of UNIDO, he said that his delegation considered the ratification of the new Constitution of UNIDO by 84 states to be proof of the international community's recognition of the organization's important role in international industrial co-operation. The consultations provided for in article 25 of the Statute should be held at UNIDO's headquarters not later than the beginning of 1983. Countries which had not yet ratified the Convention should be involved in the consultation process.

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(Mr. Schmid, Austria)

34. His delegation was pleased that the Industrial Development Board had adopted a provisional agenda for the Fourth General Conference of UNIDO, and was prepared to co-operate constructively in the open-ended working group which met periodically with the secretariat to finalize preparations.

35. His Government supported the growing concentration of UNIDO's technical assistance in the African region, since it was most urgently needed there. In addition, many of the least developed countries situated in Africa were encountering major problems of infrastructure development which would have to be overcome before any significant process of industrialization could take place. His Government therefore fully supported the goals and objectives of the Industrial Development Decade for Africa.

36. As part of his Government's close co-operation with UNIDO, it supported the United Nations Industrial Development Fund. In that connection, mention should be made of the important role played by the industrial development field advisors. It was regrettable that the number of such advisors still fell short of the requirements of the developing countries and that the financial difficulties of UNDP might even result in a further reduction.

37. Mr. KAABACHI (Tunisia) said that the consideration of agenda item 71, "Development and international co-operation", provided an opportunity to assess the progress made in implementing decisions and activities aimed at restructuring international economic relations and establishing a new international economic order.

38. His delegation was concerned over the continuing deterioration in the economic situation of the developing countries, which was reflected, as emphasized in the statement made at the Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77, in a slackening of economic growth, balance-of-payment deficits, deteriorating terms of trade, heavy indebtedness, the reduction of development assistance, the proliferation of protectionist measures and a growing indifference to multilateral co-operation for development.

39. He noted that the objectives set in the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade now seemed overambitious although, when they had been approved in 1980, they had been considered quite modest.

40. There was an urgent need for structural reform rather than mere palliatives. His delegation had noted with interest the proposals put forward by the Secretary-General at the second regular session of the Economic and Social Council in 1982 for the establishment of an urgent programme of action. While supporting that proposal, his delegation considered that the measures adopted should not hinder the holding of global negotiations or the introduction of structural reforms in international economic relations but rather they should benefit all developing countries without distinction. Food deficits, especially in Africa, were a cause of concern to his country. African countries must be given the assistance they needed to achieve food self-sufficiency.

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(Mr. Kaabachi, Tunisia)

41. The restrictive trade practices applied by some developed countries to agricultural products and manufactures from developing countries seriously hindered development in the latter.

42. His delegation was concerned at the fact that agreement had not been reached enabling the Financing System for Science and Technology for Development to become operational despite the fact that three years had elapsed since its establishment. The negative attitude of many developed countries towards the system was disturbing. He reiterated the appeal made to the developed countries by the Group of 77 that they change their attitude so that agreement could be reached on the Financing System at the current session of the General Assembly.

43. Lastly, his delegation reaffirmed its support for all measures aimed at integrating women in the development process. His country, which had worked continuously since becoming independent for the economic and social advancement of women, would co-operate in all endeavours undertaken by the international community to improve the status of women.

44. Mr. LEE (Canada) observed that, as the statements made by the representatives of most countries showed, there was a large measure of agreement on the nature and scope of the economic problems which the international community was facing. Behind the economic situation lay the important social realities of growing unemployment and hunger. The resulting frustration was perhaps making its mark on domestic political processes, which in turn was reflected in the activities of the United Nations. In the past, the United Nations had been more successful in identifying problems than in solving them. The time had come to recognize the magnitude of the problems besetting all countries, especially the developing countries, and to find effective ways of solving the world economic crisis.

45. His Government had noted with interest the recent declaration by the Group of 77, and welcomed the Group's expressed intent to use whatever channels were available to better the international economic environment. His Government agreed with the general view that the global negotiations must begin without further delay. Countries should abandon the nationalistic policies which must be a temptation for many of them during such difficult times, and work together to find effective solutions at the forthcoming international conferences. At the forthcoming GATT ministerial meeting, for example, it was imperative to reassert countries' joint responsibility to resist protectionism. The meeting might establish safeguards, allowing the international community to exercise more control over protectionist measures, and set up an effective dispute settlement system, besides laying down improved rules on trade in agricultural products and strengthening existing GATT codes. Canada, which would be chairing the meeting, would do all it could to produce results that satisfied the needs of trade in the 1980s.

46. His Government hoped that the sixth session of UNCTAD would also take up economic problems realistically. At that session, Canada would continue to support the concept of international co-operation among developing countries, in the belief that such co-operation benefited the international economy as a whole.

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(Mr. Lee, Canada)

47. Official development assistance had been one of the major stimulants to the economy in the past, and his country therefore reiterated its undertaking to reach a target of 0.5 per cent of the GNP in official development assistance by 1985, and to make every effort to reach 0.7 per cent by the end of the decade. As donors contributed most when they concentrated on areas of national expertise, Canada would concentrate on agriculture and food, energy and human resources. In the agricultural and food sphere, it was helping to buttress the world food security system, and was ready to provide increased assistance to countries that had made an effort to increase their farming productivity. It had recently pledged 250 million Canadian dollars to the World Food Programme for 1983 and 1984, which was an increase of 32 per cent over previous pledges. It supported the World Food Council's recommendation in document WFC/1982/12, that international organizations dealing with agriculture and food should use resources more effectively, improve their general efficiency and avoid duplication of work and efforts. Economic and Social Council decision 1982/176, sponsored by the Group of 77 and entitled "Food problems", also contained valid proposals.

48. Canada already devoted a substantial proportion of its official development assistance to energy-related programmes. Over the coming five years it would disburse one billion dollars in bilateral aid and would continue to promote greater assistance in the field of energy at the multilateral level. It also supported the establishment of an energy affiliate of the World Bank.

49. As far as training and research were concerned, Canada supported the objectives of UNITAR and the United Nations University, and regretted the fall in contributions to those institutions. It also regretted that, in order to balance its budget, UNITAR had had to reduce its expenditure. It reiterates its view that the only way for UNITAR to obtain sufficient resources would be for it to receive a moderate level of "core funding" from the regular budget of the United Nations. The Joint Inspection Unit also recommended that approach, and suggested giving the Institute \$1 million annually.

50. In addition to those he had mentioned, there were other reasons not to be hopelessly pessimistic, such as the progress made at the recent meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank in Toronto, during which Canada had supported the proposal for a substantial increase in IMF resources in order to ensure that the Fund could help countries in need to make economic adjustments.

51. Mr. Fareed (Pakistan) took the Chair.

52. Mr. ESAN (Nigeria) said that he shared the concern of other representatives at the continuing deterioration in the world economic situation. The process of development had been at a virtual standstill since 1981, and the situation had become still worse over the current year. The quality of life had deteriorated appreciably and millions of people, especially in the developing countries, faced threats to their very survival.

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(Mr. Esan, Nigeria)

53. The plight of the developing countries should be given priority attention. The magnitude of their economic problems had led useful assistance projects to be abandoned, and the resources available for development programmes to diminish.

54. The situation was particularly disturbing in Africa, where development was proceeding at a crawl or even registering negative growth in the case of some countries. In general, the industrial base of African countries remained fragile and the manufacturing sector was growing - when growing at all - at a rate barely sufficient to allow the region the 1 per cent share in world industrial production by 1990 projected in the Lagos Plan of Action. Nothing, perhaps, better illustrated the deteriorating economic and social conditions in Africa than the fact that five more African countries were soon to be included in the category of least developed countries. The task must be to remove the factors impeding the accelerated development of Africa and developing countries as a whole, but it was a task to be shared by all members of the international community. In that context, international economic co-operation was an indispensable tool for promoting the steady development of all countries.

55. His country reiterated its firm belief in the contribution that the industrialization process could make to balanced and accelerated development in developing countries, and accordingly it assigned high priority, in its national development plan, to the industrial sector. Experience also showed, however, that the support of the international community could significantly facilitate the promotion of industrialization in the developing countries - hence the importance his country attached to the role of UNIDO in that area. He noted with interest some of the major decisions adopted by the Industrial Development Board at its sixteenth session, in particular the decision that the Executive Director should adjust UNIDIO's work programme so as to take fully into account the requirements of the Industrial Development Decade for Africa. His delegation therefore supported the request to the General Assembly to allocate adequate resources to UNIDO and ECA so that they could implement the activities of the decade. Nigeria also took a close interest in the entire range of UNIDIO's activities. It attached great importance, for example, to the expansion of UNIDO's activities in the sphere of investment promotion, in view of the developing countries' need for resources to finance their industrialization. It would also continue to support the call for a further expansion in the consultations system, since that was a useful means of accelerating the restructuring and redeployment of industry to developing countries.

56. The deteriorating food situation in many developing countries, particularly in Africa, continued to be a matter of grave concern. Whilst a modest increase in global food production in 1981 had been reported, the growth of the agriculture and food sector in many developing countries had remained sluggish, resulting in growing food deficits. In consequence, the scourge of hunger had intensified in many parts of the developing world, while huge amounts of hard-earned export revenue were being used to pay for food imports.

57. Nevertheless, although the gravity of the food crisis was generally acknowledged, the response of the international community had not been marked by an

(Mr. Esan, Nigeria)

adequate sense of urgency. A case in point was the problem over the replenishment of IDA, which had serious implications for the food prospects of the developing countries since a significant proportion of IDA resources was normally allocated to agriculture. Mention should also be made of the fact that there was still no dependable global system of food reserves to guard against undue fluctuations in production and prices. None the less, his delegation recognized that one of the really major efforts undertaken in recent months to deal with the food problems facing the developing countries had been the eighth ministerial session of the World Food Council, held in Mexico. Many of the recommendations made by the Council were of particular interest, especially the proposal for a developing-country-owned reserve, and it was gratifying to note the special attention given at that session to the African food problem.

58. His delegation emphasized that the provision of substantial external assistance, financial and otherwise, was vital to the achievement of the economic goals of the developing countries, including the attainment of food self-sufficiency. It was gratified to note that that point had been stressed in the report of the Secretary-General on the situation of food and agriculture in Africa (A/37/390). His delegation also commended the efforts made by organizations and agencies such as FAO towards the development of agriculture in Africa, and joined in the call for further support by international financial institutions and relevant organizations of the United Nations system.

59. With regard to science and technology for development, his delegation remained of the view that the need to restructure international scientific and technological relations was as pressing as ever, since very little progress had been made in reducing the technological dependence of developing countries. To that end, his delegation called for speedier implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action and its operational plan. The role of the United Nations system in giving catalytic support to the efforts of the developing countries in developing their science and technology potentials was well known. His delegation looked forward to the conclusion of the task entrusted by the ACC Task Force to four working groups, namely the identification of areas of concerted activities for organizations of the United Nations system.

60. The decisions taken by the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development at its fourth session included a request to the Executive Director of the Centre for Science and Technology to endeavour to organize meetings, similar to that held in April in Mexico for the Latin American region, of national focal points for science and technology in other regions. His delegation was pleased to note the speedy action taken to that end, since a meeting of African national focal points was due to take place the following month at Brazzaville. It was to be hoped that that meeting would improve the prospects for fruitful co-operation in science and technology among African countries.

61. The poor results of the Pledging Conference held in March 1982 to mobilize resources for the Financing System served as a reminder of the futility of a mechanism which could not ensure the availability of sufficient resources on an

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adequate and stable basis. That was why developing countries attached high priority to the early and successful conclusion of the current negotiations within the United Nations on long-term financing arrangements. Although differences still had to be bridged, considerable progress had been made in the negotiations. It was to be hoped that at the current session of the General Assembly a unique opportunity would not be lost to improve the prospects of the world economy through concerted international action to enable developing countries to benefit from the increasing application of science and technology to their development process.

62. The contraction in world trade was of particular concern to the developing countries, many of which depended on only one or two basic export commodities as their principal source of foreign exchange. The deterioration in the terms of trade of the developing countries and the current low prices for commodities were having devastating effects on their growth prospects. He stressed that the developed countries themselves would benefit from an early strengthening of commodity markets since developing countries were likewise being compelled to curtail their imports. Developed countries should also dismantle the barriers preventing the developing countries from gaining greater access to trade. Nigeria accordingly hoped that the GATT ministerial meeting and the sixth session of UNCTAD in 1983 would be fully utilized by the international community to deal squarely with all the problems existing in the trade sector.

63. Mr. NGO PIN (Democratic Kampuchea) said that in the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade the General Assembly had stated that full respect for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of every country, abstention from the threat or use of force against any State, non-interference in the internal affairs of other States and the settlement by peaceful means of disputes among States were of the utmost importance for the success of the Strategy (resolution 35/56, annex, preamble, para. 13). Those rights, which laid the foundations of the new international economic order, were being blatantly trampled upon by the advance of expansionist forces in every part of the world, seriously threatening world peace. Those forces always resorted to the same means: armed aggression and military intervention, followed by a spurious call for détente in order to secure the necessary respite to consolidate their position. At the same time, they attempted to justify their aggression as an act of international solidarity by means of an alleged appeal from peoples for foreign armed intervention to aid in their liberation.

64. His country had learned those truths through bitter experience. Over 250,000 Vietnamese troops were occupying its territory, with the strong support of the Soviet expansionist Power, after having invaded on 25 December 1978, in flagrant violation of the principles of the United Nations Charter and of the non-aligned movement. It would therefore be impossible to speak of the rights of peoples to development and security or to establish a new international economic order as long as the expansionist forces remained in a position to impose the law of the jungle.

65. In order to realize their dream of regional domination, the Hanoi authorities had not hesitated to betray the profound aspirations of the Vietnamese people, who

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wished only to live in peace and independence in a democratic and prosperous society. They had mobilized all the national resources of Viet Nam to carry out their vile policy of aggression and expansion in South-East Asia. Under the cover of the national reconstruction of Viet Nam and of natural calamities, they had not hesitated to beg for foreign aid, which they had diverted and used instead as a means of achieving their half-century-old ambition of an Indo-China Federation. As a result, co-operation in the region had been hindered. For example, because of the Vietnamese invasion and occupation of Kampuchea and Vietnamese control over Laos, the Mekong projects, the most important in the region, could no longer be carried out successfully. The war which ravaged Kampuchea, like that in Afghanistan was a threat to world peace and, consequently, to the establishment of the new international economic order.

66. Food problems had been growing more serious in Kampuchea since the Hanoi authorities had invaded it. The term "food problem" was a euphemism when applied to the situation in Kampuchea. The real problem that confronted it was famine, and that would continue as long as the Vietnamese troops of aggression and occupation remained in the country. The Kampuchean food problem had been virtually solved by 1978, before the Vietnamese invasion. It should be remembered that the famine, which was the object of such concern to the international community, had appeared only in the second half of 1979. The food problem still remained acute in Kampuchea and it could be solved only by the elimination of its root cause, the Vietnamese invasion of Kampuchea. The Government of Democratic Kampuchea had repeatedly denounced the use of famine as a weapon by the Vietnamese aggressors in their attempt to break down the resistance of the people, and had constantly asserted that the Vietnamese war of aggression was not an ordinary war of aggression but one of annexation and extermination that was part of a regional and world expansionist strategy. The Vietnamese aggressors were putting into practice the slogan that the end justified the means in order to achieve their design, as the facts he was about to describe attested.

67. In the lowlands bordering Viet Nam, the Kampuchean population had been forced to leave their lands, with their crops, and their rivers and ponds abounding with fish, and Vietnamese settlers had been sent to live there; the same fate awaited the lands rich in mineral resources. In what were known as the "guerilla" areas, entire villages had been razed to the ground on the pretext that they were in collusion with the forces of Democratic Kampuchea. The population had been placed in strategic hamlets where they could not grow the agricultural products necessary for their subsistence. In the areas under cultivation, the Hanoi authorities had seized crops to feed their war machinery. Similarly, the aid given to the Kampuchean people by donor countries and humanitarian organizations had been diverted by the Hanoi authorities to feed the Vietnamese troops of aggression and occupation. In the areas controlled by the Government of Democratic Kampuchea, on the other hand, the population had been able to increase the acreage under cultivation and to produce food. However some of those villages and communes were not totally safe from Vietnamese incursions, the main aim of which was to destroy all the population's growing crops and harvests. The great lake of Tonle Sap had had its resources plundered by the Vietnamese aggressors in the areas under their

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control. The lakeside population were being prevented from carrying out the fishing activities necessary for their subsistence. Most serious of all, and fraught with heavy consequences for the future of the lake's resources, was that the Vietnamese were carrying out their fishing activities even in the spawning season, destroying females and their eggs.

68. The Government of Democratic Kampuchea was gratified by the efforts of the generous donor countries and humanitarian organizations which were sending emergency aid to ensure the survival of the Kampuchean people and alleviate their suffering, and it wished to express once more its deep thanks to those countries and organizations for their decision to grant aid only when appropriate measures were taken to ensure that it effectively reached the Kampuchean people.

69. In conclusion, he quoted the appeal made by Prince Norodom Sihanouk, President of Democratic Kampuchea, at the plenary meeting of the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly on 30 September, that no financial, economic or material aid should be granted to the Hanoi régime.

70. Mr. PULZ (Czechoslovakia) said that the adverse consequences of the world economic crisis (inflation, unstable commodity markets, exchange fluctuations, etc.) were multiplied in the case of the developing countries.

71. The stage in the process of industrialization upon which the developing countries had entered after freeing themselves from colonial domination had not yet produced the expected results. The Lima Declaration had set as the target for the developing countries a 25 per cent share of world industrial production by the year 2000. But, according to information from UNIDO, that share had recently been 10.9 per cent, and it was estimated that by the year 2000 it would be only 15 per cent. Moreover, the level of industrialization in the various regions was uneven: the Latin American share of world industrial production was 6.1 per cent, while Africa, with a population twice as large, had only 1 per cent. That situation was due to the nature of the international economic relations inherited from the colonial period, which inhibited development and ran counter to the fundamental interests of the great majority of countries. His delegation accordingly supported the legitimate demands of the developing countries for a restructuring of the world economy through global negotiations and the establishment of a new international economic order.

72. Czechoslovakia, for its part, was providing those countries with bilateral and multilateral assistance to enable them to create their own industrial potential. For example, it had organized courses on petrol-driven engines and on energy savings in the silicates industry, and had participated, together with FAO, in courses on tropical veterinary medicine and on the timber industry for specialists from the developing countries. It had also taken part in a joint programme with UNIDO on ceramic building materials and non-metallic materials, the results of which would be made available to the developing countries.

73. The developed capitalist countries boasted of the assistance they claimed to be giving the developing countries. However, their real intention was that the

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latter should cease to be agrarian appendages and producers of raw materials for the imperialist centres and become either suppliers of fuel and processed raw materials at various stages, or places for the development of industrial production sectors that consumed large volumes of raw materials, energy resources and labour. That was the nature of the commercial, financial and technical relationship with the developing countries imposed by imperialism, whose monopolies controlled science, research and the sectors of production. The fundamental law of capitalism was to maximize profits. The assistance to the developing countries that the capitalist countries and transnational corporations talked about was therefore nothing but the pursuit of greater opportunities for private capital investment. For example, at the end of the 1970s private foreign capital investment in the developing countries had been \$7 billion, but the profits had been \$15 billion, in other words, over 100 per cent.

74. Food problems were among the most pressing challenges of modern times. The International Development Strategy for the Second and Third United Nations Development Decades had established the target of a 4-per-cent annual increase in world agricultural output, but that target had not yet been reached. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), in the 1970s the real growth of world agricultural output had been 3 per cent annually. In over 45 developing countries, however, the growth of agricultural output failed to keep up with population growth, and over 500 million people throughout the world were suffering from hunger and malnutrition. Current prospects for solving the problem of hunger were dim, since it was a question not only of financial or material assistance but also of general development. Czechoslovakia was collaborating with European research institutes in joint programmes in the sector.

75. World problems could not be solved unless the tension which characterized the international situation was first eliminated. Czechoslovakia condemned the use of trade for unacceptable political purposes and believed that, instead, economic co-operation among countries should be strengthened. All must be aware, too, that international relations as currently conducted could lead to a nuclear disaster. The United States and other Western countries diverted colossal sums from development and earmarked them for military purposes.

76. The arms race and the level of economic development were the two faces of the same coin. There were only two options for the future of mankind: to continue the arms race and to suffer the consequences, as the imperialists wished, or to adopt realistic disarmament measures. Many countries preferred the second path, namely disarmament, peaceful development and multilateral co-operation. That solution was the only one which conformed to the ideals of the United Nations.

77. Mr. DON NANJIRA (Kenya) praised the work done by the Secretariat to ensure that most of the documents were available to delegations before the Committee began its work, and said he hoped that that practice would be continued in future. His delegation believed that efficiency and speed were essential in the execution of the work of the United Nations, and therefore continued to support fully the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system,

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which had begun with the adoption of General Assembly resolution 32/197. It was precisely for that reason that he had consistently endorsed the Committee's practice for the past three years forgoing the general debate. In his opinion, the call by some delegations, especially those of a European regional group, for time to be allocated to a general debate was not justifiable and ran counter to the restructuring exercise. In any case, as experience had shown, debates were unavoidable, even if they had not been scheduled. The Second Committee's general debate should therefore be abolished once and for all and his delegation would whole-heartedly endorse any proposal aimed at institutionalizing the practice followed since September 1980.

78. His delegation wished to stress the importance of the declaration adopted by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 at their recent meeting in New York. Since it was a political document adopted at a time when the world economic situation was critical, the declaration merited the serious attention of the international community, and especially of the Government departments and ministries of the developed countries. He hoped that appropriate action would soon be taken in response to the appeal of the Group of 77 to overcome the critical economic problems facing the international community.

79. Two years had elapsed since the General Assembly had proclaimed the Third United Nations Development Decade in its resolution 35/36 of 5 December 1980. In paragraph 180 of the International Development Strategy, it had been stipulated that the first review and appraisal of the implementation of the Strategy would be carried out in 1984. However, the current negative trends in the world economy militated against waiting so long. His delegation therefore believed that it was time for the United Nations to pronounce itself, preferably in a resolution adopted by consensus, on the issues covered in that important document, and especially the policy measures enumerated in section III.

80. His delegation had followed closely the deliberations of the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development at its fourth session (A/37/37). That Committee must squarely tackle the issues in the Vienna Programme of Action which had not yet been resolved. The implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action required the effective co-ordination of the activities of the relevant bodies of the United Nations system. When they became operational, the Centre for Science and Technology for Development and the United Nations Financing System for Science and Technology for Development must co-operate closely in implementing the Vienna Programme of Action. Co-ordination and co-operation were likewise required in order to implement the recommendations contained in the study of the efficiency of the United Nations system in the field of science and technology for development (A/36/240). It would also be useful to improve the quality of Secretariat documents on that subject.

81. The mobilization of financial resources for science and technology was of great importance for the developing countries, which had endeavoured to raise funds for that purpose, even outside the United Nations. For example, in 1981 a group of developing countries had organized a goodwill mission with a view to promoting

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multilateral co-operation in the field of science and technology. In the same spirit, Kenya had pledged \$80,000 at the Pledging Conference held in New York in March 1982, the results of which, it must be stated, had been disappointing.

82. The United Nations Interim Fund for Science and Technology for Development lacked adequate financial resources, and the same was true of the Financing System, which meant that the principal tasks could not be fully discharged. The donor countries must provide more funds to those institutions, and the Financing System must become fully operational on 1 January 1983. In that connection, the 15-point statement made by the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Committee at its fourth session was particularly noteworthy and should form the basis for further negotiation on the issue.

83. His Government required assistance in financing a number of important projects designed to strengthen Kenya's science and technology capacity and would soon submit those projects to the United Nations for consideration.

84. All the documents relating to food problems that the Second Committee had before it emphasized that the world food situation could have catastrophic consequences unless action was promptly taken. The rapid growth of population and the enormous food consumption of some rich countries had caused not only food shortages but exorbitant food prices. The developing countries of Asia and Africa were the worst affected by that situation. Those countries must be helped to strengthen their own food security systems through, among other things, the expansion of their food production. The protectionist policies and non-tariff barriers of the industrialized countries were hampering the efforts of the developing nations to secure access to international markets and participate in world trade. The official development assistance of most of the developed countries was far below the goal of 0.7 per cent of their GNP and was tending to decline, while those same countries were spending 5 or 6 per cent of their GNP on the arms race. Millions of people were hungry and could die while in other countries thousands of millions of dollars were being spent on weapons. Such immoral behaviour was intolerable. It was an international obligation to stop the arms race, especially the nuclear arms race, and the countries which were squandering colossal amounts of money should reallocate those resources to social and economic development, especially of the developing countries.

85. In Africa, food production had continued to decline. In the short term, the increase in production was below population growth and in the long term, their food deficit made the low-income countries particularly vulnerable. Africa contained the largest number of least developed and most seriously affected countries and it was therefore logical that special stress should be placed on the need to raise food production in those two categories of countries. Increased financial support for agricultural rehabilitation and emergency food aid was essential and it was to be hoped that the Committee would take appropriate action.

86. The special action programmes of FAO intended to assist developing nations to set up national food security programmes deserved the full support of the

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international community. Kenya supported, among others, the FAO programme for the control of African animal trypanosomiasis. Concerted and intensified international action was necessary to eradicate that disease.

87. To overcome the critical food situation in which Africa had found itself for the past 10 years, urgent measures must be taken to ensure that growth of food production outstripped growth of population through a programme of massive investment in Africa's food and agricultural sector. It was also important for the food plan for the African region and the Lagos Plan of Action to be implemented promptly, through special action programmes in the field of dairy and meat production, food losses, food security, fertilizers, plant protection, animal trypanosomiasis, rural development, fisheries in exclusive economic zones and forestry. The African countries should be given technical and financial assistance to establish early warning systems for disasters, to formulate and implement national food security policies, strategies and programmes, and to promote their capacity to attain self-sufficiency in food and agricultural production. The African and other developing nations should be accorded freer access to the markets of the developed countries and should be assured of stable and remunerative prices for their exports. Food security must be strengthened at the local, national, subregional, regional and global levels. An effective system of storage and distribution of grain reserves should be established to ensure food security and trade stability, and local marketing facilities should be improved. Efforts to curb population growth should be intensified through external financial and other support.

88. He urged the international community and the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to intensify their support for the African countries. He welcomed the recommendations and conclusions of the eighth ministerial session of the World Food Council and called for their early implementation. He also urged FAO, the World Food Council, the World Food Programme and the African Financial Community, which had been working on the critical food shortage in Africa, to co-operate closely in the discharge of their respective functions.

89. In particular, he urged FAO to continue to play its leading role in the co-ordination of efforts in the field of food and agricultural production in Africa, and the World Food Council to continue to generate the political will of all countries to facilitate the resolution of food problems, especially those of the African countries.

90. The Government of Kenya attached great importance to the role of science and technology for development, as had been demonstrated by the establishment of a Government Ministry devoted specifically to those questions. In addition, high-level representatives of Kenya had participated in international conferences and served on the good-will missions that had visited various capitals to seek financial support from the Governments of the countries concerned. Kenya had also participated actively in the work of the international bodies concerned with science and technology. He noted that the Government of Kenya had pledged \$80,000 to the Interim Fund for Science and Technology for Development, and in that

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connection expressed gratitude to the Tunisian Minister in charge of science and technology for development, who had served as co-ordinator of the good-will missions.

91. Mr. SAAD (Egypt) said that agenda item 71 was important because it was directly linked to international economic conditions, which were the Committee's basic theme. Most delegations had spoken of the steady deterioration of the international situation, in respect both of trade and the monetary system and of development in general. To refer again to the problems of the international economic system would lead only to the repetition of facts which had been mentioned many times and which were reviewed in document A/37/15. The Secretary-General of UNCTAD had also spoken on the topic and put forward some ideas for remedying the situation. What was important was to concentrate on the search for solutions.

92. In the current international economic situation, per capita income was no longer increasing in most of the developing countries. In addition, the indicators showed a very slow long-term rate of growth in international trade. It was no use, therefore, thinking of short-term economic solutions to rectify imbalances. Most economists subscribed to antique theories in which the period between the lowest point of recession and peak growth was said to be 50 years. They believed therefore that the recession would continue to the end of the century. Without going into those economic theories in detail, he believed that it was essential to seek solutions for the current crisis, which would be long-lasting.

93. It was of the upmost importance to avoid restrictions and protectionist measures. The negative repercussions which barriers of that kind could have on the mutual co-operation on which the whole United Nations system rested must not be forgotten. While short-term solutions should not be overlooked, long-term solutions must be found to overcome the current stagnation of the world economy. It was clear from the reports and statistics on international trade that some biased policies had influenced the rate of growth of the developed countries. It was also clear that oil reserves had risen and consumption had declined, despite the fact that the price of the product had gone down.

94. There was a plethora of statistics reflecting the grave situation of the developing countries, which were currently suffering the consequences of the measures and policies that the developed countries had adopted to overcome the world crisis. For example, the short-term and long-term external debt of the non-oil-producing countries had risen to \$384 billion, in other words 125 per cent of the total value of their exports. The Egyptian delegation wished to place on record that, in exposing the seriousness of the developing countries' situation, it was not seeking to rouse sympathy but rather to make it clear that, if the situation deteriorated still further, the international economic crisis could be intensified and armed conflict could break out. Furthermore, the export markets of the developed countries would be weakened. A multilateral approach must therefore be used to solve those problems.

95. He shared the optimism that was emerging during the preparations for the sixth session of UNCTAD. The means being used to prepare for that Conference constituted

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a fair, sensible and appropriate approach to the problems facing the international economy. But the success of the Conference would also depend on Governments' willingness to consider a broad range of generally acceptable options and solutions. For the Conference to attain its objectives, moreover, resolutions and a final declaration adopted by consensus would not suffice; there would have to be a commitment to act upon them. His delegation believed that UNCTAD should use new methods of supervising the implementation of its resolutions. Preparations at the regional and subregional levels were particularly important. Developing countries should present their views as soon as possible in order to prompt favourable reactions from the other side.

96. Despite the critical situation it was in, the international community's potential and possibilities would enable it to cope with its problems. The sixth session of UNCTAD would provide the opportunity for a free-ranging and sober discussion on new, realistic means of working together at the international level. His delegation wished to thank Mr. Corea, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, for the work he had put into preparing for the Conference and holding the necessary consultations with the parties concerned.

97. Turning to the activities of UNIDO, he expressed his appreciation of the competence with which UNIDO had been carrying out its functions. The Executive Director had said that all the follow-up activities to the Lima Conference had been dealt with in the UNIDO secretariat without an increase in staff, and that efforts had been made to reduce the cost of evaluating the organization's activities. That example should be emulated elsewhere in the United Nations system.

98. The international community believed that UNIDO had a very important part to play in relations between developed and developing countries. That belief had been demonstrated by the fact that 84 States had endorsed the Constitution of the organization, thereby laying the foundations for the transformation of UNIDO into a specialized agency. He expressed the hope that the transformation would take place in the near future.

99. The system of consultations applied over the past two years had been a success, and provided an apt means of establishing a constructive North-South dialogue. It had shown that there was no reason why the interests of the developing countries should conflict with those of the developed countries. At the same time, the industrialized world could not emerge from the crisis it was undergoing unless the developing countries made progress and became emancipated. The system of consultations had proved its value, above all, in helping developing countries to identify problems in the industrial sector and spur the growth of their productive capacity. But the outcome of the consultations would have to be translated into specific industrial measures and programmes to expand the developing countries' industrial output and justify the investments made. The international community should support the system of consultations so that the goals could be attained and the global negotiations could begin.

100. Despite its vast natural and human resources, Africa was one of the least developed areas in the world. His delegation called for moves to stop wasting the

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scope for exploiting and developing the continent's resources. States must undertake to implement the programme for the Industrial Development Decade for Africa and give priority to activities that would hasten African industrialization. He welcomed the effective co-operation between UNIDO, ECA and OAU, and the efforts made by their respective secretariats to implement the programme for the Industrial Development Decade for Africa within the framework of the Lagos Plan of Action.

101. The establishment of a Financing System for Science and Technology for Development and the activities of the Intergovernmental Committee on the subject were the results of the adoption of the Vienna Programme of Action by the international community. The establishment of such a system revealed a profound awareness of the role that science and technology played in the emancipation and economic and social development of the developing countries. As evidence of the international community's eagerness to take part in the negotiations on the System, he cited the statement by the ministerial meeting of the Group of 77, which had stressed the importance that the developing countries attached to the establishment of a Financing System for Science and Technology in which developed countries would participate.

102. The developed countries' interest in the system had also been revealed in the statement delivered by President Francois Mitterand to the Summit Conference held at Versailles in June 1982, in which he had presented many constructive ideas on science and technology. Among other things, the President had said that the latest technological discoveries must serve the nations of the South first and foremost, and the transfer of technologies to the countries of the South must be accelerated, while the organization of world markets was improved. He had added that science and technology must provide those countries with the conditions for survival with dignity.

103. He invited all developed and developing countries to combine their efforts to reach agreement on the different features of the System so that it could become operative in January 1983, as stipulated in General Assembly resolution 36/183.

104. The most serious problem currently confronting the world was the food crisis, since almost 30 million people had recently died of hunger. Despite the improvement in the food situation in the period 1981-1982 as compared with that obtaining in 1979-1980, the outlook in the developing countries remained bleak. Although the developed countries had had excellent harvests in 1982, agricultural production in most developing countries had not merely not increased fast enough to meet the food requirements associated with normal demographic growth, but had actually diminished. FAO had a clear idea of the problems affecting the food sector at the international level, and the solutions it advocated formed a good point of departure for remedying the situation.

105. The countries of Africa were fully aware of the serious problems in the agricultural sector, and were prepared to adopt agricultural strategies in conformity with the Lagos Plan of Action. An increase in food production in Africa

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would not only have to combat hunger, but also improve living conditions around the world; but to achieve that goal there would have to be sufficient funds for African countries to begin to put their agricultural production plans into effect. That would call for renewed efforts by those countries that could contribute and by such development agencies as the World Bank, IDA, IFAD and other credit and international development institutions.

106. His delegation was concerned over the fact that an emergency cereals reserve had only barely been constituted owing to a sizeable decline in contributions to the International Emergency Food Reserve. He urged all countries which were in a position to do so to increase their contributions to the Reserve so that it could respond rapidly to emergency situations.

107. The food security programme of FAO provided a general framework for the establishment of an effective world food security system, and the Food Reserve required support at the international, regional and national levels, since, if it was properly organized, it would be an effective means of assisting countries to deal with food and agricultural problems before they grew more serious.

108. Mr. FOLI (Ghana), referring first to the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, said that, unless the international community called a halt to the serious deterioration in the terms of trade, took concerted action to promote economic growth and decided to arrest the decline in prices of exports of raw materials, some of the broad goals of the Strategy could not be reached. The Strategy was, nevertheless, a valuable framework and set of guidelines for development and international co-operation and every effort should be made to prepare thoroughly for the forthcoming mid-term review.

109. With regard to trade and development, his delegation concurred with the view of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to the effect that the sixth session of UNCTAD was of vital importance not only in order to deal with the acute crisis in world trade but also to face up to other problems in the international economic system. He emphasized that the forthcoming session was not a substitute for the long-awaited global negotiations but should be seen as a complement to them.

110. His delegation also supported the statement of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to the effect that economic co-operation among developing countries was essential if they were to maintain rapid growth in the period ahead. That is why his delegation hoped to see an early end to the opposition of certain delegations to the provision of support services for economic co-operation among developing countries by UNCTAD; such opposition raised doubts about the sincerity of professions of encouragement for the efforts of developing countries to promote collective self-reliance.

111. His country viewed with dismay the current levels of international prices of exports of raw materials, on which the developing countries basically depended. Such prices, combined with high interest rates on debt servicing, repayment terms,

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and the possibility of record levels of unemployment and deep recession in the developed countries, created an urgent need for new and wide ranging approaches to improve the world situation. It was therefore all the more advisable that the global negotiations should be launched as soon as possible in order to facilitate the necessary structural reform, which, in the view of the developing countries, must be profound and genuine reform and not cosmetic changes. The negotiations must deal with the need for appropriate modifications in the methods of the multilateral financial institutions so that they could help to solve the problems of human survival in more effective ways, and with such questions as raw materials, trade, industrialization and energy. Discussion of certain crucial issues should not be avoided by referring them to other institutions for their sole decision, since that would suggest that those institutions had been operating perfectly all along, which was not the case, or that the people whose lives had been adversely affected by the operations of those institutions had no right to express their views on ways of alleviating their plight and promoting justice.

112. With regard to the critical importance of food and agriculture for the developing countries, he said that Ghana gave high priority to that sector and was doing its best to formulate and implement an appropriate national food strategy with the help of relevant international agencies. While primary responsibility for alleviating hunger and malnutrition in food-deficit countries devolved on those countries themselves, it was a fact that, no matter how hard they tried, they would not be able to meet even the minimum basic needs of their peoples without adequate, wide-ranging and long-term support of appropriate multilateral agencies, such as FAO, and of States which were in a position to help. His delegation noted with satisfaction the emphasis which FAO intended to give to the alleviation of hunger in sub-Saharan Africa and the conclusions and recommendations of the eighth ministerial session of the World Food Council.

113. With regard to food security agreements, his delegation was pleased to note that the 500,000-ton target for the International Emergency Food Reserve administered by the World Food Programme had been reached in 1982 but regretted the lack of success in efforts to conclude an International Wheat Agreement, which would pave the way for the establishment of international food grain reserves. It fully supported the World Food Council's proposal to assist developing countries to set up food reserve programmes as part of national food policies and considered that the suggestion to use the buffer stock facility of the International Monetary Fund for stock acquisition deserved serious consideration.

114. Turning to the question of industrialization, his delegation expressed its satisfaction at the consensus reached on the transformation of UNIDO into a specialized agency of the United Nations, since that would considerably strengthen UNIDO's catalytic role in promoting the industrialization of developing countries. His delegation hoped that adequate support would be given to the goals of the Industrial Development Decade for Africa, in view of their importance.

115. With regard to science and technology for development, his delegation regretted that, following the adoption of the Vienna Programme of Action in 1979,

(Mr. Foli, Ghana)

the United Nations Financing System for Science and Technology for Development was still not operational and supported the Secretary-General's appeal to the effect that every effort should be made at the current session of the General Assembly to reach a consensus on the establishment of the System, which, as his delegation had stated on previous occasions, should provide adequate, assured and predictable funding levels and, in terms of its institutional structure, should possess the required measure of autonomy to enable it effectively to promote and strengthen the scientific and technological capacity of developing countries.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

116. The CHAIRMAN said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to extend the time-limit for the submission of draft proposals on item 12 (Report of the Economic and Social Council) until 6 p.m. on Thursday, 28 October 1982.

117. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 7.05 p.m.