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New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 17th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. DIETZE (German Democratic Republic)

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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 (continued) (A/38/16, 141, 516);
- (e) FOOD PROBLEMS (continued) (A/38/19, 277, 280, 377; A/C.2/38/L.4);
- (g) ENVIRONMENT (continued) (A/38/35, 304, 305, 383, 403, 504; A/C.2/38/L.5);
- (h) HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (continued) (A/38/8, 278);
- (i) INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF SHELTER FOR THE HOMELESS: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/38/8, 233 and Corr.1; A/C.2/38/L.9);
- (l) NEW AND RENEWABLE SOURCES OF ENERGY (continued) (A/38/44, 240);
- (n) NEW INTERNATIONAL HUMAN ORDER: MORAL ASPECTS OF DEVELOPMENT (continued) (A/38/360; E/1983/68 and Add.1-3, E/1983/89; A/C.2/38/L.6).

1. Mr. YEGANEH (Special Co-ordinator for New and Renewable Sources of Energy) recalled that the Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy, established in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 37/250 to guide and monitor the implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action, in its long-term assessment of the difficulties involved in meeting the increasing energy requirements of the world and particularly of developing countries, had decided to concentrate on three main areas: practical plans for carrying out the Programme of Action; promotion of action to mobilize the necessary financial resources and giving guidance on the preparation and convening of consultative meetings; and inter-agency co-ordination for the implementation of the Programme.

2. With regard to the practical programmes themselves the Committee considered that the proposals of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (A/AC.215/5) provided a useful framework for action and recommended that the various United Nations bodies should prepare their projects for immediate implementation within that framework, in the light of the general guidelines. The Committee outlined priority areas for action, with special emphasis on rural energy supplies, and asked the regional commissions to ensure early implementation of projects in new and renewable sources of energy. It asked the various United Nations bodies to work in the general context of technical and economic co-operation among developing countries.

3. With regard to finance the Committee recognized the need for additional resources to supplement those of the developing countries, and recommended that those resources be directed through existing channels. As regards capital

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(Mr. Yeganeh)

investment, the Committee considered various sources including multilateral and bilateral, public and private and concessional flows and proposed that the World Bank and regional development banks should play an important part in the promotion of investment projects and the transfer of resources in the area of new and renewable sources of energy.

4. The Committee stressed the part which consultative meetings could play in mobilizing additional financial resources, and formulated guidelines for the convening of such meetings which would normally comprise representatives of recipients, donors and international organizations.

5. The Committee also agreed that the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation should assist in identifying useful areas for consultative meetings and ensure that the United Nations bodies co-operated closely and effectively. Contact had been made with various bodies within the United Nations system for preparatory works, and the representatives of a number of Governments had mentioned the possibility of generous financial support for the convening of such meetings or for other projects. The regional commissions were also making preparations to convene consultative meetings.

6. It would be recalled that General Assembly resolution 37/250 requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Committee at its first regular session in 1983 practical proposals on various matters including further ways and means of mobilizing financial resources for new and renewable sources of energy. However, it had proved impossible to prepare those proposals in time, and the Committee accordingly requested the Secretary-General to defer his report to its second session.

7. With regard to inter-agency co-ordination, the Committee emphasized the role of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation and welcomed the establishment of an inter-agency group on new and renewable sources of energy, inviting the members of that group to continue their efforts for the implementation of the Nairobi Plan of Action in a co-ordinated manner. The Committee emphasized the need for precise guidelines to ensure rational and effective co-operation by the various bodies.

8. The Committee also called for the establishment of a focal point for information with the unit on new and renewable sources of energy in the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, and invited Member States and international organizations to provide the unit with regular information according to a common format.

9. Mr. SAAB (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) said that the solution of food problems involved matters of agricultural, rural and overall development, and food security was therefore a far broader concept than the mere existence of cereal stocks and their movement through trade. Despite measures to strengthen food security since the world food crisis of the mid-1970s, the overall position remained unsatisfactory and the Director-General of FAO had therefore

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(Mr. Saab, FAO)

initiated a reappraisal of concepts and approaches in respect of world food security. He had proposed a new concept which had been adopted by the FAO Committee on World Food Security, subsequently endorsed by the FAO Council and supported by the World Food Council and the Economic and Social Council. Under that new concept, the ultimate aim of world food security was to ensure that all people at all times had both physical and economic access to the basic food they needed. It was agreed that specific action should be focused on three priority aims: ensuring production of adequate food supplies; ensuring maximum stability in the flow of supplies; and securing access to available supplies for those needing them. The new concept, while recognizing the fundamental importance of accelerating food production in developing countries, particularly in the low-income food-deficit countries, recognized that it was not sufficient to concentrate solely on cereals. The primary aim of the new concept was to offset yearly fluctuations in production and markets. To translate the new concept into specific policies, national, regional and international measures would be needed.

10. Global food and agricultural production had declined in 1983; most of the decline was due to a reduction of nearly 20 per cent in output in North America, though production, had also fallen in Western Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean. Global food supplies were not immediately threatened because of ample stocks, but the situation in the year 1984-1985 would depend much more than had been thought on the outcome of the harvests of 1984.

11. FAO was particularly concerned with the impact of the worst economic recession in 50 years on longer-term prospects for agricultural development. The adverse effects of the recession might continue for years, particularly in developing countries. The general climate for international co-operation for development had been steadily deteriorating since the Third Development Decade.

12. Domestic price policies had an important bearing on food supplies in developing countries and the Director-General of FAO had decided to initiate a comprehensive study of pricing policies at global and regional levels. Agricultural trade had declined in value by 8 per cent in 1982 so that in that year, the developing countries had lost at least \$8.5 billion in agricultural export earnings, most of the decline being due to falling prices; once again, Africa had been hardest hit.

13. The revised deadline for activating the Common Fund for Commodities had passed without ratification of the Agreement by the required number of countries. The Second Account of the Fund contained useful financial provisions to support commodity development projects, but it too remained inoperative.

14. Even when discounted for price increases, the amount of financial flows for external assistance to agriculture had risen by nearly one half in the three years 1976-1978, though there had since been a setback, and assistance to agriculture in 1981 had been less than in 1978, taking inflation into account. Moreover, the trend was for assistance to be offered on harder terms. It was ironic that in 1981, while commitments to development assistance were being cut back, global

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(Mr. Saab, FAO)

military expenditure had reached the unprecedented level of \$800 billion. The situation in 1982 was not yet clear but commitments of multilateral assistance to agriculture seemed to have declined by 10-11 per cent at current prices, so that total assistance was likely to have declined again, as it was improbable that bilateral assistance would have increased sufficiently to offset the decline. The difficulties that the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the International Development Association (IDA) had found in replenishing their resources and the decline in the resources of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) were clear examples of the trend. The problem was compounded by the fact that domestic public expenditure on agriculture had not increased either.

15. The situation in Africa continued to be of major concern to FAO, and a rising tide of food emergencies and shortages persisted there. However, while paying special heed to the problems of Africa, FAO was not forgetting the development problems of other regions of the world.

16. During the next biennium it was intended to establish within FAO a new research and technology development division to strengthen FAO's ability to transfer existing technology, to adapt and transfer other technologies, and to develop new technologies, with special attention to the problems of food and agriculture in Africa.

17. The world problems of unemployment and inflation, loss of export earnings, cutbacks in national development initiatives, inappropriate domestic policies and stagnation of international assistance were unlikely to be reversed in the immediate future. On the other hand, there were no doubt new policy undertakings and local efforts in each member country that made fuller use of the talents to be found in rural areas. Non-governmental organizations could do much to foster such trends, and FAO's Freedom from Hunger Campaign and Action for Development could also reinforce local endeavours.

18. With regard to the environment, FAO had for years concerned itself with the development of agriculture, forestry and fisheries while preserving natural resources such as land, water, pastures and forests. The Stockholm Conference and the role of UNEP had helped FAO to integrate environmental considerations into technical programmes. It must be borne in mind, however, that solutions to most environmental problems could not be dissociated from overall rural development, particularly in the developing countries.

19. In that connection, the World Soil Charter, adopted at the twenty-first session of the FAO Conference, established principles for the optimum use of the world's land resources and called for a commitment by Governments, international organizations and land users in general to manage land for long-term advantage rather than short-term expediency.

20. Looking to the future, there was no room for complacency. By the year 2000 world population and expected income growth would combine to increase world food demand by 60 per cent above the 1980 level.

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(Mr. Saab, FAO)

21. As in the past, FAO would pursue its campaign against soil degradation, deforestation, desertification, the alteration of water régimes, inland and coastal water pollution, the depletion of genetic resources and the imprudent use of dangerous pesticides.

22. The activities of FAO in connection with new and renewable sources of energy had provided support for the Nairobi Programme of Action. The activities included rural energy assessment and planning; fuel-wood and charcoal; biomass; modernization of draught animal power; and the application of solar energy, wind energy and household energy, including the involvement of women in rural energy programmes.

23. Mr. VERCELES (Philippines) said that the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements was right in asserting that the provision of adequate shelter and services for all was a prerequisite for sustainable development and he urged those major donors which had not so far contributed to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation to do so forthwith.

24. He welcomed the results of the sixth session of the Commission on Human Settlements and the news that preparations for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless were proceeding smoothly.

25. Despite increasing public awareness of the importance of environmental protection, the measures so far taken in that area remained grossly inadequate. In that connection he noted the statement made by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to the effect that the response to calls for funds to finance the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification had been disappointing.

26. His Government believed that each country should achieve food self-sufficiency as an essential element of national sovereignty. It was concerned at the structural imbalances reflected in the concentration of large food reserves in some areas of the world while more and more people in many developing countries were going hungry. He noted with regret the statement by the Executive Director of the World Food Council that limited immediate progress had been made in dealing with that imbalance and expressed the hope that the international community would support efforts to increase co-operation in food production.

27. He expressed disappointment at the results of the meeting of the Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy. Development of such energy resources were of paramount importance to many countries, including the Philippines, and he called on the international community to demonstrate its commitment to implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action. That Programme called inter alia for the mobilization of additional and adequate resources and for co-operation from the United Nations system in the preparation of detailed projects for implementation. He expressed the hope that the proposed energy affiliate would be established soon and asked those opposed to the proposal to reconsider their position.

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(Mr. Verceles, Philippines)

28. As had been pointed out, the industrialization efforts of developing countries had been seriously hampered by the present state of the world economy. That was particularly unfortunate because, at a time of depressed commodity prices, developing countries desperately needed to establish alternative industries. The issue of how to secure more resources for UNIDO must be addressed in a decisive manner, as should the question of funding for the Senior Industrial Development Field Adviser Programme. That Programme should be maintained at least at the present level. He expressed the hope that the conversion of UNIDO into a specialized agency would take place with the least possible delay but without disrupting UNIDO's existing programmes; moreover, delivery of technical assistance should continue to receive priority and UNIDO should receive adequate resources so that it might discharge its functions under the new constitution.

29. Turning to the question of the New International Human Order, he reminded the Committee that human beings should be regarded as the main beneficiaries of development and that the efforts of the international community should be focused on enhancing the quality of life of peoples. Those considerations should be reflected in the new Order which should be the product of a broad consensus. In that connection he drew attention to the draft declaration which had been submitted by his delegation to the Economic and Social Council (A/C.2/38/L.6), adding that he planned to submit a procedural draft resolution on the subject at the present session.

30. Mr. DIMITRIEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the practical work of UNIDO in the field of industrialization should be based on the progressive principles of the Lima and New Delhi Declarations, the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, the Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order and the International Development Strategy for the 1980s. UNIDO should concentrate on devising progressive concepts for industrial development, the training of personnel for developing countries, research into the social and economic aspects of industrialization, scientific and technical information required for industrialization, and the development of the scientific and technical potential of developing countries. The Soviet Union had itself passed through a stage of efforts to achieve industrialization and was therefore active in helping developing countries to solve their industrialization problems. The contributions of the USSR to the United Nations Fund for Industrial Development were used for that purpose and the USSR organized programmes for the group training of engineering personnel for industrial development in the developing countries.

31. His delegation welcomed the Industrial Development Decade for Africa and supported the basic thrust of UNIDO's activities in that connection, though those activities should be conducted with the use of available budgetary resources or voluntary contributions.

32. He supported the decision taken at the seventeenth session of the Industrial Development Board regarding the provision of technical assistance to the peoples of Namibia and Palestine through their lawful representatives, SWAPO and PLO. However, while appreciating the positive side of UNIDO's activities, he was

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(Mr. Dimitriev, USSR)

disturbed by a dangerous tendency to use UNIDO as a channel for the infiltration of private capital, primarily from transnational corporations, into the economies of developing countries. That tendency could be ascribed to the system of consultations which had been sedulously foisted on UNIDO. The Executive Board of UNIDO should carry out a multi-faceted analysis of the practical implications of the system and then decide whether to continue with the forward planning of such activities. The group of socialist countries had stated its position on the question of converting UNIDO into a specialized agency and had made positive proposals regarding the structure and programming of the future agency. Its activity should from the outset be geared to international co-operation in industrial development and it should promote the use of the valuable and in many ways unique experience of industrialization accumulated by the socialist countries so as to achieve balanced representation of all geographical groups in the secretariat and administrative branches of the new agency. He called on the delegations to the Second Committee, the regional groups and particularly the Group of 77 to ensure a successful outcome of the discussions on the formation of the new agency with due regard for the appropriate position of the socialist countries. The position of those countries regarding the ratification of the UNIDO constitution would be determined by the extent to which their legal interests in the financial, personnel and organizational aspects of the new agency were respected.

33. In connection with the ninth session of the World Food Council he noted that due regard had been paid to the urgent need for effective measures of disarmament if food problems were to be solved. The report of the World Food Council on its ninth session and its Executive Director's statement to the Second Committee had justifiably drawn attention to the undesirability of using food aid as a means of political pressure. An action-oriented national strategy for solving food problems was an essential condition for the raising of agricultural production and the elimination of hunger and poverty in developing countries. That position had been maintained at the ninth session of the World Food Council and the strategy, as an organic part of the general economic plans and programmes for development, should be based on the combined development of the forces of production, the carrying out of fundamental social and economic reforms, the liquidation of archaic forms of land tenure and land use and the introduction of progressive reform.

34. The Soviet Union was currently implementing a successful production programme for the period up to 1990, under which grain output was expected to increase from 250 to 255 million tons, while measures were being taken to increase the efficiency of agricultural production and raise the level of livestock production. The implementation of the programme would be an important contribution to the solution of world food problems.

35. In general, USSR assistance to developing countries was playing an important part in the improvement of their food situation.

36. His delegation was generally satisfied with the activities carried out by UNEP during its eleventh session. He welcomed the important decisions on arms and the environment and on the impact of apartheid on the environment which were symptomatic of the growing concern among countries regarding the introduction of

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(Mr. Dimitriev, USSR)

new kinds of chemical and bacteriological weapons and other means of mass destruction. In that connection, the study of the question of the interconnection between environmental protection and the arms race should be one of UNEP's priorities, together with international co-operation in environmental matters. In considering the distribution of available programme resources, UNEP should be guided by General Assembly resolution 37/234.

37. He expressed appreciation of UNEP's work in formulating a world soil policy, drawing up an international register of potentially toxic chemical substances, and preparing the INFOTERRA programme. During the year there had been a successful international conference in the USSR, under UNEP auspices, on special areas of the biosphere and an international symposium on global ocean monitoring. It was now for UNEP to use the results of those discussions in practical measures for further work. The USSR supported the efforts of international organizations, and particularly UNEP, in helping developing countries in environmental protection matters. There should be no change in the mandate given to UNEP by the General Assembly and it should not become an agency for giving technical assistance. Assistance to developing countries in environmental matters should be ensured by developing the environmental aspects of UNDP programmes and other relevant specialized agencies with UNEP as the co-ordinating body.

38. He expressed profound disagreement with the proposal made at the eleventh session of the Governing Council of UNEP to transfer 14 Professional posts and 10 General Service posts from the programme budget of UNEP to the regular budget of the United Nations.

39. Experience in the USSR showed that no effective solution of human settlement problems in developing countries was possible without profound social and economic change and the mobilization of the countries' own material and financial resources to develop a national construction industry, State and co-operative construction organizations, and the training of national construction workers.

40. He attached great significance to the work of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements in connection with projects on behalf of the national liberation movements of South Africa and countries affected by the warlike activities of the Pretoria racist régime, and supported the resolution adopted by the Commission on Human Settlements at its sixth session on assistance to victims of apartheid and colonialism in Africa and the resolution on human settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories. His delegation strongly condemned the activity of Israel which denied the inalienable rights of the Arab people of Palestine to sovereignty, independence and the establishment of their own State.

41. The future activities of the Centre should be primarily directed towards increasing its co-ordinating role in the United Nations system for the solution of human settlements problems.

42. During the year the Executive Director of Habitat had visited the Soviet Union and discussed means of practical co-operation between the USSR and Habitat. He had opened the first seminar for specialists from developing countries, organized in the USSR in co-operation with Habitat and UNEP.

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(Mr. Dimitriev, USSR)

43. With regard to new and renewable sources of energy, he supported the progressive principles of the Nairobi Programme for promoting co-operation in that field in the interests of all countries, including the developing countries. The introduction and strengthening of national planning and the priority development of the State sector by the more active mobilization of the internal resources of developing countries would facilitate the effective development of energy supplies in those countries.

44. He drew attention to the importance of the statement, in the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy, that concrete progress in disarmament was an essential pre-condition for the solution of the energy problems of developing countries (A/38/44, para. 76).

45. He fully understood the attitude of the developing countries which saw in the system of consultative meetings an additional means of solving their social and economic problems. The organization of the consultative meetings should be a matter for the Governments of the developing countries as part of their general social and economic development plans, and any United Nations participation should not involve supplementary expenditure under the United Nations regular budget; nor must the system of consultative meetings become a channel for the introduction of private capital and transnational corporations into the developing countries under the United Nations banner.

46. Mr. KAZEM (Afghanistan) said that industry was the most decisive factor in the struggle for political and economic independence and social progress. His delegation was seriously concerned at the lack of progress made towards attainment of the targets set forth in the Lima Declaration. Every effort should be made to achieve those targets. Since UNIDO was about to become a specialized agency, its role should be expanded and it should strive to promote industrial development at all levels. The new agency should focus on technical assistance programmes, industrial development strategy, the training of national personnel for the industries of developing countries and the transfer of technology, and it should be provided with increased funds commensurate with the enormous tasks it would be required to undertake. The conversion process should be completed as soon as possible.

47. His delegation fully supported the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Industrial Development Board (A/38/16) and it shared the serious concern expressed by the Board about the limitation of resources for the programme of technical co-operation for the least developed countries and the low level of contributions to the United Nations Industrial Development Fund.

48. His delegation was also greatly concerned at the deteriorating food situation in the world. Food was a fundamental human right which should be guaranteed to all peoples. Accordingly, he strongly condemned the use of food as an instrument of political pressure by certain capitalist countries. The General Assembly should orchestrate support for measures to improve global food security. In that connection, the preparation and implementation of a long-term programme to eradicate

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(Mr. Kazem, Afghanistan)

hunger and malnutrition by the year 2000 were an urgent necessity. The planned use and increased effectiveness of productive forces through far-reaching socio-economic reforms were crucial to the achievement of food security. His delegation endorsed all the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the World Food Council (A/38/19). He shared the Council's views concerning regional food trends, strategies and priorities, but pointed out that national food strategies should be an essential element of national development plans. Afghanistan was implementing progressive land and water reforms and its agricultural and livestock production had increased substantially in the past year. It expected soon to be in a position to help other countries.

49. Unless serious measures were taken promptly, the quality of the environment would continue to deteriorate. He affirmed the need for ecologically balanced development planning, pooling information on resource-conserving technologies and promoting awareness of the importance of environmental problems. The United Nations Environment Programme had an important role to play in preventing the waste of global resources by a few capitalist countries. His delegation hoped that the preparation of the Environmental Perspective to the year 2000 and beyond would result in practical policy recommendations on how to integrate environmental considerations in the overall development process and in the establishment of a series of goals regarding environmental quality. In that connection he expressed support for the draft resolution concerning the Environmental Perspective contained in UNEP Governing Council decision 11/3. His delegation was deeply concerned at the slow pace of implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification. Adequate financial resources should be provided to the countries affected and serious efforts should be made for the full and timely implementation of the Plan of Action. His delegation hoped that the Environment Fund would become fully operational in the near future.

50. Provision of adequate shelter for all was a prerequisite for sustainable development. Accordingly, human settlement policies must be an integral part of the development process. Immediate action must be taken to improve the living conditions of people in developing countries. The United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) could do much in that regard provided it received the necessary financial support. His delegation welcomed the work programme and the proposed budget for the Centre and for the Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation. However, the level of programme envisaged was too low given the scale of the problems to be addressed.

51. He expressed support for the resolutions adopted by the Commission concerning the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless and human settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories and was pleased to note that arrangements for the International Year were proceeding apace. He also took note of the report of the Secretary-General on the living conditions of the Palestinian people (A/38/278).

52. Noting that many developing countries were facing serious problems because of a shortage of energy resources, he expressed the hope that the United Nations would soon complete its studies on the identification of constraints to the development of energy resources in the developing countries. He welcomed the setting up of the

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(Mr. Kazem, Afghanistan)

Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy and of a secretariat unit for such sources of energy and expressed the hope that increased financial and technical assistance would be provided so that developing countries could carry out their energy development activities. He drew particular attention to the need for special measures for the least developed countries.

53. Owing to the negative and retrogressive policies adopted by certain capitalist countries economic co-operation had not reached the level anticipated in the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade. Every effort should be made to attain the objectives set forth in the Strategy. In that regard he recalled that the Strategy had set a target of 0.7 per cent of GNP for the official development assistance of developed countries and expressed appreciation to those countries, particularly the Soviet Union, which had already achieved that target, as reflected in the report of the Secretary-General (A/38/258/Add.1).

54. Mr. MAETZOLD (German Democratic Republic) said that, hunger, malnutrition and poverty were caused by the international capitalist system, which increasingly prevented the developing countries from making progress in the areas of agriculture and food. Under the capitalist system food trade and food aid were also misused as instruments for exerting political pressure. However, a number of recommendations had already been adopted by United Nations bodies, particularly the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development and the World Food Council, which could serve as guidelines for the developing countries in their activities to promote agriculture. The German Democratic Republic had learned from its own development experience that a complex approach to the problems of agriculture and food was necessary. His delegation therefore welcomed the thrust of the conclusions of the ninth ministerial session of the World Food Council (A/38/19, para. 13).

55. Environmental protection issues required joint action and a greater degree of attention at all levels than ever before. His delegation shared the view that the system-wide medium-term environment programme contributed significantly to the achievement of UNEP goals. That undertaking required a complex, interrelated approach to global environmental problems which gave due consideration to the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade; most important in that regard was an active commitment to peace. Other matters that merited study were the interrelationship between development and the environment, the impact of apartheid on the environment and the consequences of the planned construction by Israel of a canal between the Mediterranean and Dead Seas.

56. The German Democratic Republic had long experience in training personnel from developing countries in environmental protection: to date, six postgraduate courses in those fields had been held there under the sponsorship of UNEP and UNESCO. The success of those courses had strengthened his Government's determination to continue its co-operation with those agencies and thus help implement the system-wide medium-term environment programme and the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Conference on Environmental Education held at Tbilisi in 1977.

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(Mr. Maetzold, German
Democratic Republic)

57. With regard to the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories, the report of the Secretary-General on that subject (A/38/278) clearly described the adverse effects of the continuing occupation of the Palestinian people's homeland. He reaffirmed his delegation's position that the unrestricted exercise of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination was a prerequisite for its social and economic development. His delegation supported the recommendation of the Commission on Human Settlements that the General Assembly should establish a working group to study the colonies which Israel had set up in the occupied Arab territories.

58. Speaking on industrialization, he said that the German Democratic Republic supported the activities of UNIDO in a number of ways and attached special importance to the training of personnel from developing countries. He therefore urged that further attention should be paid to technical assistance programmes, industrial development and planning strategies, the training of workers in developing countries and programmes for the development and transfer of technologies. He also drew attention to the position of the socialist States with regard to the conversion of UNIDO into a specialized agency. During the second regular session of the Economic and Social Council in 1983, the German Democratic Republic and other socialist States had expressed their views on the solution of administrative and financial problems pertaining to UNIDO. UNIDO must play a major role in the strengthening of international co-operation at all levels, an objective which could be met only if UNIDO's activities accommodated the interests of all States and groups of States. In particular, the principle of equitable geographical distribution of posts should be applied without reservation when UNIDO became a specialized agency; any attempts to use the conversion process as a means of putting the socialist States at a disadvantage was inconsistent with the generally accepted norms of the United Nations system.

59. His delegation approved in general of the conclusions in part V of the report of the Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy (A/38/44). However, as primary responsibility for utilizing new and renewable sources of energy lay at the national level, the consultative meetings proposed in paragraph 81 (b) should be held primarily at that level.

60. In concluding, he drew attention to certain statements made during the Committee's general debate which were not only beneath the dignity of sovereign Member States but worked against the interests of all Member States. Greater co-operation, businesslike conduct and farsightedness should characterize the Committee's work.

61. Mr. KAABACHI (Tunisia) said that Africa remained the world's least industrialized continent, whose riches continued to be exploited by parties foreign to Africa for their own profit. While the Industrial Development Decade for Africa had been proclaimed with a view to rectifying that situation, the low level of resources allocated for the Decade's objectives would have a detrimental effect on their implementation. He therefore called on all donor countries and agencies to

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(Mr. Kaabachi, Tunisia)

increase substantially their contributions to industrial development in Africa and expressed his country's appreciation for the Senior Industrial Development Field Adviser Programme and its belief that the Programme should be further strengthened. The conversion of UNIDO into a specialized agency would strengthen that organization.

62. His delegation shared the concern expressed in the Final Communiqué of the recent ministerial meeting of the Non-Aligned Countries at the worsening food situation in many developing countries, particularly in Africa. The Communiqué had called upon the international community to help eradicate hunger and malnutrition in developing countries by means of a substantial increase in financial and technical assistance. The developing countries themselves must also provide their populations with enough food; however, efforts in that direction in Asia, Africa and Latin America had been hampered by population growth and unstable or adverse weather conditions.

63. The tariff barriers erected by the developed countries against agricultural exports from the developing countries should be eliminated. The right to food was one of the most basic human rights; consequently, any attempts to use food as a means of exerting political or economic pressure on States should be condemned as a violation of human rights.

64. His delegation welcomed the consensus on the major items considered at the eleventh session of the UNEP Governing Council. Tunisia was particularly interested in strengthening individual and collective action to protect the environment. Maintaining a healthy environment was an obligation both of individual countries and of the international community as a whole.

65. His delegation supported the idea of strengthening links between environment and other major global issues and thus endorsed the decision of the UNEP Governing Council that the topic to be considered in the 1984 report on the state of the environment would be "The environment in the dialogue between and among developed and developing countries". His delegation also supported the convening of an international conference on industrialization and the environment which would focus on the relationship between the two, particularly in the developing countries, and define ways and means of ensuring that industrialization would protect the environment. Environmental issues should be discussed in their entirety and as they related to the objectives and priorities of developing countries.

66. The problem of remnants of war continued to pose serious obstacles to the economic and social development activities of many developing countries, particularly in North Africa. The international community should invite the countries concerned to enter into bilateral negotiations for solving that problem by pledging to provide documents concerning minefields and to compensate for the resultant human and material damage caused to the population of developing countries.

(Mr. Kaabachi, Tunisia)

67. He commended the report of the Secretary-General on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories which accurately reflected the precarious and difficult conditions experienced by the Arab people of Palestine. However, it was unfortunate that the experts whose investigations formed the basis of the report had once again been forced to rely on second-hand information as a result of the refusal by the Israeli authorities to allow them to visit the occupied Palestinian territories. The worsening of the Palestinians' living conditions was evident in all sectors of economic and social activity. In that connection, he referred to the findings of the report of the Secretary-General and left it to the international community to draw its own conclusions. Nothing less than Israel's unconditional withdrawal from all occupied Palestinian territories and its recognition of the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and the establishment of its own independent State in its homeland under the leadership of its sole and legitimate representative, the PLO, would enable the Palestinian people to enjoy those rights fully.

68. The establishment of the Intergovernmental Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy was an important event that demonstrated the international community's commitment to development and the strengthening of international co-operation. The implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action required sustained efforts and increased financial support from the international community; in that connection his delegation remained convinced of the urgent need for the establishment of an energy branch of the World Bank.

69. Mr. MIHALJEVIC (Yugoslavia) said that the consequences of the world economic crisis had undermined the industrial development of the developing countries, which not only jeopardized their future but posed a serious threat to the world recovery. UNIDO had an important role to play in overcoming that situation, and consequently deserved full support. The main task of UNIDO was implementation of the Lima Declaration and Plan of Action on Industrial Development and Co-operation and the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Decade.

70. The shortage of financial resources was one of the most acute problems impeding the industrial development of developing countries. Consequently, increased financial assistance from the developed countries must supplement the efforts of the developing countries; specifically, additional funding should be sought to maintain the United Nations Industrial Development Fund at the agreed desirable level of \$50 million. Financial resources were also required for the Industrial Development Decade for Africa and to strengthen technical co-operation programmes for the least developed countries. Resources should also be mobilized to help UNIDO implement the Caracas Programme of Action of Mutual Co-operation Among the Developing Countries. The solidarity meetings of developing countries had proved useful and should be continued.

71. His delegation supported the decision of the Industrial Development Board concerning the programme of consultation meetings for 1984-1985 and programme guidelines for 1986-1987, and welcomed the preparations for the fourth UNIDO General Conference. The meetings of experts to discuss major Conference topics demonstrated the significance of industrial co-operation between developed and

(Mr. Mihaljević, Yugoslavia)

developing countries and among developing countries. The conversion of UNIDO into a specialized agency should have a positive effect on that organization's activities; the structure of the new agency should be designed with a view to the effective discharge of the task assigned to it.

72. The critical international economic situation had gravely affected the development of agriculture and food production. Despite the priority accorded to food and agriculture in a number of international forums, the picture in many developing countries, particularly in Africa, remained bleak. Population growth continued to outstrip food production, while public development assistance, notably for agriculture, was decreasing in real terms. Agricultural export earnings of the developing countries had fallen sharply in the past two years and had combined with debt-servicing obligations to make commercial imports of food almost impossible. World food security had not been ensured and no adequate system of buffer stocks existed. Consequently, financial and technological assistance to developing countries must be increased if hunger and malnutrition were to be eradicated by the year 2000. A system of food security should be instituted and the targets of the World Food Programme, the International Emergency Food Reserve and the Food Aid Convention should be increased. Consultations on problems and measures regarding the wheat trade should be conducted within the framework of such relevant United Nations organs as UNCTAD and the Committee on World Food Security. In that context, he reiterated that Yugoslavia would not accept any change in the political character of the World Food Council.

73. The special session of the World Food Council, to be held in 1984, should be devoted to an appraisal of the implementation of the recommendations and conclusions of the World Food Conference, with a view to taking necessary remedial measures. To facilitate that task, preparations for the special session should include a detailed analysis of the world food situation during the past decade, an assessment of the current situation and a setting of national and international priorities.

74. With regard to the report of the eleventh session of the UNEP Governing Council, he expressed his delegation's support for the decisions adopted at that session. Yugoslavia attached particular importance to regional activities and to the implementation of the Mediterranean Plan of Action which was also intended to protect the Adriatic Sea. He called for a coherent and sharply focused approach to the problems of industry and the environment and expressed support for the strategy proposed by UNEP in that regard. He welcomed the recommendations of the Governing Council concerning the preparation of the Environmental Perspective to the year 2000 and beyond, and particularly the proposed themes of the preparatory work.

75. He expressed his delegation's appreciation for the work of the Commission on Human Settlements and its full support of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commission at its sixth session. Yugoslavia attached great significance to successful preparations for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless and believed that they would result in high priority being given to the International Year by all Governments.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.