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Tuesday, 25 October 1983
at 10.30 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 16th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. DIETZE (German Democratic Republic)

later, Mr. GIBSON (New Zealand)

CONTENTS

AGENDA ITEM 78: DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (continued)

- (c) INDUSTRIALIZATION: REPORT OF THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD
- (e) FOOD PROBLEMS
- (g) ENVIRONMENT
- (h) HUMAN SETTLEMENTS
- (i) INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF SHELTER FOR THE HOMELESS: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
- (l) NEW AND RENEWABLE SOURCES OF ENERGY
- (n) NEW INTERNATIONAL HUMAN ORDER: MORAL ASPECTS OF DEVELOPMENT

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

AGENDA ITEM 78: DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (continued)
(A/38/3 (Parts I and II), 57, 68, 106, 132 and Corr. 1-2, 168, 186 and Corr.1, 209, 302, 303, 324, 325, 329, 425, 479, 494, 495; A/C.2/38/3)

- (c) INDUSTRIALIZATION: REPORT OF THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD (A/38/16, 141, 516)
- (e) FOOD PROBLEMS (A/38/19, 277, 280, 377; A/C.2/38/L.4)
- (g) ENVIRONMENT (A/38/35, 304, 305, 383, 403, 504; A/C.2/38/L.5)
- (h) HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (A/38/8, 278)
- (i) INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF SHELTER FOR THE HOMELESS: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/38/8, 23 and Corr.1; A/C.2/38/L.9)
- (l) NEW AND RENEWABLE SOURCES OF ENERGY (A/38/44, 240)
- (n) NEW INTERNATIONAL HUMAN ORDER: MORAL ASPECTS OF DEVELOPMENT (A/38/360; E/1983/68 and Add.1-3; E/1983/89; A/C.2/38/L.6)

1. Mr. KHANE (Executive Director of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization), drawing attention to the report of the Industrial Development Board (A/38/16), said that the Board had confirmed that industrialization was one of the corner-stones of economic development. Given the interdependence of developed and developing countries, it would seem that sustained economic development of the countries of the South, with industrialization as the driving force, was the only way of ensuring overall prosperity and peace.

2. The Board had reaffirmed that the system of consultations contributed significantly to redistributing industrial resources on a more equitable basis and it had recognized that the consultations must be preceded by very careful preparations. It was therefore particularly gratifying to see that the Board had identified those sectors in which consultations should be held during the biennium 1984-1985 and had indicated those sectors in which preliminary preparations should be started with a view to possible consultations in the biennium 1986-1987.

3. Referring to technological transformation, he drew attention to the recent decision taken by 28 countries in Madrid to establish an International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, adding that UNIDO fully endorsed the view of Pope John Paul II that industrialization must never be pursued at the expense of man.

4. Given the present economic situation, the Economic and Social Council had quite rightly discussed the Industrial Development Decade for Africa in the light of the recommendations made by the Board. He drew attention to Council resolution 1983/70, which inter alia recommended that the General Assembly should continue to

(Mr. Khane)

provide UNIDO with adequate funds from the United Nations regular technical assistance programmes for assistance to the African countries and to intergovernmental organizations for the full implementation of the programme for the Decade, and expressed the hope that the resolution would be favourably received.

5. The Board, had also discussed the Senior Industrial Development Field Adviser Programme. That Programme was very helpful in evaluating UNIDO's technical assistance programme and, notwithstanding the financial difficulties of the United Nations, every effort should be made to maintain it at least at the present level.

6. Concerning UNIDO's technical assistance activities, he said that in order to meet the growing demand for technical assistance in the industrial field, UNIDO would require more budgetary and extrabudgetary resources. He thanked those Member States which had already contributed to the United Nations Industrial Development Fund and appealed to all countries to increase their contributions to both UNDP and UNIDO so that the volume of technical assistance to developing countries could be increased so as to stimulate their industrial growth. He also drew attention to UNIDO's activities in the area of investment promotion and energy to which the Executive Director had referred in his annual report.

7. Past general conferences of UNIDO had been very useful in providing guidelines for UNIDO's work and the forthcoming fourth General Conference of UNIDO was expected to be equally, or even more, useful in view of the progress which had been made during the past year towards the conversion of UNIDO into a specialized agency. Indeed, the preparatory meetings had highlighted the potential for co-operation not only between developed and developing countries but also among developing countries. Given the importance of accelerating the development process in the South in order to ensure lasting global recovery, it was distressing to hear that by 1995 net capital inflows to the developing countries were expected to decline to 1.6 per cent of those countries' GDP - half the 1981 level. The developing countries must do everything within their power to revive their economies through self-reliance and co-operation among themselves.

8. As the Kenyan Government had indicated that it would not, after all, be in a position to host the Conference, he had approached the Austrian authorities; they had indicated that the Conference could take place at Vienna from 9 to 28 July 1984. Accordingly, he would welcome guidance from the Committee on the matter.

9. Referring again to the impending transformation of UNIDO into a specialized agency, he pointed out that the new organization would be better able to respond to the needs of the developing countries if it had the wholehearted support of the entire international community. The fourth General Conference of UNIDO would provide another opportunity for the international community to agree on international measures for global recovery. It was essential that that opportunity should not be allowed to slip away as had been the case with the earlier ones for the peace and prosperity of the world was at stake.

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10. Mr. QUINLAN (Australia) said that his delegation viewed the success of the seventeenth session of the Industrial Development Board with some satisfaction as it wished the conversion of UNIDO into a specialized agency to be effected rapidly and smoothly. The decision of principle that the entry into force of the new Constitution should not be fixed until the new organization's financial viability was ensured, and the consensus reached on the secretariat's structure and staffing should contribute to the efficiency of the new agency. While the imminent change in UNIDO's status should not unduly curtail its work, some issues - such as the possible increase in the number of Senior Industrial Development Field Advisers - which would have implications over the longer term, should be resolved by the new agency. The need for further such advisers must be considered in the context of the overall priorities and budget of the new UNIDO.

11. It was disappointing to see that, although everyone agreed that food problems were a major priority, the objectives set by the World Food Conference nine years earlier had still not been met. The inability of the international community to fulfil obligations which it had undertaken must be a major focus of the forthcoming review of the previous 10 years. Indeed, a willingness to engage in an ongoing process of honest review and appraisal was vital to the success of international efforts to overcome food problems. The Australian Government would continue to seek ways of helping countries to overcome their food security problems. However, if developing countries were to fulfil their potential for efficient food production, they must adopt national policies and strategies giving the agricultural sector the conditions it required; without such strategies international support could not make any real impact. In the past nine years Australia had more than doubled its food aid and it continued to provide technical know-how. However, it could do little to improve trade opportunities other than join with others in calling for an end to policies which restricted and distorted trade. Unfortunately, the recognition of the role that freer trade in agricultural products could play in increasing world food security had had little influence on actual policies.

12. His delegation continued to support the United Nations Environment Programme and would therefore co-sponsor the traditional omnibus resolution on international co-operation in environmental matters. While generally supporting the consensus conclusions reached by the UNEP Governing Council at its eleventh session, his delegation had some doubts concerning the periodicity of meetings of that Council. Specifically, in respect of the arrangements for the preparation of the Environment Perspective to the year 2000 and beyond, it was still not persuaded that the UNEP secretariat should proceed for a two-year period without any direct guidance from the Council. It supported the establishment of a Special Commission to propose long-term environmental strategies for achieving sustainable development, but continued to harbour some doubts regarding the establishment of the intergovernmental intersessional preparatory committee.

13. His delegation was strongly supportive of UNEP's attempts to find solutions to the serious environmental problems of developing countries and noted that the Executive Director had been requested in decision 11/11 to continue his efforts through the clearing-house mechanism to obtain funds from bilateral donors. Noting

(Mr. Quinlan, Australia)

that the budget for the biennium 1984-1985 was the first budget under the system-wide medium-term environment programme, he said that his delegation endorsed the programme and the budgetary strategy involved.

14. His delegation had no objection to expanding the role of the Consultative Group for Desertification Control to include information exchange, as proposed in decision 11/7. The proposals made in that decision with regard to the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO) required the most careful thought. Expanding UNSO's mandate to include the environmental consequences of drought would increase its ability to manage anti-desertification programmes, but it was questionable whether UNSO was in a position to assume such a mandate given its already limited financial resources. In that connection he drew attention to the report of the Joint Inspection Unit contained in document A/38/180. His delegation had no strong objection to the proposal; however, Australia was not currently in a position to provide any additional financial support beyond that which it had already extended for UNSO's traditional activities.

15. His delegation supported the purposes of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless and was currently reviewing what it could do to implement the important objectives of that Year. It looked forward to hearing about the plans of other countries in that respect.

16. Mr. GIHANI (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that his Government attached particular importance to measures for protecting the environment. Despite the agreements reached at the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in 1972 and at the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy in 1982, little progress had been made because of the deteriorating economic situation and the refusal of the wealthier countries to try to help stabilize international economic relations. The third world countries were facing many problems including poverty, unemployment and food shortages, all of which placed a very great strain on their economies. There were other problems too, such as desertification and water shortages. Strategies must be worked out to deal with those problems. Environmental problems went beyond national boundaries and encompassed all States. However, no effective action could be taken to protect the environment if there was no peace and security in the world.

17. His delegation placed great hope in the work of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and urged the specialized agencies to assist UNEP in discharging its duties effectively. It was also in favour of an international year of the environment for the purpose of increasing world awareness of environmental issues and following up on environmental activities undertaken since the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment. He welcomed the report of the Governing Council of UNEP on the work of its eleventh session (A/38/25), which, inter alia, dealt with activities to eliminate apartheid and desertification in Africa and with regional programmes in Africa, including the call for an African environmental conference to identify common problems worthy of a regional programme of action. The report also pointed out the dangerous environmental implications of existing and new types of armaments which had a devastating impact on developing countries.

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(Mr. Gihani, Libyan
Arab Jamahiriya)

18. His delegation was particularly concerned with the impact of the material remnants of war on certain developing countries, particularly in Africa. That was a matter which required the urgent attention of the international community. He hoped that the resolutions adopted at various international meetings condemning imperialist countries for their failure to deal with the problems posed by the remnants of war, particularly mines, remaining in developing countries would be implemented. Those meetings included the Fifth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries held at Colombo in 1977, the Eighth Meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Islamic Conference held at Tripoli in the same year, and the Conference of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Non-Aligned Countries held in Peru in 1975.

19. Similarly, the Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order had stressed the rights of nations to compensation for the environmental damage caused by racial discrimination and foreign occupation, and article 16 of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States emphasized that States were responsible for compensating other States for material damage and loss of life caused by the remnants of war. The United Nations Institute for Training and Research had held a scientific symposium in 1981 to consider the legal, environmental and other aspects of the question and the participants had unanimously concluded that the presence of such remnants of war hampered development in the countries where they were situated.

20. The fact that mines had been laid in his country by the Allied and Axis Powers during the Second World War was a matter of record. Those mines impeded its development and had caused considerable loss of human life, material damage and loss of livestock. The problem of migration from rural to urban areas in his country was compounded by fears generated by the presence of mines in rural areas. Bilateral or international co-operation was needed to deal with the problem. His delegation called on the international community to study the dangerous situation to which he had alluded, which imperiled all countries in similar circumstances. States which failed to provide compensation and technical assistance in that area must be compelled to assist the countries affected in other ways.

21. Mr. ESSY (Ivory Coast) expressed the hope that the appeal by the Executive Director of UNIDO to donor countries would be needed and welcomed that organization's efforts on behalf of developing countries.

22. The world economy as a whole was in a period of crisis, and one of the most dramatic consequences of the crisis, which affected Africa in particular, was the serious food and agricultural situation. Indeed, without proper nourishment, human beings could not pursue the objectives of sovereignty and independence. Military expenditures had skyrocketed over the years, while the world food situation had deteriorated, reaching intolerable levels in some developing countries. The catastrophic food situation in Africa discussed at the recent special session of the Food and Agriculture Organization called for urgent action on the part of the international community.

(Mr. Essy, Ivory Coast)

23. As had been the case in various west and central African colonies, before his country had attained independence, agricultural production had focused on export crops originally introduced by the colonial Power. Little emphasis had been placed on food crops during the colonial period. Fortunately, his country was not threatened by the spectre of famine, but it recognized that steps must be taken in order to avoid a shortage of foodstuffs by 1990. In the light of the population increases expected by that year, the political and economic difficulties which affected the subregion, in particular, the problems in the Sahel, which had led populations affected by the drought to come to the Ivory Coast, his country had established a Secretariat of State for Agriculture with the task of developing and carrying out a national policy for self-sufficiency in foodstuffs, particularly with regard to food crops.

24. Departments in other ministries assisted in the effort. The national campaign aimed to use scientific research to develop and popularize high-yield crops adapted to the population's farming and food habits. Cultivation techniques were being mechanized, special assistance was being given to youth and women in the modernization effort; existing marketing co-operatives were being revitalized; conservation and processing technologies were being developed and emphasis was being placed on the production of food crops. Substantial sums had been invested in that agricultural development programme. In addition, his country had embarked on a reforestation programme in the north and also recognized the value of a systematic irrigation policy. Technical assistance from FAO and the World Bank in the field of irrigation would enable his country and others to increase their harvest yields substantially.

25. Nations required sufficient funds in order to carry out a successful food policy. Developing countries such as his own had seen their agricultural export earnings drop sharply over the years, owing to tariff and non-tariff protectionist measures. Those countries had been unable to stockpile sufficient foodstuffs because they lacked the funds to build storage facilities. Loans to enable developing countries to import foodstuffs were limited in their effectiveness and created new food habits which made those countries permanent importers. Accordingly, an international food policy should be based on action to help countries to produce what their soil and climate permitted.

26. His delegation welcomed the steps taken by FAO to ensure the effective and economical implementation of its various programmes on behalf of the developing countries. Africa had responded to the challenge of the food crisis by formulating the Lagos Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Monrovia Strategy and the Regional Food Plan for Africa, to which FAO had made a substantial financial commitment. Implementation of the Regional Food Plan was indispensable to the economic development of Africa, for even the partial successes registered by certain countries would be jeopardized unless a relative balance was established throughout the continent.

27. Mr. SEIF EL-NASR (Egypt) said that the inequitable distribution of food in the world was one of the most urgent problems facing the international community. Some countries were ravaged by unprecedented famine, while others enjoyed huge stockpiles of food. Africa had suffered more than other areas, and the situation was deteriorating and increasingly hindering the development process in that continent, particularly in view of the likelihood that its population would double by the end of the century.

28. The recent special session of FAO held in Rome had endeavoured to cope with the threat of famine in Africa. The African countries appealed to all nations with food surpluses to help them alleviate their famine and suffering. Such assistance would be a practical example of the implementation of the principles of international co-operation.

29. Egypt had supplied its African neighbours with food and had acquired valuable experience in the food sector, subsequently transferring its experience to other countries. It had also responded to the appeal of the World Food Council by establishing a food strategy for the 1980s based on the concept of social justice, food security and the co-ordination of food production with an increase in export income and a decrease in food imports.

30. National food strategies must rank high among national priorities, and the use of appropriate technology should be stressed. His delegation agreed that the developing countries should establish international forums for the provision of food aid and other forms of assistance, which should be concorded with national strategies.

31. Emergency food aid to alleviate the crisis in certain developing countries was critical as a short-term measure. However, it was also essential to develop their potential to produce their own food in the long term, so that they would not continue to depend on emergency aid indefinitely. States in a position to do so must therefore increase their contributions for such long-term assistance.

32. Industrialization was the corner-stone of economic development because it activated the other sectors of the economy, especially in developing countries. The African States needed to create an industrial infrastructure and the lack of resources available for the Industrial Development Decade for Africa was therefore a matter of concern. He hoped that the recommendation in Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/70 that the General Assembly should continue to provide the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) with adequate funds for the assistance to African countries that was necessary for the full implementation of the programme for the Industrial Development Decade for Africa would receive universal support.

33. He favoured the establishment of a bank for industrial development since the lack of investment in industry was a major obstacle to the industrialization of the developing countries, which needed investment capital on easy terms. The experience derived from UNIDO's industrial programmes in developing countries and the use of appropriate technology should be turned to advantage. However, the key

(Mr. Seif El-Nasr, Egypt)

to industrial progress was the development of human potential by the creation of cadres to train industrial manpower, and perhaps by the establishment of an international centre so that a new generation could benefit from the experience of the more developed countries.

34. He supported Economic and Social Council resolutions 1983/42 on technical assistance to Namibia and 1983/43 on assistance to the Palestine people.

35. He was gratified to note that UNIDO was now entering a new stage of its activities and hoped that those States which had not yet ratified its constitution would do so as soon as possible.

36. The Nairobi Programme of Action for the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy was a reaction by the international community to the present energy situation. Impetus had been given to the Nairobi spirit by the creation of an ad hoc inter-agency group on new and renewable sources of energy; he hoped that that group would formulate a detailed implementation plan, though success would depend on the political will shown by donor States to honour their commitments to the programme and to the principles of international co-operation.

37. The combined efforts of the international community were necessary if the challenge of environmental problems was to be met. Desertification, for example, was a matter of great concern to many developing countries. Despite the efforts of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), progress in combating desertification had been slow. More effort at the national, regional and international levels was needed, together with the mobilization of more resources. The Egyptian Government had tried to halt desert encroachment by making green belts and creating new urban communities in the desert.

38. He noted with satisfaction from the Secretary-General's note on the implementation in the Sudano-Sahelian region of the Plan of Action to combat desertification (A/38/304) that the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO) had increased the material resources at its disposal and expanded its programme for the countries in the area. It was also gratifying that the Governing Council of UNEP was asking the General Assembly to consider expanding the role of the Consultative Group for Desertification Control to include the exchange of information (A/38/25, paras. 30-32). He hoped that the relevant proposal would be adopted at the current session of the General Assembly. He also welcomed the decisions of the Governing Council concerning the impact of apartheid on the environment (decision 11/5) and concerning Israel's decision to build a canal linking the Mediterranean to the Dead Sea (decision 11/4).

39. A further welcome development was Economic and Social Council decision 83/168 on the preparation of the Environment Perspective to the year 2000 and beyond, adopted by consensus, and he hoped that the relevant resolution would be similarly adopted during the present session (A/C.2/38/L.5).

(Mr. Seif El-Nasr, Egypt)

40. Paragraph 7 of the introduction to the Secretary-General's report on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories (A/38/278) indicated that the experts appointed to report on the matter had been prevented by the Israeli Government from entering the occupied territories. It was high time that the question of occupation was decisively settled by the international community. Israel continued to maintain that the fourth Geneva Convention of 1948 did not apply to the Palestinian territory despite the fact that its arguments had been rejected by the international community on the basis of international law and the United Nations Charter. It was obvious that Israel prevented experts from entering the Palestine territory because it wanted to try and conceal its policy of coercing the Palestinian people. The land was the basic source of life for the Palestinians and it was most disturbing to note from the report that Israel had confiscated some 44 per cent of their land and created 139 settlements. The Israeli authorities were deploying Jewish settlements on the West Bank in such a way as to ensure that the sites restricted the physical expansion of adjacent Arab villages and farms (A/38/278, para. 30). Israel was trying to isolate the indigenous owners of the land by surrounding them with a network of illegal settlements. The Israelis had imposed severe restrictions on building, the use of materials and the transfer of funds for development from abroad. Those measures, coupled with the preferential treatment of Jewish settlers, had led to a large growth of Israeli settlements, while the efforts of the Israeli occupiers to integrate the economy of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip into the Israeli economy meant that the Palestinian territory was completely dependent on an Israeli economy geared to benefit the Israelis alone, without any regard to the long-term economic interests of the Palestinian people.

41. The Secretary-General's report stated that one third of the active work force in the Palestine territory worked in Israel and that was clearly an obstacle to employment in the occupied territories.

42. Since 1979 the occupying authorities had legalized Israeli enterprises and made it possible for them to buy agricultural property and so benefit from the financial crisis of the Palestinian people. Many Palestinians had been obliged to emigrate to escape coercion by the occupiers, and it must be borne in mind that those Palestinians who left the occupied territories for more than three years lost their right to return. The object of all those practices was to empty the territory of all its rightful inhabitants so that it would be weakened in any future conflict for regional sovereignty.

43. The Palestinian problem was at the heart of the Middle East conflict and it was impossible to achieve permanent peace there without a global and just solution. Israeli practices were clearly not conducive to peace and reconciliation and its policies of hatred and occupation in defiance of General Assembly resolutions and international law and conventions must be abandoned. The Palestinian people was one of the oldest peoples on earth but it could not participate fully in the international community unless it enjoyed its freedom.

44. Mr. Gibson (New Zealand) took the Chair.

45. Mr. AKAO (Japan) noted with satisfaction that many countries had already made progress in the planning of national food strategies which was imperative if firm and stable food production systems were to be achieved. Following discussions in the World Food Council and elsewhere, more specific ways of implementing food strategies had been defined. In providing official development assistance, the Japanese Government had given high priority to agricultural and rural development. In addition to Japan's contributions to multilateral agencies such as the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Food Programme, approximately \$600 million of its bilateral assistance in 1982 had been for the development of food and agriculture. His Government would continue to give bilateral economic and technical aid to developing countries to formulate and implement their strategies.

46. The Secretary-General's report on the state of technology for food and agriculture in Africa (A/38/280) showed a continued worsening of the food situation in Africa. In response to the need, Japan had been providing food aid, fertilizers and agricultural equipment to increase food production and technical co-operation in agriculture in order to bolster individual countries' efforts to cope with the problem of food scarcity. Japan also believed in multilateral assistance and was one of the biggest contributors to the African Development Fund and the African Development Bank; it would continue to attach great importance to assistance to Africa.

47. At its special session commemorating the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, the UNEP Governing Council had adopted the Nairobi Declaration which, inter alia, expressed the international community's determination to preserve the human environment. He agreed with the Governing Council's view of the importance of protecting the environment and expressed continued support for United Nations activities in that field. With regard to the preparation of the Environmental Perspective to the year 2000 and beyond, it was important to consider what would be an ideal global environment for the twenty-first century and then design a long-term action programme to make that ideal environment a reality.

48. He welcomed decision 11/3 of the UNEP Governing Council which proposed the establishment of a special commission to develop long-term environmental strategies for achieving sustainable development to the year 2000 and beyond, and hoped that the General Assembly would adopt draft resolution A/C.2/38/L.5. His Government would consider favourably the possibility of making a financial contribution to the work of the commission.

49. At its eleventh session the UNEP Governing Council had also decided to recommend that the General Assembly consider expanding the role of the Consultative Group for Desertification Control to include an information exchange so as to eliminate duplication and promote implementation of a plan of action to combat desertification. He supported that proposal, though care should be taken to avoid imposing an additional financial and administrative burden on the Consultative Group.

(Mr. Akao, Japan)

50. He expressed appreciation for the work of the Sudano-Sahelian Office but noted with concern the Governing Council's proposal to extend the mandate of the Office to include the environmental consequences of drought. In view of the Office's strained resources it should consolidate rather than expand its activities.

51. It was encouraging to note from the statement of the Executive Director of UNIDO that 107 Member States had ratified the UNIDO Constitution as a specialized agency. He hoped that the process of conversion could be speedily accomplished.

52. While appreciating the remarks of the Executive Director regarding Senior Industrial Development Field Advisers, he felt that any increased expenditure on that programme should not come out of the regular budget of the United Nations; voluntary contributions should be sought, and the possibility of beneficiary countries participating in the costs should also be explored.

53. He recognized the importance of the programme for the Industrial Development Decade in Africa and his Government had supported Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/70. He understood, however, that the financial implications of that resolution would be carefully examined when it was considered by the General Assembly.

54. The General Assembly had taken a step towards the implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action for the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy by adopting resolution 37/250 establishing an Inter-governmental Committee and a small secretariat unit. It was gratifying that the Committee had agreed on guidelines for the consultative meetings which would be one of the key mechanisms for mobilizing additional financial support for the development and utilization of new and renewable sources of energy in developing countries. He endorsed the recommendations and conclusions in the Committee's report and would co-operate in their implementation. Japan believed that the development of energy resources in the developing countries could contribute to the stabilization of the world energy situation and had therefore been mobilizing official and private resources for the development and use of alternative sources of energy. His Government would co-operate in implementing various projects in that field, and had been in consultation with the United Nations Secretariat on the matter.

55. The long-term goal of developing alternative sources of energy was to reduce the instability and uncertainty of the international energy situation. A stable world energy market was of benefit not only to the importers but also to the exporters of energy resources. The international community should continue to monitor the energy situation and try to minimize the adverse effects that any change might have on the development and utilization of new and renewable sources of energy. He called on all countries to co-operate in the early implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.