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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 20th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. DIETZE (German Democratic Republic)

later: Mr. GIBSON (New Zealand)

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The meeting was called to order at 7.25 p.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 and 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)
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- (i) INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF SHELTER FOR THE HOMELESS: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/38/8, 233 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. DOMOKOS (Hungary) said that industrialization was of great importance to the economic independence and development of every country. It called for multiple efforts in the developing countries, which were at the initial stage of industrial development and would need to make rapid progress through carefully elaborated industrial policies. However, the developed countries were also grappling with problems, such as bringing about rapid and often radical changes in their industrial structures, and those changes had economic and social implications. A sizeable part of existing industrial capacities could not resist the pressure of the current crisis. Constrained export possibilities, due partly to stronger protectionism, raised serious and often insoluble problems for the developing countries and for any other nation that was obliged to sell a large part of its industrial products on foreign markets. Top priority was accorded to maintaining existing industrial levels and to ensuring capacity utilization. At the same time, most countries needed to revise their current industrialization policies so as to equip their industries for the production of goods which responded to market demands. The process of industrial development was further restrained by the fact that few countries had the necessary financial resources to change their industrial structures or to undertake new investments and by the fact that such resources were not easily obtained from external sources. Clearly, the state of the world economy hampered industrial development programmes, although they could not be dropped entirely because that would mean giving up the very idea of development.

2. Among the numerous contributions the United Nations had made to industrialization, particular importance was attached to the conversion of UNIDO into a specialized agency. The Hungarian People's Republic had established close, beneficial contacts with UNIDO and, as a result, had been able to contribute to a certain extent to the implementation of the industrial development goals of other

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(Mr. Domokos, Hungary)

countries. Hungary hoped to establish similar relations with new organization, as well, and, accordingly, on 15 August had deposited the instruments of ratification. Of course, that did not mean his country believed that the UNIDO Constitution could be implemented fully, because the agreement reached by consensus left many matters open to diverse interpretations. The statements made at the formal meeting held at Vienna reflected differences of view and, therefore, a great deal remained to be done before the new organization could start working on its own. It must make economical use of its financial and other resources and must function more efficiently than the old organization.

3. In addition to providing technical assistance, the new organization should help the developing countries still more effectively in exploring ways of introducing profound changes in their economic structures and in formulating industrial policies and strategies. It was necessary to implement long-term programmes, based primarily on the large-scale mobilization of domestic resources, because the rapid expansion of production achieved fundamentally through the provision of aid did not yield lasting results. The primary role of UNIDO was to accelerate the industrialization of the developing countries, but it should also stimulate the industrialization effort in general and should promote international co-operation so as to ensure that every country considered it useful to develop active relations with the organization.

4. Lastly, with regard to the equitable distribution of posts in the UNIDO secretariat, as elsewhere in the United Nations system, it was important to ensure the proportional participation of the representatives of different States, regions and social and economic systems, together with a high level of professional competence and dedication. On the one hand, that was necessary in order to make the organization truly international and, on the other hand, because international organizations should draw on world-wide experience and employ the most advanced methods in their respective fields of activity. He therefore reiterated his delegation's agreement with the statement made by the representative of Group D at the Vienna meeting. All those aspects should be taken into account during the preparation and work of the Fourth General Conference of UNIDO.

5. With regard to food problems, he noted that agriculture and food production, like every other sector of the world economy, were affected by the current crisis. The situation had been analysed by FAO, the World Food Council and the Economic and Social Council. Hunger and malnutrition persisted in many developing countries. Africa found itself in a particularly grave situation resulting from the combined effects of weather conditions, natural disasters, political events and economic factors. However, the eradication of the food problem was essential to sound economic growth. The solution did not lie in seeking a constant increase in aid but in the formulation by individual countries of comprehensive national strategies to guarantee full and reliable food supplies. The implementation of related programmes required both the mobilization of internal resources and effective international co-operation.

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(Mr. Domokos, Hungary)

6. In 1983, Hungary had been hit by a serious drought, such as had not been experienced in a long time. Despite the extremely unfavourable weather conditions, its modern socialist agriculture would be able to supply the population and to fulfil its export commitments. Before the socialist reorganization of agriculture, a similar drought would have entailed catastrophic consequences for the entire population. As had been seen, there was great interest in Hungary's achievements in that area, and his country would be glad to share its experience with other countries, in particular the developing countries. There were already many examples of co-operation and of scientific and technical assistance in the field of agricultural and food production.

7. With regard to environmental protection, the Hungarian People's Republic considered it to be a priority task which required, in addition to national programmes, broad international co-operation both at the governmental level and between institutes and social organizations. The protection of the environment had long been viewed only as a moral obligation but, fortunately, there was growing recognition of the fact that it had great economic importance and that, if neglected, could increase production costs enormously. He fully agreed with the statement made by the Executive Director of UNEP to the effect that the proper use of natural resources was central to questions of economic growth, social welfare and global security. In 1983, UNEP had adopted decisions concerning the environmental activities of the entire United Nations system as well as an extensive environmental programme for 1984-1985. Hungary attached great importance to the UNEP Environmental Perspective and stressed that the intergovernmental committee should be given a decisive role to play in that connection.

8. His delegation believed that the transport of dangerous pollutants harmful to the environment required immediate international regulation in the legal, technical and commercial areas, since the pollution of water and of the air by such products was increasing. A significant event, which reflected the will for action at the international level, was the entry into force of the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution between the ECE member States. As to the implementation of the Convention, there were still difficulties which must be overcome, and even more support would be needed from UNEP in that regard.

9. Mr. RAKOTONAIVO (Madagascar) said that great importance had been accorded to food problems in the debates in the World Food Council and the Economic and Social Council. The critical and deteriorating state of the world food crisis was reflected in the persistence of hunger and malnutrition in various regions of the world. In that respect, several important phenomena should be noted, such as the growing dependence of the developing countries on food imports, which involved consequences for their balances of payments in a particularly difficult international economic, monetary and financial situation; the instability of supplies and prices in the international market; the tendency of some developed countries to reduce food production and the volume of official development assistance, and the decline in the purchasing power of commodity exports from the developing countries.

(Mr. Rakotonaivo, Madagascar)

10. Madagascar, which was aware of those problems and of its responsibility, accorded high priority to the promotion of agricultural development. To that end it intended to implement a policy aimed at achieving self-sufficiency in food and an improvement in the balance of payments, while at the same time ensuring a better integration of agriculture with other sectors of the economy. That policy, based on the reorganization of support institutions and production structures, aimed at considerably increasing and accelerating production, and was accompanied by measures to re-establish a favourable economic climate through the granting of agricultural loans, an increase in the prices paid to producers and other measures. His Government would devote a considerable proportion of its public investment programme for the next three years to the agricultural sector and, of the total allocated to that sector, two thirds was reserved for food production in order to achieve self-sufficiency.

11. It had been recognized for some time that the resources and techniques available to the developing countries and their production capacity were not sufficient to enable them to achieve their objectives in respect of agricultural and food development. In order to achieve those objectives, they needed generous assistance from the international community. The competent bodies of the United Nations had stressed the need to undertake international action, the main component of which would be adequate official development assistance. He therefore hoped that sufficient resources would be assured for the World Bank, the regional banks and the International Fund for Agricultural Development. It was essential to establish a network of world food security, bearing in mind the inadequacy of production and the food deficit in various regions of the world, particularly in Africa. He therefore welcomed the new integrated concept of the system which aimed to ensure adequate production and food stocks, stabilize supplies and markets, and ensure access to supplies. The efforts made by FAO in that respect were commendable, and his delegation was prepared to support the measures that might be adopted by FAO to implement the relevant provisions.

12. The third essential element of international co-operation in respect of agricultural and food development was food aid. His delegation supported the new objective of establishing a level of \$1,350 million for the regular resources of the World Food Programme. The international community should pay particular attention to the problems of Africa, where the increase in food production constantly lagged behind population growth and the efforts that were being made were frustrated by natural catastrophes. That situation was continuing to give rise to concern because of the disastrous effects it had on the economies of the countries of the region and the well-being of their populations; in that respect, it sufficed to refer to the report of the Secretary-General (A/38/377). He reiterated the appeal made that morning by the Director-General of FAO for a rapid and effective mobilization of aid on a world scale to help the countries of Africa. He hoped that the international community would respond generously to that appeal, and that international bodies and institutions would also play the role required of them in that respect. His delegation expressed deep appreciation for the activities that were being carried out by FAO in Africa in implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action, which covered very varied aspects; it supported all measures to strengthen those activities.

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(Mr. Rakotonaivo, Madagascar)

13. Industrialization played an important role in the economic development of a country because of its multiplying effect on other economic activities. As the Director-General of UNIDO had stressed, industrialization would contribute to the sustained economic development of the South, which seemed to be the only way of ensuring general prosperity and international peace in the future. Thus it was important that the objectives set forth in the Lima Declaration and Plan of Action, and in the documents of the General Conference of UNIDO, should be achieved. His delegation therefore supported the activities of UNIDO, particularly those relating to the strengthening of the industrial and technological capacity of the developing countries. It was to be hoped that UNIDO would have sufficient financial resources to maintain its current level of technical assistance activities within the framework of the Senior Industrial Development Field Adviser Programme. Experts and specialists from developing countries should participate to a greater extent in the System of Consultations.

14. His delegation believed the current world economic situation and the urgent need to accelerate the industrial development of the developing countries should have priority in the preparations for the fourth General Conference of UNIDO. The conversion of UNIDO into a specialized agency should not disrupt the implementation of the ongoing programmes. Fortunately, the need to ensure the necessary resources for UNIDO had been confirmed in the Vienna consultations, and it was to be hoped that the level of \$50 million a year envisaged for the United Nations Industrial Development Fund would soon be attained. Although no precise date could be fixed for the entry into force of the Constitution of UNIDO, since the necessary financial conditions had not been met, the Member States should make all possible efforts to resolve the pending questions. He noted with satisfaction that the Industrial Development Board had recognized at its most recent session the priority nature of the activities of UNIDO relating to the Industrial Development Decade for Africa and, in that respect, his delegation supported the provisions of Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/70.

15. His delegation recognized the need for the rapid implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action for the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy. The development of those sources offered new prospects for development and local energy supplies, particularly in developing countries, and would help increase their self-sufficiency. The establishment of the Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy was an important step in formulating plans and programmes and mobilizing the financial resources envisaged in the Programme of Action. His delegation endorsed the conclusions and recommendations set forth in document A/38/40. It was important to establish programmes and projects to improve the energy situation of the developing countries and afford them economic and social advantages. Attention should also be paid to the techniques relating to new and renewable energy sources created in the developing countries, and primary importance should be accorded to training and the exchange of information. Lastly, priority should be given to assistance to developing countries in the prospecting, exploitation and diversification of local resources.

(Mr. Rakotonaivo, Madagascar)

16. His delegation believed that the consultative meetings provided for in document A/AC.21/2 should play an important role in mobilizing financial resources but should also complement the existing multilateral and bilateral mechanisms. It reiterated its support for the proposal to establish a subsidiary of the World Bank for energy. It was also urgently necessary to finance support and pre-investment activities and to devote a considerable volume of resources to expenditure on equipment.

17. Mrs. NJIE (Gambia) said that hunger and malnutrition constituted the most serious threat confronting the human race. The number of people affected by those scourges was estimated at 450 to 500 million. While the major food-producing countries had exceptionally large reserves, in many third world countries food production was well below population growth and the 4 per cent annual growth target established in the International Development Strategy. In the African continent in particular, food and agricultural production lagged far behind population growth. Whereas two decades previously Africa had been self-sufficient in food, its current rate of population growth, approaching 3 per cent per annum, exceeded that of total food production, which was only 1.5 per cent. That situation had forced Africa to double its cereal imports from 1975 to 1980. Thus, in addition to preventing Africa from approaching its long-cherished objective of achieving self-sufficiency in food, the deceleration in production and consequent need to import food to cover the deficit had drained its badly needed foreign currency reserves and contributed to halting the development efforts of many African countries.

18. In the Sahelian region, where the Gambia was situated, the situation was critical. Whereas between 1973 and 1980 the eight countries of the Sahel had imported 800,000 tons of grain, in 1982 alone their imports had exceeded 1 million tons. Since it was estimated that the annual growth of food production was only 1 per cent and that the population of the region, currently numbering about 31 million, would reach 50 million by the end of the century, FAO studies predicted that consumption could reach 7 million tons in 1985 and 9 million in 1995.

19. Her delegation shared the view expressed at the previous meeting by the FAO representative that the food problem should be seen as part of a global problem that only structural changes could remedy. As he had put it, the shortage of foreign exchange for food imports in many developing countries had been the result of declining export earnings, worsening terms of trade and foreign debt servicing problems. International trade and payments policies had a major role to play in ensuring that every human being had access to the basic food he or she needed. It was universally recognized that the global economic situation had contributed to poor agricultural performance in the developing countries. The foreign exchange shortage had limited, if not cancelled out, their possibilities of importing agricultural supplies. Unless local and recurrent expenditure was included in agricultural aid, the problem of low productivity would continue indefinitely.

20. The African developing countries had made tremendous efforts, often calling for great sacrifices by their peoples, to make an effective contribution to the solution of their problems in that area. Many of those countries, including the Gambia, had adopted a more integrated food policy with a view to attaining

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(Mrs. Njie, Gambia)

self-sufficiency in food. However, after so many years of effort yielding insignificant results, it was clear that policy changes at the national level were not sufficient for attaining those goals, since national programmes could not be implemented adequately without the necessary technical and financial support from the international community and donor agencies. Their assistance was needed not only in importing technology but also in designing technology that was more in keeping with African needs and conditions. However, although the proper allocation of external assistance for the implementation of national plans was of paramount importance, donor countries should respect the recipient countries' right to decide what form their development and their economic systems should take.

21. Despite the disquieting elements of the current food and agriculture situation, the record of external assistance for agricultural development was far from encouraging. While it was claimed that the reductions in development assistance were due to budgetary cut-backs imposed on donor countries by the current world-wide recession, military expenditure was rising rapidly. Her delegation shared the concern expressed by FAO and UNDP and other organizations in the United Nations system that it was necessary to put an end to the financial difficulties being experienced by the multilateral aid agencies, particularly those whose mandate was to provide assistance to the least favoured population sectors of the least developed countries. Their noble task of assisting the developing countries in their struggle to develop, if not to survive, should be encouraged and supported.

22. In his statement, the Director-General of FAO had placed particular emphasis on the serious food situation in 22 African countries, including six Sahelian countries, of which the Gambia was one. On 3 September 1983, the President of the Republic of the Gambia had appealed to the international community for immediate food aid and financial assistance in order to deal with the situation resulting from the drought and irregular rainfall that the Gambia was experiencing, which, it was estimated, would bring the shortfall in Gambian agricultural production to over 30 per cent in 1983. Her delegation wished to express its gratitude to the Director-General of FAO for his efforts and hoped that the international community would do everything within its power to ease a situation that was endangering the lives of over 150 million men, women and children.

23. Her delegation welcomed the study of agricultural pricing policies proposed by FAO. It also commended the Economic Commission for Africa and FAO for their untiring efforts to assist the countries of the African region in solving problems arising from post-harvest losses, which were still having a serious impact on them. She endorsed the recommendations and conclusions of the ninth ministerial session of the World Food Council, in whose deliberations the Gambia had participated. She also agreed with the general conclusions set forth in the report of the Secretary-General on the situation of food and agriculture in Africa (A/38/377), namely, that the chief factor responsible for the lack of progress in that area was insufficient investment and that Governments should encourage changes in the food habits of their populations, promote irrigated farming and take immediate action to establish the causes of drought and desertification and to combat those phenomena.

(Mrs. Njie, Gambia)

24. The Gambia was a member of the subregional Organization for the Development of the Gambia River Basin, one of whose priority projects was the building of a bridge-cub-barrage, not only to irrigate an extensive area of farming land but also to solve the problem of transportation, which had contributed to the lack of progress in that field. The rational and co-ordinated development of the Gambia River was one instrument for achieving the food production targets laid down in the Lagos Plan of Action. Her Government wished to express its appreciation to all countries that had shown interest in that project and to reiterate its appeal for assistance in carrying out that urgent task.

25. With regard to the last conclusion in the report of the Secretary-General, the slow progress being made in the struggle to combat drought and desertification, both nationally and within the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS), did not stem so much from a lack of understanding of the phenomenon as from a lack of the financial and technological resources required in order to take more effective action. For a Sahelian country such as the Gambia, the problems of food self-sufficiency and increased agricultural production were directly linked with the problem of the environment, since drought and desertification were major forms of environmental degradation. As the Chairman of CILSS had stated in his address to the General Assembly on 27 September 1983, the gravity of the situation confronting the Sahelian countries did not admit of partial or improvised solutions. Her delegation wished to echo the appeal made by the Chairman of CILSS to the international community for increased co-operation with the members of CILSS in the execution of their development programme and in their struggle against desertification. Since the drought of 1972-1973, which had devastated the Sahelian countries and become endemic, her Government had made an enormous effort to educate the people of the Gambia about the need to protect the environment and to conserve the forests.

26. She wished to express her appreciation to the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO) for intensifying its resource-mobilization efforts and increasing the assistance extended, on behalf of UNEP and in conjunction with UNDP, to desertification programmes in the Sudano-Sahelian region. In the Gambia, UNSO had mobilized resources for a series of projects, including the construction of feeder roads, pasture-development, the protection of land around livestock watering points and the promotion and production of improved cooking stoves. With a view to improving the financial situation of UNSO, she wished to urge donors, particularly the major ones, to increase and intensify their support for the Office on the most favourable terms in order to facilitate implementation of the projects upon which the people of the Gambia were setting their hopes. Lastly, in general she endorsed the resolutions adopted by the UNEP Governing Council at its eleventh session.

27. Mr. DE SILVA (Sri Lanka), referring to agenda item 78 (h) and (i), said that significant results had been achieved at the sixth session of the Commission on Human Settlements, in which the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka had participated. Among the issues considered by the Commission, special mention should first of all be made of the issue of land for human settlements for the rural and urban poor. His delegation fully supported the Commission's call for increased efforts by

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(Mr. De Silva, Sri Lanka)

Member States to ensure that the poor and the disadvantaged had security of tenure at affordable prices and in reasonable proximity to employment and community services.

28. He noted that the Committee for Programme Planning and Co-ordination had recognized the objectives, priorities and programmes of the Commission on Human Settlements as an essential element of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade. Given the importance of human settlements for equitable economic and social development in all countries, it was a matter of considerable concern that the volume of resources devoted to human settlements at the national and international levels was grossly inadequate. It was to be hoped that Member States would respond generously to the Commission's appeal for extrabudgetary resources for various programmes relating to human settlements.

29. With regard to the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, resolution 6/1 adopted by the Commission on Human Settlements at its sixth session had been unanimously endorsed by the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1983. The Year had also received encouraging support at the highest political levels, for example, at the seventh Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries held in New Delhi in March 1983, and later at the nineteenth ordinary session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity held at Addis Ababa in June 1983. It was also good to note that the Commission had examined and approved the programmes and activities for the Year. Many Governments had already made contributions towards those programmes and activities and as many as 60 Governments had already established the national focal points called for in the annex to resolution 6/1. Sri Lanka's commitment to the Year was confirmed by the pledge of \$US 1 million which it had made in the Second Committee at the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly.

30. Sri Lanka had just launched a programme to construct 1 million houses during 1984-1989. At the meeting of the Co-ordinating Group of Non-Aligned Countries on Housing that was currently being held in Sri Lanka, priority was being given to consideration of shelter policies, programmes and strategies for the Year and for the Million Houses Programme. His delegation hoped that arrangements for the activities and programmes of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless would shortly be considered and that the resolution on the question would be unanimously supported by the Committee. In view of the General Assembly's designation of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) as the lead agency for co-ordinating the programmes and activities for the Year, the Centre should begin to participate as soon as possible in the work of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 37/223 C. His delegation would like information on the current status of those arrangements.

31. With respect to agenda item 78 (e), he said that the Declaration of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 of 10 October 1983 had clearly identified the major food issues. His delegation hoped that the recommendations in

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(Mr. De Silva, Sri Lanka)

that Declaration calling for the establishment of a food security system, an increase in the targets of the International Emergency Food Reserves and the Food Aid Convention and steps to ensure minimum and immediate food supplies in times of world-wide shortages and to eliminate any kind of conditionality for the supply of food aid would be implemented as soon as possible.

32. Concerning agenda item 78 (g), he observed that a new resolve to grapple with environmental problems was evident not only in UNEP but in the environmental movement as a whole. His delegation was glad to learn of the growing awareness that environmental programmes were central to the questions of economic development, social welfare and global security. It welcomed the proposal of the Governing Council of UNEP regarding the preparation of the Environmental Perspective to the year 2000 and beyond, and its proposal to establish a Special Commission which would, among other things, establish environmental goals and make concrete proposals outlining the manner in which nations could achieve those goals. It was also pleased to note the considerable progress in the system-wide medium-term environment programme, for which a budget had been approved for the first time. The impact that the Governing Council's proposals regarding the periodicity and duration of its sessions would have on the lead role of UNEP and on the environment programme, which was central to economic and social development and global security, needed to be examined further, and his delegation reserved the right to comment on the matter at the appropriate time.

33. Mr. WORKU (Ethiopia), referring to the report on the situation of food and agriculture in Africa (A/38/377), the report of the World Food Council on the work of its ninth session (A/38/19), the report on the state of technology for food and agriculture in Africa (A/38/280) and the report of the Governing Council of UNEP (A/38/25), said that his delegation agreed to a large extent with the content and analysis and the conclusions of those reports. Africa, because of historical circumstances, was the least developed continent and lagged behind all others in the adoption and utilization of technology suitable for its development needs. That, coupled with insufficient capital for agricultural financing, had caused the current state of affairs on the African continent. In a world where the achievements of science and technology had gone beyond the stage needed to free humanity from its cosmic worries, it was saddening to witness the persistence of shameful living conditions among the great majority of the inhabitants of the planet. As the Director-General of FAO had disclosed two weeks earlier, 150 million people living in 22 African countries would soon be facing hunger and malnutrition unless the international community took urgent action.

34. It was paradoxical that, while millions were suffering from lack of food, some nations were engaged in the costly business of reducing food production. The solemn pledge made by the international community nine years earlier to free humanity from its most basic worries was still far from being realized. As aptly pointed out by the Director-General of FAO in his message to the General Assembly on the occasion of World Food Day, the promise that by 1984 no child would go to bed hungry had not been kept. The current situation for many nations was not better than that of 10 years earlier. It was estimated that more than 10 million

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(Mr. Worku, Ethiopia)

children, the majority of them from African countries, were dying every year as a result of hunger and malnutrition. In Ethiopia alone, more than 3 million persons were in desperate straits. Natural calamities, such as epidemics, floods, locust plagues and drought, had been playing havoc with the lives of Ethiopians with increasing frequency in the previous ten years. Even before the latest shortages had occurred, the average African had had considerably less access to food than 10 years before, and the average dietary standard was now far below nutritional requirements.

35. The African Governments fully subscribed to the view that the ultimate solution to the food problem facing the continent lay in a sharp increase in food production in each country. To that end, they had collectively committed themselves in the Lagos Plan of Action to improving Africa's food situation by giving rural development top priority. They believed that only by applying science and technology for the development of the agricultural sector could they resolve the tremendous social and economic problems confronting them and bring about social transformation. As document A/38/280 noted, that awareness had been reflected also in the Lagos Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Monrovia Strategy for the Economic Development of Africa. In that regard FAO had made a praiseworthy decision to establish a new research and technology development division in the coming biennium, which would give special attention to problems of food and agriculture in Africa. However, efforts by African countries alone were not sufficient. Assistance was required from those possessing both the financial and the technological capability. It was also necessary to increase considerably the volume of food aid given to the African countries. In that connection, his delegation appealed to the international community to heed the FAO request for urgent assistance to the 22 African countries most in need, to avert the impending catastrophe. Any delay in responding would mean not only the prolongation of misery and human suffering but loss of lives as well.

36. With regard to environmental questions, Ethiopia agreed with the Executive Director of UNEP that environmental issues could no longer be considered a dispensable luxury. His Government had taken a series of measures to protect, conserve and rehabilitate Ethiopia's national resources, with special emphasis on soil, forestry resources, water, wildlife and genetic resources. Institutions had also been set up to implement those measures. The famine and suffering now being experienced in Africa were largely the result of environmental degradation. The food crisis had, in fact, been aggravated by the rapid encroachment of the desert upon millions of hectares of formerly fertile lands. Concern over that desertification had led the six drought-stricken countries in East Africa to lend their strong and enthusiastic support to the recommendation of the General Assembly contained in resolution 35/90. The determination of African countries to combat desertification had not, unfortunately, received equally enthusiastic support from the international community. Almost half a decade had elapsed since the World Conference on Desertification had been held in Nairobi, and the decision it had taken had yet to be put into effect. It was to be hoped that the international community would realize the danger of delaying action to combat desertification and would soon begin to give the necessary assistance to the countries engaged in that battle.

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(Mr. Worku, Ethiopia)

37. He expressed his delegation's support for the bulk of the decisions adopted by the Governing Council of UNEP at its eleventh session, as contained in document A/38/25. However, the expansion of the mandate of the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office to cover the drought-stricken areas in the eastern region of Africa was a little premature. A decision on that matter should be deferred until the countries of the region had reconciled their views.

38. Mr. Mc BARNETTE (Trinidad and Tobago) concurred with the view expressed by the representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations that solving food problems was an integral aspect of agricultural, rural and overall development. Latin American and Caribbean Governments placed great emphasis on the elaboration of food strategies which were consistent with their social and economic goals. Although the world food supply had improved during the past year, the overall picture was complicated: agricultural trade had declined, the developing countries had suffered serious shortfalls in their foreign earnings from primary agricultural products, access to the developed countries' markets had become increasingly difficult and the response of developed food-producer countries had been to keep down production. All those trends were evident in an environment of worsening international co-operation and declining concessional assistance, with negative consequences for developing countries, including an extremely precarious food situation on the African continent.

39. The delegation of Trinidad and Tobago reaffirmed its support for the major decisions and proposals in respect of national and regional food security, as it had done at the ninth ministerial session of the World Food Council. It believed that national initiatives in that field were an essential first step. The Government of Trinidad and Tobago had therefore taken concrete initiatives aimed at stimulating national food production: an extensive incentive programme, which had been operating for several years was at present under review, attention was being given to pricing policies and a reorganization and performance evaluation of the agricultural sector was under way with the assistance of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Those measures were essential for Trinidad and Tobago in the face of an annual food import bill of \$TT 900 million and a worsening international economic environment.

40. His delegation viewed with satisfaction the efforts of international organizations to accelerate food production in developing countries and the recognition that attention must be focused on all foods, including roots, tubers, plantains, pulses, edible oils and other essential complementary foods, rather than exclusively on cereals, especially bearing in mind that imports of cereal grains by developing countries might well cost more than \$25-30 billion in 1984.

41. The success of agriculture in a number of developed countries had been due in large measure to investment in research and development and in the application of appropriate technology. Those were the areas in which increasing attention should be focused, in the light of a general inadequacy of resources for tropical agricultural research, in particular for food crops as distinct from export crops. Infrastructural development was another area which should be highlighted; the

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(Mr. Mc Barnette, Trinidad and Tobago)

international community, and especially the international institutions, should make available financial and expert manpower resources for that purpose. Special programmes on the part of national Governments and international agencies to make expertise available at reasonable cost would go a long way in helping developing countries with infrastructure problems.

42. In view of the prevailing economic depression, it was clear that sustainable growth and development must be based on a sound agricultural sector which could act as an engine of industrial and general economic development. The ability to feed the population should be at the core of any viable agricultural sector. In that respect, the yardstick was not whether more food was produced but whether people were being fed better and whether the number of starving or malnourished individuals was declining: those were the real issues which could not be side-stepped.

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

44. Mr. BATTI (Observer, European Economic Community) said that recent statements on the occasion of World Food Day had not been encouraging. Despite progress in regions such as Asia and Latin America, the situation in many developing countries, particularly in Africa, had worsened. As the Director-General of FAO had explained, the food and agriculture situation in the African countries was bleak, particularly because of the threat that hung over 22 of those countries as a result of prolonged drought and floods. The European Economic Community had already taken steps to assist those countries: food aid had risen from 90 million special drawing rights (SDR) in 1982 to 96 million in 1983, which was equivalent to 300,000 tons of cereals and 20,000 tons of dairy products. In the medium-term, 70 per cent of the resources of the EEC's special programme to combat world hunger had been assigned to Africa.

45. The Community was tackling hunger through an active fight against poverty. On the basis of experience acquired during its 25 years of intensive co-operation with the developing countries, it worked on the basic principle of developing small peasant communities and the poor rural classes. That principle was reflected in its new development aid policy. In the negotiations for renewing the Lomé Convention the EEC had therefore proposed a number of objectives for co-operation which were similar to those set forth in the Lagos Plan of Action: to contribute to global economic development, with priority for agriculture, to develop techniques suited to the needs of every country and to train people to direct and guide production. In accordance with those criteria, the Community had offered its own support and the support of its members States to four African countries in implementing food strategies, and the EEC Council of Ministers had emphasized the essential role of political dialogue with the developing countries. The Community was of the view that the countries concerned should take initiatives after a rigorous diagnosis of existing constraints and their consequences; subsequently, donor countries should be invited to participate, so that co-operation should be an equal partnership rather than a relationship of helper and helped.

(Mr. Batti, Observer, EEC)

46. Food strategies called for integrated vertical and horizontal planning on a flexible basis: vertical because the food system should be considered as a whole; horizontal because food production should be viewed in the context of rural development and the general development policy. The sole object was to increase soil productivity and diversify production, in order to meet the needs of the people and to achieve more than mere self-sufficiency.

47. The General Assembly, in resolution 37/247, had recognized that hunger and malnutrition could be overcome in most countries by increasing food production. However, a number of developing countries could not provide sufficient food without imports, so that food security depended on export earnings. The Community already applied various measures and agreements, including the Lomé Convention, granting preferential treatment to imports from developing countries. According to a recent study by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development on agricultural trade with developing countries of all the industrialized countries, the members of the Community had the highest per capita level of agricultural imports from developing countries. The Community also considered that exports from the developing to the industrialized or developed countries might even be increased.

48. The international community could further help to increase the developing countries' food security by measures to stabilize world commodity prices. In that connection, the Community noted with satisfaction the resolution adopted by consensus at the sixth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development inviting Governments to negotiate a new international wheat agreement to replace the 1971 agreement. The new agreement would help to increase the efficiency of the international wheat market, with due regard to the interests of the developing countries. The Community also welcomed the progress achieved in recent negotiations on an international sugar agreement. It approved the system for stabilizing export earnings, a policy which it had followed for nine years with the Lomé Convention countries, and maintained an open and constructive attitude to the renegotiation of that Convention.

49. Mr. ELIASHIV (Israel) said that no question had been discussed and investigated more in the United Nations system than that of Palestine. The slander and baseless allegations which usually accompanied those debates were repeated in the report on living conditions of the Palestinian Arabs (A/38/278) before the Committee. It was obvious that the four or five similar reports considered each year, on which so much money was spent, were motivated by political considerations and formed part and parcel of a campaign against Israel initiated by those who promoted the so-called PLO and not the cause of the Palestinian Arabs. The report was biased and prejudiced, seeking only to find "pre-conceived facts". To refer to the Israeli presence "in the occupied territories", while ignoring the fact that it had resulted from an Arab-instigated war, was misrepresentation. The policy of the Israeli administration was to maintain law and order, ensure the safety and well-being of the population, promote social and economic development, foster good-neighbourly relations and maintain options for future peace negotiations. All objective observers and the world press were agreed that, since 1967, major improvements and transformations in all fields had taken place in the region. The

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(Mr. Eliashiv, Israel)

report in document A/38/278 perverted the truth. Israel had carried out an immense programme of development in Judea, Samaria and the Gaza District. As a result, the population had risen by 20 per cent; per capita GNP had grown by 8.8 per cent per annum in real terms and per capita GDP, by 7.1 per cent per annum during 1968-1980. The figures exceeded those for previous periods and those of other countries in the region, including Israel.

50. In the sphere of agricultural production, whose real value had doubled between 1970 and 1980, the progress had been due directly or indirectly to contacts with Israel, which, since 1967, had brought in machinery, new technology and modern, scientific methods of production. Israel's administration had introduced agricultural extension services which had led to more modern irrigation systems, using the drip method and sprinklers, which had increased the land area under irrigation by 50 per cent during the previous 15 years, and to the substitution of high-yield for low-yield strains and of high-income for low-income crops. As a result of those factors, together with the spread of technical know-how through inhabitants who worked in Israel's agricultural sector and the introduction of machinery such as tractors (whose numbers had increased from 120 in 1968 to 2,250 in 1983), combines and crop-dusters, agricultural production had risen by roughly 10 per cent per annum. Exports of vegetables and fruit had amounted to 88,000 and 89,000 tons respectively in 1981; in 1968 the corresponding levels had been 23,000 and 35,000 tons. The inhabitants of Judea and Samaria had access to markets in Jordan and other Arab States; and access to Israel's harbours and airports had increased their export opportunities. However, trade was hampered by the Arab boycott - referred to in document A/38/278 - against the inhabitants of Judea and Samaria wishing to export their products to the Arab countries. That boycott revealed the true nature of the Arab concern for their Palestinian brethren.

51. With reference to employment conditions, he pointed out that the territories of Judea and Samaria and the Gaza District had not been affected by unemployment, because of the job opportunities in Israel. The present unemployment rate was 1.3 per cent in Judea and Samaria and 0.5 per cent in Gaza, in contrast to the pre-1967 unemployment rates of over 10 per cent. The Israeli administration had opened 25 vocational training centres and 29 employment offices, to guarantee levels of pay and social benefits. Over 50,000 young people from the Areas had attended vocational training and upgrading programmes sponsored by Israel; and some 4,000 trainees were to graduate from some 200 trade courses during the 1982/1983 school year. The inhabitants of the Areas who worked in Israel were entitled to sickness pay, work accident insurance, annual vacation and religious holiday pay, family and clothing allowances, seniority increments, health services in Israel and medical insurance for treatment in local health-care facilities.

52. The considerable rise in the standard of living in Judea and Samaria and in the Gaza District was reflected in improvements in the consumption of food, clothing and household goods, higher levels of investment in housing, health and public education, and the larger number of families possessing consumer durables. By 1981, 71 per cent of the families in Gaza had owned cooking ranges, as against 3 per cent in 1967. A majority of families in Judea and Samaria, and almost two thirds of those in Gaza now owned refrigerators. The percentage of families having a car or a telephone had doubled.

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(Mr. Eliashiv, Israel)

53. The Israeli administration had introduced a wide range of social services and had encouraged rural development projects. In Gaza new housing had been built, accommodating over 7,000 families from refugee camps. Encouragement had also been given to the participation of international, foreign and local charitable organizations, whose areas of activity included kindergartens, child welfare centres and programmes for handicapped and for retarded persons. Particularly noteworthy was the improvement of the health situation in Judea, Samaria and Gaza. The number of mother and child welfare centres had tripled in Judea and Samaria, from 23 in 1968 to 83 in 1982; and in the Gaza District 24 such centres had been established, one for each village. A pre-natal monitoring service was now available and the number of in-hospital births had increased in all the Areas. The infant mortality rate had dropped particularly in Gaza, where it had fallen from 86 per thousand in 1968 to 41.3 per thousand in 1982. In 1973 a comprehensive health insurance scheme had been established, and it covered some 40 per cent of the population.

54. Israel's action had been of benefit not only in the spheres mentioned but in others such as education, transport, freedom of expression, voting rights and other rights for women, development and optimum utilization of water resources and electricity services, the legal system and municipal services. The opening of Israel's markets for goods and labour from the Areas had stimulated local output. Even the authors of the report in document A/38/278 could not ignore the rapid growth of per capita income in the territories.

55. Israel was fully aware of the question of the Palestinian Arabs, and its position in that regard had been set forth in the Camp David framework, which, based on Security Council resolution 242 (1967), invited the inhabitants of the Areas to play an active role in shaping their future through participation in negotiations. In concluding, he wished to repeat the appeal of Mr. Yitzhak Shamir, who, addressing the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session in his capacity as Foreign Minister, had called upon the Arab States and the Palestinian Arabs living in the Areas to follow the dictates of reason and join in the peace process, and upon other nations to support that course, from which not only the region but the world at large would benefit.

56. Mr. KHOO (Malaysia) said that industrialization continued to be an important aspect of his country's five-year development plans, which sought to diversify its economic base. Malaysia's experience showed that, in order to succeed, industrialization must have a co-ordinated and integrated approach based not only on capital investment but also on investment in services and human resources, including transfer of technology. Malaysia had initiated a process of encouraging private investment in industry so as to enable the public sector to channel its resources into development areas which, while not commercially attractive, were important in fulfilling the people's needs. Malaysia was committed to the policies and measures envisaged in the International Development Strategies and supported the efforts of international organizations such as UNIDO to strengthen the development process, particularly in the developing countries.

57. With regard to the agenda item relating to the environment, he referred to the question of Antarctica and recalled that the subject had been dealt with at the

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(Mr. Khoo, Malaysia)

Summit Conference of Non-Aligned Countries, held at New Delhi, and that it had been agreed that the exploration of the area and exploitation of its resources must be carried out in a manner consistent with the protection of the environment. The Malaysian delegation believed that no development of non-living resources should take place in the absence of determination of its impact on the environment, and that machinery for that purpose should be established. In that connection he also wished to reiterate his delegation's support for document A/C.2/38/L.5 concerning the process of preparation of the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond.

58. With regard to new and renewable energy sources, Malaysia thought that the current petroleum glut on the world market should not lead to the belief that the energy crisis was over. Efforts must continue to seek new and renewable sources of energy. Malaysia had undertaken measures for that purpose as well as for energy conservation. Being a largely agricultural country, it could, with adequate technology, convert agricultural wastes into a source of energy. A few pilot projects had already been carried out, with encouraging results. In that context, Malaysia supported all United Nations action-oriented programmes, especially those pertaining to the mobilization of financial and technical assistance, training and the exchange of expertise.

59. Lastly, he wished to express his delegation's support for item entitled "New International Human Order: Moral Aspects of Development".

60. Mr. DE LA TORRE (Argentina) said that discernable agriculture and food trends provided no grounds for optimism. Cereal production was higher than ever and stockpiles had resulted in the lowest prices in real terms for 30 years; yet, a considerable number of countries were experiencing food shortages. There were many reasons for that situation and it was for the international community to find solutions. At its ninth session, the World Food Council had come to the conclusion that food self-reliance was an essential element of national sovereignty and that food security must be based to the maximum extent possible on a vigorous national food economy; it had also agreed that increased food production and improved storage, marketing and distribution were fundamental objectives of national food strategies. It was, therefore, necessary to promote measures to expand the trade of developing countries since an increase in exports was an important element of food security. Consequently, the protectionist and subventionist policies practised by certain industrialized countries must cease. Those policies had distorted the international market and impaired the trade opportunities of developing countries since they limited their capacity to produce and export commodities. Lastly, such harmful trade practices reduced the import possibilities of the developing countries, obliging them to go into debt in order to maintain their growth possibilities in a very difficult financial market.

61. International co-operation must be directed mainly to the development of appropriate technologies for each country; the efforts of many countries to increase their agricultural production would not suffice unless the international community provided them with constructive support in such matters as the financing of technical, training and scientific programmes that emphasize the social aspect.

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(Mr. De La Torre, Argentina)

Argentina had repeatedly shown that it was prepared to co-operate with other developing countries in agricultural production and marketing with the support of the international organizations and bodies competent in co-operation activities and with the financing of technical missions and inputs for those countries. Bearing in mind the particularly critical food situation in Africa, Argentina had initiated a technical co-operation programme in agriculture, organizing, with the support of UNDP, study trips for African agricultural leaders to Argentina. The favourable progress reports on that programme confirmed the importance the developing countries attached to interregional technical co-operation programmes and the priority they accorded to the food situation. In addition, his Government had offered to send seed to certain African countries as a means of helping them to increase production.

62. Nevertheless, there were emergency food situations which it was the task of the international community to remedy. The outlook in various regions of Latin America, Asia and Africa was equally disturbing. He reaffirmed his country's support for the campaign against hunger in Africa and pointed out that Argentina had substantially increased its contribution to the World Food Programme in 1983: it had contributed 29,600 tons of wheat, worth \$4,450,000 destined mainly for African countries. In Latin America, a further initiative had been taken with the establishment of the Action Committee for Regional Food Security, a mechanism whose importance had been recognized in recent regional meetings and in meetings of international organizations. It was to be hoped that that Committee, would make it possible to reduce the region's vulnerability in the matter of food.

63. He wished to refer to the question of the environment because he considered that it was closely linked to development and because his country attached great importance to the role of the United Nations Environment Programme. As a member of the Governing Council of UNEP, Argentina reiterated its support for the decisions taken at the eleventh session and in particular for decision 11/1 because it believed that the decentralization of activities, through the strengthening of regional offices, would ensure that greater attention was paid to the needs of the countries of the various regions, particularly to the problems and expectations of the developing countries. For that reason, it attached great importance to the regional meeting of governmental experts which had been held in Buenos Aires in March 1983, when regional priorities on the subject had been adopted.

64. His delegation also wished to stress its support for the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification and for the preparation of the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond. Finally, it wished to mention that the Argentine Republic had made a contribution of \$1 million for five years towards the financing of environmental technical assistance projects.

65. Mr. Dietze (German Democratic Republic) resumed the Chair.

66. Ms. ERIKSSON (Sweden) praised the report contained in document A/38/504 on the activities being carried out on the interrelationships between resources, environment, people and development. She recalled that that question had arisen during the preparations for the World Population Conference held in 1974 and had

(Ms. Eriksson, Sweden)

been incorporated into paragraph 1 of General Assembly resolution 3345 (XXIX). She also quoted an opinion expressed by many of the participants in a United Nations symposium on the question in August 1979, to the effect that a greater understanding of such interactions would help to identify points of leverage for the acceptance and application of appropriate policies, and that continuing research was necessary to enhance understanding, but policy action should not await the outcome of research.

67. The past decade had witnessed a sharpened awareness of world economic interdependence. It was, therefore, encouraging to note that the Secretary-General's report demonstrated an effort to come to grips with those problems in an action-oriented way. Her delegation welcomed the projects under way but regretted that they had not been started earlier, although it recognized that the resources available for such activities were still limited. One result of that had been the postponement of the constitution of an advisory body, which could delay the evolution of those concepts and weaken the feedback of experiences gained. Her delegation hoped that the Secretary-General would use less formalized arrangements to ensure that there was a broad base of knowledge and advice for the programme. It welcomed the continuation of inter-agency co-ordination arrangements and hoped that that system-wide approach would help to bridge the gap between research and policy action.

68. She believed that at the current stage there was reason to look with some optimism towards the future of the programme, although she recognized the need for adequate resources. In conclusion, she said that the question of the interrelationships between population, resources, environment and development would be one of the main themes for the International Conference on Population convened for 1984 by the Economic and Social Council. It was possible that both the existing programme and the outcome of the deliberations of the Expert Group on Population, Resources, Environment and Development which had been held in Geneva earlier in the year would provide useful inputs to the Conference.

69. Mr. BOULGARIS (Observer for Switzerland) said that the fact that there was greater awareness of the interdependence of economy and ecology, of the interrelationships between human activities and the limits of a certain type of economic development required a redefinition of the duties and obligations of the international community with respect to environmental problems. Furthermore, it could be said that the environment was closely linked to collective security and the very survival of mankind. The United Nations must devote itself to that task and apply strategies which would make it possible to avoid irreparable disasters. In its resolution 37/219, the General Assembly had reiterated the importance it attached to the development of the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond.

70. As to the recommendation that a special committee should be established to make proposals for sustainable development to the year 2000 and beyond, his delegation considered that resolution 11/3 adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its eleventh session, and supported by the

(Mr. Boulgaris, Observer, Switzerland)

Economic and Social Council was the most appropriate answer to the problems in question. Such a special committee would meet three of his Government's main concerns: the need for swift action, the need to avoid the establishment of new permanent institutions and the need to prevent unnecessary duplication of work. If the General Assembly decided to establish that committee, the City of Geneva would make available to it properly equipped premises and the conference services which his Government traditionally offered international organizations at the Geneva International Conference Centre.

71. It was imperative to pass from words to deeds, in a real spirit of co-operation among all countries, and especially between those at different levels of economic and social development. Specific objectives and pragmatic solutions must be put forward, on already established bases, bearing in mind the relationships between population, resources, environment and development.

72. Mr. MADRIZ (Nicaragua) said that the international economic situation was the most serious threat to the development of peoples and had led to a deterioration of the terms of trade, external indebtedness and a decrease in the availability of loans, all being aggravated by the increasingly frequent use of force in international relations. It was not just, logical, rational or economic to expand substantial resources and human efforts in the production of agricultural products which every day were to be sold at lower prices, while manufactured products and other supplies daily became more expensive. The developing countries now had to spend up to 25 per cent of the income from their agricultural exports in the purchase of food.

73. Nicaragua was a double victim of that situation: it was a victim of international economic injustice and of the economic and military aggression of those who were trying to impose their hegemonic policy. The natural and political disasters suffered by Nicaragua (earthquakes, floods, and the struggle against tyranny) had in one decade entailed losses in economic and social infrastructure and in production and other material damage amounting to \$3,357 million as well as thousands of dead, wounded and other victims. To that was now added the hegemonic policy of the United States, which was aimed at isolating Nicaragua politically and encouraging the sabotage of its economy. To date it had caused losses amounting to 3,000 million córdobas, to which should be added the \$380 million lost in the act of sabotage committed in the port of Corinto. Those criminal acts obliged hundreds of farmers to abandon their lands, thus hampering the country's efforts to emerge from the current difficult economic situation.

74. The world food situation in 1983 was characterized by the paradox of an accumulation of exceptionally large reserves in the principal food-producing countries, at the same time as production in many third-world countries lacking in food was stagnating or decreasing. Some of the main food-producing countries were also trying to reduce their production and raise international prices, in order to boost the declining income of their farmers. For example, while grain stocks equalled 21 per cent of yearly consumption, prospects for most developing countries were still gloomy, particularly in Africa. The international aid bodies such as

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(Mr. Madriz, Nicaragua)

IFAD and FAO were also victims of the current situation and found themselves with insufficient funds. Consequently, his delegation considered the encouragement by the World Food Council of regional consultations on food strategies and policies a positive step, since the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and the Group of 77 were encouraging South-South relations and co-operation among developing countries in the food security sector, without trying to replace the global North-South negotiations.

75. His delegation considered that food self-sufficiency and security could not be achieved unless peace and solidarity among peoples was guaranteed, as indicated in the report of the regional consultations at ministerial level on food strategy and policies in Latin America and the Caribbean held at Quito in April 1983. His Government attached special importance to food security and intended to implement the Nicaraguan food programme through an integrated approach to production, distribution and consumption. A fundamental aspect of that programme was land reform, designed to satisfy the desires for justice of the rural inhabitants and provide the Nicaraguan farming population with better and more efficient technology.

76. Trade barriers and export subsidies, coercive economic measures and the use of food as instruments of political pressure to which some developed countries were resorting constituted an attack on world food security, and the Committee should unambiguously denounce those practices. He then referred to some of the recent decisions of the ninth meeting of the Council of the Latin American Economic System, held in September 1983 in Caracas: decision 149, which affirmed that the protectionist policies of the United States and the application of discriminatory measures against Latin American exports were creating insecurity and uncertainty in reciprocal trade relations; and decision 175, which reiterated the rejection of the new coercive economic measures adopted by the United States Government against Nicaragua, which in addition to being illegal and arbitrary, affected Nicaragua's autonomy and threatened its economic security. Those decisions of the Council of the Latin American Economic System tallied with similar condemnations made by the United Nations General Assembly, the World Food Council and FAO.

77. His delegation expressed its gratitude to the international organizations and countries which were helping Nicaragua in its struggle to achieve integral development, and reiterated his support to the Latin America Action Committee for the Regional Food Security, as machinery to reduce the region's economic vulnerability and fight hunger and malnutrition.

78. Mr. DOMBALIS (United States of America) said that, owing to the important consequences which decisions adopted by the Committee would have on the people who needed aid, it was all the more important that the discussions should focus on results, efficacy and a careful appraisal of what met real needs and what did not. Experience in all the areas under discussion suggested that, to be successful, it was necessary to emphasize the promotion of economic systems which furthered the development of individual aptitudes and the existence of incentives and rewards proportional to the efforts made, since, if those conditions were not fulfilled, no outside assistance could spur development. United Nations development efforts should therefore be directed to that end.

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(Mr. Dombalis, United States)

79. With those principles in mind, his Government supported practical steps to promote industry in developing countries. One way to do that was to make investment in those countries profitable: that was the responsibility of the Government of each country, which must develop a legal and institutional framework that rewarded investors for taking risks without, at the same time, protecting them from the consequences of faulty judgement. The United Nations should encourage Governments to have confidence in that process and should help them to participate in it, but UNIDO had yet to fulfil that role adequately. Unrealistic expectations had been aroused by the setting of unrealizable goals such as the Lima target, and there had been excessive politicization of that Organization, through calls for support for various revolutionary movements which were not universally recognized. Regular budget funds had been used increasingly for financing undertakings of dubious value, such as the co-ordination and monitoring of the Industrial Development Decade for Africa. All those activities detracted from the pursuit of industrial development.

80. Agriculture was the sector of economic activity which was most susceptible to market mechanisms, had suffered most because of short-sighted government policies that interfered with market mechanisms in the developing countries, and was the most important to the well-being of those peoples. The World Food Council had emphasized the importance of policy reforms aimed at removing constraints on market mechanisms in the agricultural sector. The United States supported that emphasis because the best means of improving the production and distribution of agricultural products was to stimulate the activities of the private sector within a free market. At the same time, it was essential to recognize the important role of external assistance in making world food supplies more secure. Global food reserves significantly exceeded the requirements estimated by FAO, and they and other existing mechanisms made large increases in world food prices unlikely in the near future.

The meeting rose at 10.15 p.m.