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Chairman: Mr. MWANGAGUHUNGA (Uganda)

CONTENTS

AGENDA ITEM 69: TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES: UNITED NATIONS
CONFERENCE ON TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 67: OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS DISASTER RELIEF CO-ORDINATOR: REPORTS
OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.50 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 69: TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES: UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (continued)
(A/33/3/Add.1 (Part I), A/33/300; A/CONF.79/13; A/33/151, A/33/206; A/C.2/33/L.34 and L.37)

1. Mr. MOHAMOUD (Somalia) said that the remarkable growth of the idea of technical co-operation among developing countries attested to the value of that strategy as a means of promoting national and collective self-reliance among third world countries. In practice, TCDC had been inhibited by the lack of a co-ordinating instrument to give it direction and force, but that need had been filled by the Plan of Action adopted by the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries held recently in Buenos Aires.
2. The promotion of TCDC was obviously needed in the context of the political, social and economic conditions that governed the present-day world. However, the radical change of viewpoint necessary for establishing a new international economic order had not yet occurred, and despite the provisions of the Charter and of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, colonialism, neo-colonialism and racism continued to oppress peoples. The third world needed a new dynamic to help it to overcome the legacy of the past and deal with the realities of the present, and in that connexion the measures adopted at Buenos Aires were a positive factor for peace and progress through co-operation in today's world. The Plan of Action made it clear that the developing countries must not rely mainly on vertical lines of development aid and that traditional sources of assistance must be complemented by horizontal measures for national and collective self-reliance. The Somali delegation hoped that those complementary approaches would be welcomed by the developed countries without prejudice to their continued assistance, since the support of the developed countries for technical co-operation among developing countries would be crucial for the success of the effort.
3. He believed that it was as much to the advantage of the developed world as to that of the developing world for the new approach to be successful, since TCDC could make a valuable contribution to the establishment of a new international economic order which would benefit all countries. His Government welcomed the idea that UNDP should become the focal point for that co-operation, at the same time giving a major impetus to TCDC by allocating a significant proportion of its resources to that area. The developing countries, for their part, could support that process by earmarking a percentage of their Indicative Planning Figure for funding bilateral or subregional technical co-operation projects.
4. It was now essential to tackle the practical tasks of identifying national resources suitable for technical co-operation and providing facilities for the exchange and pooling of resources. The political will of Governments to undertake those tasks would be the most important factor in the implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action. The Somali Government had already had the experience of fruitful technical co-operation with other developing countries in many fields, and it therefore hoped that the General Assembly would approve the Buenos Aires Plan of Action unanimously.

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5. Mr. ROS (Argentina) said that technical co-operation among developing countries had been practised for centuries, although the concept as such was not mentioned in the United Nations Charter. The concept of technical assistance had been referred to for the first time by the Economic and Social Council in 1946. In 1948, the General Assembly had made provision for the use of funds to assist Member States in obtaining experts, equipment and fellowships, organizing seminars and exchanging technical information.

6. In the 1950s, the flow of technical assistance had been almost entirely from the developed to the developing countries. In the 1960s, the concept of planned development had gradually come to the forefront. The establishment of UNDP and the focus on the preparation of investment projects had been major features of that decade. The 1970s had started with the adoption of resolution 2688 (XXV), containing the basic provisions governing operational activities financed by UNDP. In 1974, the Working Group on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries had submitted its final report, in which the conceptual and operational foundations for that co-operation had been laid. The same year had seen the adoption of the resolutions on the new international economic order under which the United Nations had gradually begun to assume functions to ensure the development of the peoples of the world. Mention should also be made of resolution 3405 (XXX), on the new dimensions of technical co-operation, the provisions of which set guidelines for UNDP.

7. Through the adoption of those resolutions, TCDC had come to be regarded as an essential aspect of the institutional movement to promote economic development. The outcome of that evolution had been the holding of the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries in Buenos Aires. The Buenos Aires Conference was unprecedented in that 28 Ministers of Planning and hundreds of high-level technical co-operation officials had participated. The Plan of Action adopted, in the scope of its provisions and the surpassing importance of its objectives, was commensurate with the Conference's political importance.

8. TCDC was an instrument for promoting the development of the developing countries through individual and collective self-reliance. The developed countries too, should help to promote that kind of co-operation, through genuine interdependence. Although the financing and execution of technical co-operation among developing countries was primarily their own responsibility, the developed countries and the United Nations development system should play a supporting role at the request of States. The intergovernmental governing bodies of the organs in the system should encourage arrangements in their secretariats for integrating TCDC effectively into their operational or technical assistance programmes and activities. The United Nations Development Programme should incorporate technical co-operation in its regular programmes and make its procedures flexible enough to be adapted to the promotion and financing of that co-operation. The Plan of Action assigned special responsibility to UNDP for the promotion and support of TCDC, since it was the principal source of financing for technical co-operation in the United Nations system. The Argentine delegation therefore considered that the General Assembly should entrust the over-all intergovernmental review of technical co-operation among developing countries to a high-level

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(Mr. Ros, Argentina)

meeting of representatives of all participating States to be convened by the Administrator of UNDP in 1980, 1981 and every two years thereafter.

9. In conclusion, he urged the Second Committee and the General Assembly to approve the Buenos Aires Plan of Action unanimously, with a view to its prompt implementation.

10. Mr. SERBANESCU (Romania) thought that technical co-operation among developing countries was an integral part of the process of building a new international economic order, and acquiring a new dimension within the framework of international co-operation. The basis for TCDC rested, in the first place, on the individual efforts of the developing countries and their determination to use their national resources and energies to the full in order to break the bonds of under-development. The developing countries as a group, guided by the same aims and with resources that were at the same time diverse and complementary, could and should promote reciprocal co-operation with a view to achieving collective self-reliance in a concerted fashion and as speedily as possible.

11. Technical co-operation among developing countries was not the responsibility of those countries alone, but an element in over-all international co-operation. The Romanian delegation therefore stressed the need for complete, active and permanent support by the developed countries for TCDC. Despite their current monetary and financial difficulties, the developed countries should make an effective contribution to the promotion of technical co-operation among developing countries, for they, too, would benefit from world co-operation. In that context, it was the duty of the industrialized countries to guarantee the developing countries free access to modern science and technology, thus hastening social and economic progress in all the less advanced countries. The United Nations and its specialized agencies also had an important part to play in promoting TCDC. In particular, the regional commissions of the United Nations should be actively associated with the effort to mobilize the abilities of the developing countries in their respective regions, with a view to hastening their progress and that of the region as a whole.

12. Romania's co-operation with other developing countries was one of the general principles of its foreign policy and constituted an expression of its solidarity with the struggle of those countries to achieve economic, social and national emancipation, ensure progress in their development and promote the establishment of a new international economic order and peace and détente in the world. The sound relations of co-operation established by Romania with other developing countries were based on many bilateral co-operation agreements in the economic, technical and scientific spheres. Romania considered that those agreements were a direct and concrete way of providing assistance and, in turn, receiving it in the context of that co-operation.

13. The Buenos Aires Conference had discussed at length the institutional framework for the promotion of TCDC and had assigned primary responsibility to UNDP in the promotion and support of that co-operation. At the end, the Conference had recommended to the General Assembly that it should entrust the over-all intergovernmental review of TCDC within the United Nations system to a high-level meeting of representatives of all States participating in UNDP. His delegation

(Mr. Serbanescu, Romania)

considered that that consensus should be maintained, but that it should be borne in mind that the Plan of Action approved in Buenos Aires was no more than the beginning of a complex process which would require much perseverance and firm political will on the part of Member States and the United Nations system. The Plan of Action would undoubtedly constitute an important stage in the establishment of a new international economic order if all the parties concerned were truly determined to apply it, scrupulously respecting the principles of sovereignty, national independence, equality of rights, non-interference in the internal affairs of States and mutual advantage.

14. Mr. ALZAMORA (Peru) said that the interest aroused by the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, the size and level of the participating delegations, the political and intellectual lucidity of the approach taken to the real purpose of the Conference and the seriousness and concentration with which the work had been carried out, reducing political polemics and skirmishes to a minimum, had far exceeded expectations and demonstrated the awareness of developing countries of their community of interests and their solidarity. The Buenos Aires Conference had reaffirmed the political content of technical co-operation among developing countries as a catalyst and driving force in the establishment of a new international economic order; a positive distinction had been established between that form of co-operation and traditional co-operation, and the subregional, regional and interregional integration of TCDC had been promoted by mobilizing the United Nations system in support of that structure, with UNDP as the focal point and operational arm of that support.

15. The frustration of the international economic dialogue and the increasing loss of faith in the possibility of reaching an understanding had inevitably led to greater awareness in the developing world of the need for national and collective self-reliance: in that context, TCDC appeared, as it had been defined in the Kuwait Declaration, as a historical imperative brought about by the need for a new international order.

16. It was necessary to concentrate on the broad lines of the Plan of Action which had been approved, and to understand fully its political orientation, because the area of co-operation among developing countries was so vast. Support must first be provided for the processes aimed at securing the common objectives essential for development, namely, the foundations of the new order which the world was trying to establish. To that end, measures must be envisaged in the main areas indicated by the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation and the Administrator of UNDP: the effective sovereignty of developing countries over the utilization of their own resources, the promotion of producers' associations, development on the basis of collective self-reliance and an increase in the negotiating power of the developing countries.

17. In that context, the creation of a technical support structure for the negotiating positions of the developing countries was perhaps the most urgent and immediate need, particularly at a time when the crucial matter of the Common Fund was about to be decided. If the indications of a positive change in the position of the United States were confirmed, all efforts would have to be devoted

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(Mr. Alzamora, Peru)

to the task of establishing that Fund, which was so decisive for the new international structure; if those prospects did not become a reality, however, the developing countries would have to demonstrate their desire for co-operation by proceeding with the unilateral establishment of the Fund, which would be open to participation by developed countries which accepted the scheme. The fact that a contribution of only \$500 million was currently under consideration in Geneva, that OPEC's assistance programme alone had exceeded \$10,000 million and that the developing countries possessed total reserves of \$100,000 million, indicated how financially viable the scheme was and the priority it merited in co-operation among developing countries. The co-ordination of the negotiating potential of producers' associations through an effective programme would open up unexpected possibilities for action. OPEC was not an isolated case, and it should be recalled that it had been 13 years before OPEC had consolidated its negotiating power and had been able to bring about the first readjustment in the balance of world economic forces, which had changed the course of history.

18. On the internal level, the developing countries had enormous possibilities for commercial and industrial complementarity, the integration of transport systems, the transfer of technology and scientific research, designed to strengthen confidence in their own resources and capacities and consolidate national and collective self-reliance.

19. In proclaiming that one of the objectives of co-operation among developing countries was to formulate the requisite strategies in the conduct of their international economic relations with a view to establishing the new international economic order, the Buenos Aires Conference had confirmed that horizontal co-operation was a political, and not merely a technical, tool. Furthermore, in approving the proposals of the Group of 77 en bloc and without discussion, the developed countries had implicitly recognized that TCDC was the responsibility of the developing countries themselves. However, the Buenos Aires Plan of Action was no more than a framework which set forth guidelines for action and its success would depend on the individual and collective efforts exerted to make TCDC a reality.

20. Mr. STRAUSS (Czechoslovakia) said that his country supported the efforts to promote TCDC, which it considered one of the most important instruments for ending the dependence of developing countries on the former colonial Powers. Czechoslovakia shared the view expressed at the Buenos Aires Conference that economic independence was the cornerstone of the sovereignty of States. Furthermore, peace and peaceful co-operation were prerequisites for TCDC; thus efforts to promote peace, disarmament and the strengthening of international security must be redoubled.

21. The solution of the problems of many developing countries required, in the first place, the reform of internal structures and the mobilization of their own resources with the help of international co-operation, including TCDC, which could promote progress in all areas. In that context, the developing countries would have an opportunity to establish mutually advantageous relations with all countries on a democratic basis.

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(Mr. Strauss, Czechoslovakia)

22. Czechoslovakia was fully in agreement with the principle set forth in the Buenos Aires Plan of Action that UNDP had the main role to play in providing support for and co-ordination of TCDC. It also agreed that the developing countries, voluntarily and individually, could devote part of the resources received from UNDP in accordance with their indicative planning figures to projects shared with other countries. Responsibility for TCDC fell to the developing countries themselves, although if they were to attain a sufficiently high level over a short period, they needed the co-operation of all States, including the developed States. The Buenos Aires Conference had shown that the developing countries were fully prepared to assume their responsibilities in relation to TCDC.

23. Mr. McDONALD (United States of America) said that his delegation associated itself with the draft resolution (A/C.2/33/L.34) before the Committee on the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action. The Plan recognized the role which UNDP must play in implementing its recommendations, and for that purpose the Special Unit on TCDC in UNDP should be attached to the Administrator's office and its staff should be expanded as the need developed.

24. The Buenos Aires Plan of Action contained three major recommendations to the developed countries: that they should make qualitative improvements in their national policies and procedures in support of TCDC, they should accelerate the process of untying their aid resources, and they should increase their voluntary contributions to the United Nations system to help to stimulate TCDC. Without waiting for formal approval of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action by the Committee and the General Assembly, the United States had started work on implementing those three important recommendations, as it recognized that TCDC should become a new element in the development strategy.

25. As stated in one of the documents submitted to the Conference, TCDC could only come alive if it became a way of thinking and a philosophy. TCDC called for a basic shift in normal bilateral attitudes towards aid, and for new and different approaches. The United States believed in TCDC, was confident that it would have a constructive impact on the development process and expected to be a part of that process.

26. Miss LØJ (Denmark), speaking on behalf of the delegations of Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and Denmark, said that the Nordic countries had from the outset supported the concept of technical co-operation among developing countries, seeing it as an important way of strengthening the individual and collective self-reliance of the developing countries and hence as essential for the achievement of a new international economic order. TCDC was a new and different method for achieving the ultimate goal of economic and social justice. However, TCDC was not an end in itself, but was complementary to other methods of development co-operation, including technical co-operation between developed and developing countries.

27. The Nordic countries had been pleased to note that that basic approach to TCDC had been shared by all at the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries and had been the background for the deliberations at the Conference. The Buenos Aires Plan of Action, the product of

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(Miss Løj, Denmark)

the Conference, was a balanced, realistic and action-oriented programme for the increasing employment of TCDC at all levels - bilateral, regional and global - for international development co-operation. The Nordic countries also noted with satisfaction that in the Plan of Action the question of generating increased financial resources for TCDC activities was treated in the context of increasing the total flow of development assistance, including increased voluntary contributions to United Nations development activities. That would ensure that the idea of TCDC would permeate all development activities.

28. Furthermore, the Nordic countries were especially satisfied with the role assigned to UNDP in the promotion and support of TCDC, and were gratified that the high-level meeting for intergovernmental review was to report to the General Assembly through the UNDP Governing Council and the Economic and Social Council. The Nordic countries looked forward to participating in the Governing Council's deliberations on how the Special Unit for TCDC could be strengthened so as to ensure the implementation of the Conference's recommendations.

29. The ultimate success of the Buenos Aires Conference would have to be measured by the actions taken in the coming years in carrying out the directives that had been fully agreed on at the Conference. The Nordic countries would co-operate to the full to achieve that, and hoped that it would be possible to achieve substantial progress even in 1980, when the high-level meeting to review the implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action would hold its first session.

30. Mr. LOHANI (Nepal) said that a significant achievement of the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries had been the adoption by consensus of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action. Although TCDC was not a new idea, the Buenos Aires Conference had underlined its importance as a new dimension in international co-operation for development. His delegation agreed with the Secretary-General of the Conference that in the framework of TCDC every developing country was both a beneficiary and a contributor.

31. TCDC could and should play a major role in the process of restructuring the world economic system, which was unjust to the third-world countries; however, that did not mean that TCDC was incompatible with traditional forms of technical co-operation and development assistance. It was in the interests of developed countries to encourage and strengthen TCDC and provide financial support, since the potential of developing countries could contribute to the establishment of a sound and stable world economy. His delegation was pleased that UNDP was to explore the possibility of tapping additional sources of finance for TCDC and that the Plan of Action emphasized the need to make maximum use of existing institutions and agencies to channel additional resources.

32. TCDC activities could not lose sight of the differences in levels of development among the developing countries themselves; third-world development would be more harmonious if the more fortunate among the developing countries were prepared to help their less developed partners without expecting reciprocity. India's Minister for External Affairs had supported that approach in the statement made recently at the Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77.

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(Mr. Lohani, Nepal)

33. Nepal was ready to participate in activities that might enlist the co-operation of all countries of the region. For example, His Majesty King Birendra of Nepal had observed that water was one of the main resources of Nepal, but that it did not intend to look at its resources from the standpoint of national interests alone. In that context there had been an encouraging response from some industrialized countries to the call for concerted co-operation in the development of water resources in the region.

34. Lastly, his delegation considered that an intergovernmental review of TCDC within the United Nations system, as envisaged in the Plan of Action, was a useful device to ensure that the recommendations of the Conference were being implemented as effectively as possible.

35. Mr. HUTTON (Canada) said that the Conference marked a significant step towards increased self-reliance and technical autonomy for developing countries. TCDC would play an important role in the new international development strategy, and the consensus decision on the Plan of Action provided a good foundation for forthcoming discussions of the strategy.

36. At the Buenos Aires Conference the emphasis had been on the role of the developing countries themselves within the framework of TCDC. The Plan of Action adopted was the blueprint for using TCDC to increase self-reliance among developing countries through mutual assistance and with the co-operation of the world community. His delegation was impressed by the fact that the Plan of Action took into account differences in levels of development among developing countries and attached importance to the regional aspects of TCDC, since regional co-operation was the most fertile ground for TCDC.

37. With reference to implementing the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, he said that, logically, UNDP had emerged with a catalytic role in TCDC. Nevertheless, TCDC and the concept of self-reliance were essentially the responsibility of the developing countries themselves. His Government looked forward to the intergovernmental review of TCDC that was to take place in 18 months' time, and asked that all delegations, particularly those of developing countries, should report to that meeting on the steps they had taken to implement the recommendations directed to their Governments.

38. Mr. ONAT (Turkey) said that his Government believed that TCDC was a fundamental form of multilateral collaboration in the over-all effort to improve the human condition. The Conference on TCDC had been another link in the global effort to restructure the international economy through meaningful dialogue. It had opened up new channels for implementing the principle of self-reliance, which meant that developing countries individually should do as much as possible for themselves on the basis of their own resources and collectively exploit every possible advantage for development from co-operation among themselves.

39. His Government was convinced that intergovernmental machinery such as that envisaged in recommendation 37 of the Plan of Action was the best means of ensuring

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(Mr. Onat, Turkey)

that the TCDC dimension was continuously borne in mind in operational activities for development. It was in that conviction that his delegation had joined in sponsoring draft resolution A/C.2/33/L.34, which would lead to the establishment of the mechanism mentioned in the Plan of Action. His country had had long experience in TCDC, and was determined to make it more effective. In line with recommendation 3 of the Plan of Action, his Government was setting up a national co-ordinating office to promote technical co-operation with as many developing countries as possible.

40. Mr. SHERMAN (Liberia) said that his delegation saw the Plan of Action as having three ultimate goals: to reduce third-world dependence on the developed countries, to strengthen third-world capacity for joint action, and to build a framework for accelerated self-reliant development for the third world. The Plan involved the participation of billions of people in the process of development, mobilizing their creative potential for their own benefit.

41. However, the adoption of a Plan of Action was not a guarantee of its implementation. Consequently his delegation attached great importance to the intergovernmental review of TCDC that would not only appraise progress in implementing the Plan of Action but also ensure that efforts to strengthen TCDC were sustained within the United Nations development system through the development of new policies and the co-ordination of activities.

42. The stubborn resistance to the establishment of the new international economic order had made TCDC and other forms of third-world co-operation even more imperative. His delegation was happy to note that UNDP did not need a separate new bureaucracy for the special responsibilities entrusted to it by the Plan of Action. It hoped, however, that the TCDC Special Unit would acquire both the physical and financial strength it required to respond adequately to the demands placed upon it. His delegation shared the view that TCDC depended on the initiative of sovereign Governments of developing countries. Their diversity and different levels of development could serve as positive elements for collaboration; they had manpower and skills which could be productively absorbed provided the development process acquired a dimension and scale significant enough to stem and reverse the flow of skills to developed countries.

43. The political will of third-world leaders would definitely be required; acting together with vision and imagination, they could engineer fundamental changes in the developing world and, by doing so, dramatically transform the system of international economic relations.

44. Mr. NEUHOFF (Federal Republic of Germany) said that the Buenos Aires Conference had been another demonstration of the United Nations effort to help to find solutions to the problems of an interdependent world. His delegation agreed with the Secretary-General of the Conference that TCDC could not succeed unless bridges were built "across the South" in order to stimulate the drive of the developing countries for self-reliance.

(Mr. Neuhoff, Federal Republic of Germany)

45. His Government was appreciative of the fact that it had been possible to agree on a Plan of Action without creating a new special fund or a new international institution. Its position that UNDP should be the central point of co-ordination for TCDC matters within the United Nations system was well known.

46. Mr. THEOPHILOU (Cyprus) stressed the importance of the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries and the spirit of understanding, co-operation and mutuality which had culminated in the adoption of the Plan of Action and four resolutions. He was convinced that the Committee would unanimously recommend that the General Assembly should adopt the report of the Conference, which was the outcome of consensus among 138 States.

47. The perception of TCDC as a process of exchanging and building new knowledge from development experience, in which every country was both beneficiary and contributor, was not only possible and desirable, but indeed imperative if the developing countries were to achieve individual and collective self-reliance. Similarity of experiences and socio-economic conditions could result in substantial savings of human and material resources. Most developing countries had many of the ingredients necessary, and much potential, for growth. What was required was to make both developed and developing countries aware of that potential and to create the required regional infrastructure for the fullest possible utilization of reservoirs of resources. One example of what could be achieved at very low cost was the solar energy-powered water heating system which Cypriot technicians had invented and improved, and with which almost all newly-built houses in Cyprus were equipped.

48. As far as the institutional aspect of TCDC was concerned, his delegation favoured strengthening existing machinery and avoiding the proliferation of unnecessary new institutions. That was also the position adopted in the Plan of Action and supported by the Administrator of UNDP. In conclusion, he reiterated the readiness of his Government to regionalize existing training institutions in Cyprus, particularly those established with UNDP assistance.

49. Mr. MAAMOURI (Tunisia) said that the Buenos Aires Conference, at which the developing countries had demonstrated their political will to promote TCDC and the developed countries had pledged to support them, marked an essential step towards the establishment of a new international economic order in which developing countries would no longer depend economically, technologically or culturally on developed countries. That policy, based on the fundamental concept of individual and collective self-reliance of the developing countries, called for the pooling of the productive and research capacity of all the countries concerned, and for the strengthening of the institutional and technical bases for self-sustained progress and of the regional funding, training, research and trading organizations, with the financial and technical assistance of the developed countries.

50. His delegation believed that the time had come to move on from analysis to implementation of the Plan of Action. For that purpose, it was necessary to establish priorities, to design instruments and procedures for promoting TCDC,

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(Mr. Maamouri, Tunisia)

and to monitor the fulfilment of the commitments that had been undertaken. UNDP had a fundamental role to play in that process, in the light of the tasks that had been assigned to it by the Plan of Action: the Special Unit would have to be strengthened for its task of co-ordinating and harmonizing the development activities of the entire United Nations system. The specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies and organizations could also make a major contribution by including TCDC in their own work programmes. Given the multidisciplinary and intersectoral nature of the regional commissions and their role in executing projects, their participation in the co-ordination of technical co-operation activities at the regional level needed to be encouraged. Each organization should draw from the Conference the conclusions applicable to its own programme implementation, and the whole United Nations development system should collectively assume the responsibilities entrusted to it by the Plan of Action in the promotion of TCDC. It was to be hoped that the high-level meetings of representatives of all States participating in UNDP, for the purpose of making an over-all review of TCDC, would have a favourable impact on the formulation of TCDC policies and their implementation.

51. His delegation hoped that the General Assembly would approve the Plan of Action and endorse the resolutions adopted at the Buenos Aires Conference on the subject of employment and human resources, assistance to Namibia, and the national research and training centres of multinational scope. His country attached great importance to co-operation in the field of employment and human resources, in line with the programme of action and horizontal co-operation adopted at the First Conference of Ministers of Labour of Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries held at Tunis in April 1978, for the implementation of which the specialized agencies, regional organizations and other bodies were to provide assistance.

AGENDA ITEM 67: OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS DISASTER RELIEF CO-ORDINATOR:
REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/C.2/33/L.35)

Draft resolution A/C.2/33/L.35

52. Mr. DALTON (United Kingdom), speaking on behalf of the original sponsors and those that had later joined them (Bangladesh, Ecuador, Madagascar and Mauritania), introduced draft resolution A/C.2/33/L.35, which included observations and recommendations as to how donor and recipient countries, and the Office itself, could strengthen the co-ordinating role of UNDR0.

53. Paragraphs 3 and 4 were intended to remedy the lack of information, by calling upon Governments and international organizations to furnish the Office of the Co-ordinator with detailed information on their current and intended relief contributions and upon recipient Governments to inform the Office of relief contributions offered and received. It was hoped that those measures would render more effective the provision of assistance to the victims of disaster.

54. Although the actual machinery for financing assistance was basically a matter for the Fifth Committee and the UNDP Governing Council, the sponsors believed that the Second Committee was in a position to take a decision in general terms, and

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(Mr. Dalton, United Kingdom)

the draft resolution therefore reaffirmed the need to ensure a sound financial basis for the Office of the Co-ordinator and invited Governments to contribute to the trust fund of the Office.

55. With regard to paragraph 7, which requested the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme at its forthcoming session to include technical co-operation activities for disaster preparedness and prevention in its regional and interregional programmes, he explained that that step was part of the continuing process of exploring sources of financing for technical co-operation which was being undertaken in the current year by the Economic and Social Council pursuant to paragraph 9 of General Assembly resolution 31/173 and paragraph 2 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1978/41.

56. On behalf of the sponsors, he announced three revisions to the draft resolution. First, the words "and to respond to the request for information made by that Office on the occasion of each disaster", which were superfluous, were to be deleted from the final preambular paragraph. Second, at the end of paragraph 6 the phrase "taking into account the financial difficulties indicated in the report of the Secretary-General (A/33/82)" was to be added. Lastly, the words "to include" in paragraph 7 should be replaced by the words "to give consideration to the inclusion of".

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.