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President: Mr. Rosenthal (Vice-President) (Guatemala)
later: Mr. Šimonović (President) (Croatia)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.25 a.m.

Coordination, programme and other questions

(e) Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system (E/2002/L.14)

1. **Mr. Johnson** (United Kingdom) announced that Peru, Argentina, Uganda and Ecuador had become sponsors of draft resolution E/2002/L.14 on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system. While the concept of gender mainstreaming was readily acknowledged as a critical strategy for achieving key goals, including those set forth in the Millennium Declaration, much remained to be done. Gender issues were still viewed in many forums as something that could be appended to other work or addressed through targeted interventions. For the first time, the draft resolution identified examples of best practice from the work of the Council and its subsidiary bodies during the past year and offered specific guidance on ways of mainstreaming gender perspectives into their work. In a more limited way, it also offered guidance to the wider United Nations system and, in particular, encouraged the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and the Advancement of Women to continue their awareness-raising efforts.

Economic and environmental questions

(a) Sustainable development (E/2002/33)

(b) Science and technology for development (A/56/96-E/2001/87; A/57/71-E/2002/52)

(c) Environment (A/57/25)

(i) United Nations Forum on Forests (E/2002/42)

2. **Mr. Figueroa** (Vice-Chairman of the Committee for Development Policy), introducing the report of the Committee for Development Policy on its fourth session (E/2002/33) under sub-item (a), said that the report stressed the importance of new approaches to the enhancement of human resources in the light of the current situation and recommended that particular attention should be paid to the low performance levels

of sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia and parts of Central Asia in the areas of health and education.

3. The Committee viewed with concern the downward trend in official development assistance (ODA), particularly in the case of the African and least developed countries which lagged behind in economic, human and social capacities and faced new challenges in combating persistent poverty, marginalization and human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS). Assistance should be directed primarily towards capacity-building in order to foster development through a holistic, participatory approach by complementing and promoting private investment within an environment of good governance and strong institutions. Donors should focus their assistance on low-income countries and, in particular, the least developed countries in post-conflict situations and those affected by the HIV/AIDS pandemic. It was essential to develop new partnerships through mechanisms such as the poverty reduction strategy paper (PRSP), the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD). The Committee had also proposed the creation of an African development and aid portal which would provide a gateway to all development and aid projects in Africa, including those of non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

4. Several measures should be taken to improve the criteria for the 2003 triennial review of the list of least developed countries, including replacement of gross domestic product (GDP) per capita by gross national income (GNI) per capita for both inclusion in and graduation from the list. In anticipation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the Committee had agreed that certain of the environmental vulnerability indicators could enrich its consideration of the problem; however, there were several methodological problems regarding those indicators and their weighting. Furthermore, the criteria for identification of least developed countries should focus on their structural handicaps; environmental vulnerability should be considered only where relevant to such handicaps and with the help of vulnerability profiles prepared by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). Economies in transition were not properly considered for inclusion in the list; that situation should be remedied in the next

triennial review, using the criteria applicable to developing countries.

5. It was important to ensure a smooth transition from least developed country status for countries graduating from the list. The case of each such country should be considered at a United Nations round-table meeting with development partners and the government in question, and a meeting of experts on the overall question of smooth transition and the likely treatment of graduating countries by their bilateral and multilateral partners should be held prior to the 2003 review. The Committee would like to see more empirical evidence on the benefits that graduating countries had derived from their least developed country status; it was therefore important for the results of the UNCTAD assessment of those benefits to be disseminated in advance of the review.

6. In its resolution 2001/43, the Council had decided to take a final decision in 2003 regarding the Committee's proposal to graduate Maldives from the list. To that end, the Committee recommended that UNCTAD should prepare a new country profile for that country, including donors' probable response to graduation.

7. Lastly, in the light of the outcome of the International Conference on Financing for Development and with a view to the forthcoming World Summit on Sustainable Development, the Committee felt that it could make a particular contribution in the area of global public goods and innovative financial mechanisms in the pursuit of sustainable development and that intersessional meetings could significantly enhance the success of its annual sessions, particularly in preparation for the 2003 triennial review.

8. **Ms. Thygesen** (Observer for Denmark), speaking on behalf of the European Union and the associated countries Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Turkey, said that health issues were key determinants of economic growth and sustainable development; the recent report of the Commission on Macroeconomics and Health demonstrated that investment in health had a greater impact on poverty reduction than had previously been realized. The European Union reaffirmed its commitment to a holistic approach to reproductive and sexual health and to reproductive rights, particularly in

the light of the devastating impact of the HIV/AIDS pandemic and of other infectious diseases such as malaria and tuberculosis. In the action plan, Aid for Poverty Diseases in Developing Countries, it sought to provide a comprehensive package of interventions for those diseases. In addition, it provided strong financial support for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

9. In the light of the decision by the Government of the United States of America to withdraw its substantial contribution to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the European Union wished to stress the importance that it attached to the integration of reproductive and sexual health issues into national development plans. UNFPA capacity-building activities made a major contribution in the effort to solve the problems created by population dynamics and reproductive and sexual health issues in developing countries. Universal access to and better delivery of reproductive and sexual health services were essential in combating poverty. Moreover, the Fund deserved additional support as a means of achieving the Millennium development goals. Its activities were in strict conformity with the Programme of Action adopted unanimously at the International Conference on Population and Development, held in Cairo in 1994. The European Union reaffirmed its commitment to the Programme of Action and to the key actions for its further implementation.

10. It was unfortunate that the report of the Committee for Development Policy had been received, in an unedited version and in English only, less than a week previously; thus, it had not been discussed during the high-level segment of the Council, and delegations had had little time to consider the recommendations contained therein, particularly those relating to the 2003 triennial review of the list of least developed countries. With respect to the question of the graduation of Maldives from that list, the European Union looked forward to receiving a new country profile in a timely manner as part of the triennial review.

11. **Mr. Blanco** (Observer for Venezuela), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China under sub-item (b), recalled that the Council had repeatedly postponed consideration of the draft resolution entitled "Strengthening the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development", paragraph 1 of which called for the Commission to meet annually. In

its resolution 56/182, the General Assembly had invited the Council to consider the issue no later than at its current substantive session.

12. Although the Commission's agenda was as important as that of the other functional commissions, it was the only one which did not meet annually. Biennial meetings did not allow it to keep pace with the ever-changing nature of science and technology, and, although it had been instrumental in coordinating United Nations activities, promoting joint programming and preventing overlapping, it could do far more if it met yearly. Unless it met yearly, it would be unable to contribute adequately to the upcoming World Summit on the Information Society, to the follow-up to other conferences and summits or to implementation of the Millennium Declaration. It was high time, therefore, for the Council to support the draft resolution and, in particular, the proposal to have the Commission meet on an annual basis.

13. **Mr. Sulaiman** (Iraq) said that since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992, many programmes for sustainable development had been devised but the international community was failing to meet the obligations it had undertaken in that regard. In addition to the economic and political problems facing all developing countries, his own country was facing a sanctions regime, a blockade and military aggression, all of which had a disastrous impact on the population, the environment and sustainable development.

14. Groups from the United Nations that had visited Iraq had reported that in the late 1980s its social and economic indicators had been generally higher than for other countries in the region and for developing countries in general. However, the military aggression against Iraq had destroyed civilian installations including electric power stations, water distribution and purification plants, means of communication and transport and other infrastructure. The standard of living of the population had declined from relative prosperity to generalized poverty. Vast financial resources and many years' work would be required to redress the situation.

15. The population of his country was also suffering as a result of the use by the United States and the United Kingdom of depleted uranium munitions during the attack of 1991. That had caused widespread pollution and serious public health problems, including

many forms of cancer, liver and kidney failure, birth deformities and numerous illnesses previously unknown in Iraq. The damage was long term and would affect future generations. The problem had been further exacerbated by the fact that the representatives of the United Kingdom and the United States in the 661 Committee had put on hold contracts for machinery and equipment needed to repair the infrastructure, as well as contracts for medicines and medical equipment needed to treat those who were suffering from the effects of the use of depleted uranium munitions. A total of 2,200 contracts with a value of \$5.5 billion had been put on hold.

16. His delegation supported what the Secretary-General had said in his message to the members of the Global Ministerial Environment Forum, which had met in Cartagena, Colombia, in February 2002, to the effect that sustainable development required strong links to be established between environmental issues and poverty eradication, human rights and peace-building. The reform of environmental management required environmental issues to be central to development policy.

17. The process of environmental management should take account of the needs of the developing countries and of the obstacles they faced, on the basis of joint responsibility. In view of the tragic environmental situation being faced by the population of Iraq, and the difficulties with which it had had to contend in its efforts to achieve sustainable development since 1990, his delegation called on the Council to assume its responsibilities so as to put an end to the situation and to intervene immediately to improve the environmental situation by ensuring that the unjust blockade imposed on his country was lifted.

18. **Mr. Siv** (United States of America) said it was a major concern that: over 10 million people aged 15 to 24 were living with HIV/AIDS; half of all new infections occurred among young people; and in some urban African settings the rate of infection for young women aged 15 to 19 was six times higher than for men in the same age group.

19. The thirty-fifth session of the Commission on Population and Development had highlighted prevention efforts and the importance of awareness campaigns. Abstinence, postponement of initial sexual activity and responsible sexual behaviour (monogamy, fidelity, partner reduction, family planning and condom

use) were increasingly necessary in order to prevent HIV/AIDS and unwanted pregnancies. As President Bush had said, abstinence was the surest way and the only completely effective way to prevent unwanted pregnancies.

20. It was disappointing that the reports prepared for the Commission session had not presented data on the objectives set forth in the chapter on the family in the Cairo Programme of Action. They had contained few references to the influence of family stability, the role of fathers and the importance of parent-child communication on abstinence, delaying sexual initiation and responsible sexual behaviour. The family was also a crucial resource in caring for people living with HIV/AIDS.

21. The United States was committed to providing assistance with a view to the achievement of the three principal goals adopted at the Cairo Conference: making reproductive health care accessible to all individuals of appropriate age through the primary health-care system; significantly reducing maternal mortality; and ensuring universal access to primary education. It remained the largest bilateral donor in the areas of HIV/AIDS and population assistance; it had allocated nearly \$1.1 billion for international assistance and over \$2.5 billion for AIDS research in 2002, and the President had recently announced a new \$500 million initiative to reduce mother-to-child transmission in Africa and the Caribbean. His Government had contributed \$300 million to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and had committed another \$200 million for 2003. It had also donated \$425 million in bilateral population assistance for 2002. The Secretary of State believed that the full \$34 million congressional appropriation for UNFPA should be used for family planning and reproductive health and had proposed that it should be applied to the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) child survival and health programme fund.

22. **Mr. Shamanov** (Russian Federation) welcomed the contributions for the forthcoming World Summit on Sustainable Development to be submitted by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and said that it was time to give UNFF a fuller role, particularly by setting up the three remaining expert groups.

23. Advancing globalization had made more active international cooperation in science and technology to foster the growth and development of all countries a priority for the United Nations. The role of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development in putting knowledge and technology at the service of the Millennium development goals had accordingly become more important and deserved to be supported and expanded. In particular, it should continue to receive secretariat services from UNCTAD and an appropriate level of resources.

24. **Mr. Holubov** (Ukraine) said that only through political will could the international community implement policies of sustainable development and protect the earth's natural resources. The soon-to-be-adopted draft "concept of transition to sustainable development of Ukraine" and the "national strategy of sustainable development", currently in preparation, would provide the basic instruments for national policy implementation.

25. Ukraine had acceded to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds and hoped to become a party to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biodiversity and to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade. It recognized its responsibility to protect natural resources at the national, regional and continental levels and was proud to host the Fifth Conference of Environmental Ministers, Environment for Europe, to be held in Kiev in 2003, which was expected to play an important role in strengthening the outcomes of the upcoming Johannesburg Summit.

26. He was convinced that the draft Johannesburg declaration, once adopted, would assess progress since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, reflect lessons learned and create a practical platform for sustainable development activities. The 10 years since the Rio Summit had shown that the management of sustainable development mechanisms was difficult but, with government leadership, possible. The recent achievements at the Millennium Summit, the Doha Conference and the Monterrey Consensus were proof of the success of multilateral solidarity. The participants in the World Summit on Sustainable

Development should therefore agree on a concrete, time-bound plan of action and generate commitment to its implementation.

27. Turning to the issue of assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions, he said that the Ukrainian economy had suffered from the sanctions imposed on Yugoslavia and he therefore welcomed the recommendations and findings of the ad hoc expert group meeting convened pursuant to General Assembly resolution 52/62 (A/53/312) and hoped that they would be instrumental in mobilizing wider support for affected countries and in enforcing sanctions regimes and other measures imposed under Chapter VII of the Charter. He stressed the importance of implementing General Assembly resolutions and Security Council decisions that addressed the problems of non-target States. It was time for the Economic and Social Council to study the relevant reports and to provide the Assembly with clear guidance on issues within its mandate.

28. **Ms. Loemban Tobing-Klein** (Suriname) said that the wide range of issues covered in the general segment were interdependent and essential to the lives of the peoples of the world. Above all, the session had confronted delegations with the reality that more than half the people in the world were living in extreme poverty, that the HIV/AIDS pandemic was continuing its destructive work, especially in Africa and the Caribbean, and that the number of people in high-risk situations was on the increase. In her address to the Council, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights had called for special attention to persons with HIV/AIDS or disabilities, trafficked persons and indigenous people, groups that were often invisible within their own societies and hence neglected. The Council had a significant role to play in ensuring that the most vulnerable were enabled to live in dignity and that the Millennium development goals made a difference in the lives of the underprivileged. Human rights education was a key to development and should be promoted strongly. Her delegation hoped that the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development would further the goals of sustainable human development.

29. Her delegation supported the decision of the Commission on Human Rights to appoint a special rapporteur on the right to health and urged the Council to endorse it. It also welcomed the recommendation of the Commission to the Council to invite Ms. Erica-

Irene Daes to serve as special adviser to the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in recognition of her efforts in the interests of indigenous peoples around the world.

30. Her delegation looked forward to concrete action in the interests of vulnerable groups by the new High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and urged him to involve the Caribbean Community, the Organization of American States and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean into his efforts. As a least developed country, Haiti required strong support from the United Nations system.

31. Her delegation was pleased with the effective way the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women was carrying out her duty to mainstream the gender perspective into United Nations programmes and policies. With regard to information and communication technologies (ICT), the developing world must be enabled to benefit from digital opportunities. Her own country was eager to accept offers of support in developing its ICT potential. With respect to tobacco and health, given the immense risks of tobacco use in public places for users and non-users alike, her delegation suggested enlisting the cooperation of all smokers to make United Nations premises smoke-free.

32. **Mr. Shaheed** (Observer for Maldives) said that his delegation appreciated the careful work of the Committee for Development Policy on criteria for identification of least developed countries, as described in chapter IV of the Committee's report on its fourth session (E/2002/33). One of the issues before the Committee was the graduation of Maldives from the list of least developed countries. Although Maldives did not enjoy being labelled a least developed country, the designation enhanced access to development assistance and markets. His delegation was concerned at the potential impact of premature graduation on the national economy, believing that the earlier recommendation to graduate Maldives had been based on an overestimation of its development status and an underestimation of the structural constraints impeding its development. It welcomed the proposed refinements to the criteria to be used in the next triennial review of the list of least developed countries, but it wished to stress the importance of the supplementary use of accurate country vulnerability profiles. In very small

economies, in particular, abstract aggregate indicators could be misleading.

33. In addition to the usual problems of inaccuracy or unavailability of certain data or the time lag in collecting and processing it, the statistical criteria would not capture one of the most pervasive structural handicaps of Maldives, namely, the geophysical fragmentation of the country, which resulted in dispersal of the population into very tiny communities, exacerbating diseconomies of scale and aid dependence. A country vulnerability profile would be a useful supplement. His delegation supported the proposals made by the Committee concerning such profiles but would like to see them combined with the Expert Group recommendations endorsed in Council resolution 2000/34, which took account of the fact that infrastructure construction costs were unusually high in small multi-island countries. His delegation would also like to stress the need for timely availability of country vulnerability profiles and consultation with the concerned Member State.

34. His delegation valued the work being done, with input from bilateral and multilateral donors, on assessing the effective benefits of inclusion in the list of least developed countries and the impact that loss of such benefits would have on the graduating country. Priority should be given to ascertaining that graduation should not disrupt the development plans and policies of the State concerned.

35. **Mr. Zorigt** (Observer for Mongolia) said that more time might be needed to consider the very important recommendations contained in the report of the Committee for Development Policy (E/2002/33) concerning the criteria for graduation from the list of least developed countries, especially for those in threshold or borderline situations. Of particular interest was the recommendation to replace GDP per capita by GNI per capita as one of those criteria. His delegation strongly supported the recommendations to treat low-income economies in transition in the same way as developing countries for analytical purposes and to prepare country profiles for all cases of potential graduation before the next triennial review. The Committee had stressed the importance of human capital aspects in the country profiles, but his delegation would also like to emphasize that most countries with low-income economies in transition were landlocked countries, and that their development efforts were handicapped by the extra transport costs

entailed by their location. His delegation encouraged the Committee to continue its efforts to introduce other indices, including the environmental sustainability index, and to improve the quality and coverage of country data, particularly with regard to human asset indices.

36. **Mr. Rojas** (Chile) said that his delegation understood by sustainable development a simultaneous advance in both economic growth and social equity, with a reduction in poverty. Environmental protection must be incorporated into economic and social development so that the needs of the present could be satisfied without jeopardizing future generations.

37. Development and the environment were not antagonistic. It had been shown that eliminating poverty was one of the best ways of protecting the environment, and the task was to find ways to set up positive synergies between the two. His country fully supported the principles of the Rio Declaration, which invited States to cooperate in eliminating poverty as an essential condition for preserving the environment and in creating an open international economic system favourable to the growth and sustainable development of all countries.

38. The issue of trade and the environment had entered a new phase since the Doha talks. His delegation hoped that the Doha process would result in more open markets for the export products of developing countries and that the spirit that had made substantial progress possible in Monterrey would prevail in Johannesburg.

39. **Mr. Aardal** (Observer for Norway) said that the transformation of the Commission on Human Settlements into the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UN-Habitat) had been the last major step in the revitalization of institutional arrangements and that full membership in the United Nations Chief Executives Board for Coordination gave the Centre full visibility and facilitated its role as a focal point. UN-Habitat now had the potential to assist Member States, coordinate implementation of the Habitat Agenda and serve as a focal point for the Millennium development goal of improving the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers by 2020. All Member States able to do so should provide UN-Habitat with financial support. His Government had doubled its general, non-earmarked contribution for 2002 for a total of Nkr 5 million (US\$ 1.3 million) and stressed the need for

additional resources over and above the regular budget of the Organization.

40. UN-Habitat's new status should also enable it to be an active partner in the United Nations Development Group (UNDG). Human settlement issues were cross-cutting, and close coordination between United Nations agencies was essential. UN-Habitat had several comparative advantages: it was one of the few United Nations bodies located in Africa and had established close cooperation with local authorities, which the Habitat Agenda recognized as key partners in the implementation of its Global Plan of Action. Housing and other policies benefiting the urban poor could not succeed without a well-functioning, decentralized system, strong local authorities and close coordination at country level through the common country assessment (CCA), the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and the PRSP.

41. The World Urban Forum, in which all the Habitat Agenda partners and representatives of local authorities and civil society had participated, had great potential as a global "think tank". In that connection, he drew attention to the recommendation that UN-Habitat should strengthen its support for NGOs in their advocacy role (E/2002/48, para. 20).

42. His Government welcomed the increased focus on the normative role of UN-Habitat, as demonstrated in the latter's Secure Tenure and Good Urban Governance campaigns. However, its resources were limited. In the Cities Alliance, its experience and normative functions provided the basis for action at the grass-roots level. Together with the World Bank, the World Association of Cities and Local Authorities Coordination (WACLAC), 10 donor countries and other United Nations agencies, it was helping several cities in the developing world to devise development strategies and slum-upgrading programmes. He hoped that that example of coordinated action would provide a model for future implementation of the Millennium development goals and the Habitat Agenda.

43. **Mr. Shommena** (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said, with reference to sustainable development, that the blockade imposed against his country since 1992 had had a negative effect on all aspects of life and especially on the elderly and ill. The imposition of sanctions against peoples was incompatible with the right to development. The sanctions had not been lifted, even though his country had responded to all the

relevant resolutions, and even after the politically motivated prosecution of two Libyan citizens. Despite the urging of the Organization of African Unity, the League of Arab States, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the Non-Aligned Movement and the Group of 77, the blockade had been maintained because of the intransigence of one member of the Security Council.

44. **Mr. Blanco** (Observer for Venezuela), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China with regard to statistics, said that the Group had examined with interest the report of the Statistical Commission on its thirty-third session (E/2002/24) and the progress report on basic indicators for the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits at all levels (E/2002/53), particularly the references to the development of indicators on means of implementation, including good governance, at the national and international levels. Owing to the importance of those reports for follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development and the upcoming World Summit on Sustainable Development, the Group believed that the Council needed more time to consider providing further guidance. The Group would also like to request the distribution of the full report on indicators on means of implementation to consider in conjunction with the other two reports at the resumed session of the Council.

45. **Ms. Escorel** (Brazil), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China concerning the provisional agenda for the third session of the United Nations Forum on Forests second session of the Forum (E/2002/42, chap. II, sect. A, draft decision II), said that the United States had rightly pointed out that there was an agreement that the Forum would discuss means of implementation as a cross-sectoral issue, whereas means of implementation appeared to be listed in isolation in provisional agenda item 3 (a). To address those concerns, the Group of 77 and China proposed inverting sub-items (a) and (b), so that the substantive topics presently listed under sub-item (b) on progress in implementation would be placed first and followed by the sub-item on means of implementation, which would conclude with the additional words "as cross-cutting issues". Those changes would make it clear that the means of implementation (finance, technology transfer and capacity-building) related to all three substantive topics (economic aspects of forests; forest

health and productivity; and maintaining forest cover to meet present and future needs).

46. Another change was required in agenda item 4 (e), "Intersessional work, including review of the reports of the ad hoc expert groups". Since the ad hoc expert groups had not been established at the second session of the Forum, the sub-item should read "Intersessional work, including further discussion on the establishment of the ad hoc expert groups".

47. **Mr. Fasehun** (Acting Director of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)), speaking on sub-item (b), "Science and technology for development", said that, while the high-level segment had focused on the contribution of human resources development, including in the areas of health and education, to the process of development, there was also an inextricable link between science and technology and development. With adequate resources for the management of their education and health-care systems, countries would have the capacity, not only to rise out of poverty, but also to innovate and to enhance their creativity. The promotion of innovation and creativity was at the core of the mandate of WIPO.

48. WIPO had a vibrant programme of capacity development in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. The programme was implemented through nationally focused action plans and through the WIPO Worldwide Academy. The action plans covered such activities as institution-building, modernization of the infrastructure of intellectual property offices, software development and the supply of equipment for use in patent, trademark and copyright administrations. WIPO also periodically conducted training for judges, magistrates, prosecutors, police forces and customs officials in the effective enforcement of intellectual property rights. It was also assisting entities established for the collective management of copyright and related rights with a view to increasing the earnings of recording artists. In countries with economies in transition, WIPO was training personnel and collaborating in the development of sustainable institutions. More than 80 officials from industrial property and copyright offices had received training to increase their capacity to deal effectively with piracy and counterfeiting of intellectual property assets.

49. The WIPO Worldwide Academy delivered courses through the Internet using a format that

allowed for online registration, student-teacher interaction, testing, course monitoring and evaluation. In the first six months of 2002, almost 4,000 students from 190 countries had participated in such courses. The Academy also conducted training courses for intellectual property professionals. Some of the courses were offered in collaboration with national or regional intellectual property offices.

50. The capacity-building activities of WIPO had been strengthened through Funds-in-Trust, as well as donations in kind from both developed and developing countries. Recognizing that the emergent knowledge economy would be driven by innovation and creativity, WIPO would continue to assist its member States in developing the requisite capacity to achieve and sustain development through the use of the intellectual property system.

The meeting rose at noon.