



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 51st MEETING

Chairman: Mr. MWANGAGUHUNGA (Uganda)

CONTENTS

- AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued)
- AGENDA ITEM 66: UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY (continued)
- AGENDA ITEM 63: UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (continued)
- AGENDA ITEM 62: OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT (continued)
- AGENDA ITEM 69: TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES: UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (continued)
- AGENDA ITEM 58: DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (continued)
- ORGANIZATION OF WORK

\* This record is subject to correction. Corrections should be incorporated in a copy of the record and should be sent *within one week of the date of publication* to the Chief, Official Records Editing Section, room A-3550.

Corrections will be issued shortly after the end of the session, in a separate fascicle for each Committee.

The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued) (A/33/3, A/33/106, A/33/112 and Add.1, A/33/166 and Corr.1; E/1978/76; A/C.2/33/L.47, L.52, L.53, L.55-59)

1. Mr. MODISI (Botswana) expressed satisfaction with the report contained in document A/33/166 and Corr.1 and appreciation for the manner in which the Secretary-General had responded to his Government's appeal for assistance.

2. The situation in southern Africa continued to deteriorate. The rebel régime in Southern Rhodesia was waging a vicious war throughout the Territory, and independent neighbouring countries had been subjected to aggression and armed invasions. Having co-opted three leading blacks into his Government, Smith had become even more intransigent and there appeared to be little hope of achieving a cease-fire. In February 1978, Smith's forces crossed into Botswana and ambushed a Botswana Defence Force patrol, killing 17 people. By July, the situation had become so serious that the Government of Botswana had issued a warning to its people concerning the dangerous situation obtaining in Southern Rhodesia and the possibility of attacks against neighbouring countries on the pretext of hot pursuit. Rhodesian rebel forces had subsequently killed a member of the Botswana Defence Force within Botswana's borders.

3. The report of the United Nations mission to Botswana (A/33/166 and Corr.1) and a study by a Commonwealth mission showed that, since the so-called agreement of 3 March, premeditated and co-ordinated attacks by the illegal régime in Southern Rhodesia against the vital social and economic infrastructure of the front-line States had increased dramatically in an effort to intimidate those States into denying the oppressed people of Zimbabwe the help they needed. His country would never abandon its international duty to support the people of Zimbabwe in their hour of greatest need. As long as Zimbabwe was in bondage, Botswana could not be free. However, in order to contribute effectively to the liberation of Zimbabwe, his country required assistance from the international community to maintain its economic development programme, which was threatened by the diversion of funds to security needs, to defend its territorial integrity and independence and to provide assistance to the thousands of refugees fleeing from oppression in their own countries. Approximately 4,200 refugees entered Botswana from Zimbabwe every month. They were concentrated in the northern urban centres, where facilities were inadequate. The problem of congestion in the refugee camps created serious administrative and social problems. His Government had already spent \$300,000 from its domestic resources on air-lifts of refugees to other countries, and a further \$700,000 had been committed for that purpose. Settlements had been established for communities of refugees and various assistance projects were being planned, all of which required substantial capital expenditure. The problem of refugees in southern Africa was a permanent one and required a continuous flow of assistance. His country alone could not provide sufficient capital to implement even the most essential projects.

/...

(Mr. Modisi, Botswana)

4. As stated in document A/33/166 and Corr.1, a serious outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease and an increase in tariffs by Rhodesia Railways, which operated the railway line in Botswana, had severely affected his country's balance-of-payments position. Botswana was a land-locked country which shared borders with two racist régimes. Consequently, his Government attached the utmost importance to the urgent implementation of the railway, airport and road projects referred to in the mission's report. The people and Government of Botswana were encouraged by the international response to their appeal for assistance, However, they were concerned that no new pledges had been received recently. Since the situation in southern Africa was continuously changing and the indications were that the worst was yet to come, he urged the United Nations to keep the situation in that region under permanent review.

5. Mr. TSOANAMATSIE (Lesotho) said that the Government and people of Lesotho greatly appreciated the support that the United Nations system and other international institutions had provided for its development efforts, which had been greatly hindered by South Africa's manoeuvres in pursuance of its nefarious apartheid policies. The pressures and harassment exerted on his country by the white minority régime in Pretoria had intensified and constituted a serious threat to Lesotho's national security and economic well-being. The situation was further aggravated by the fact that the Pretoria régime was now requesting that people in the south-eastern highland region of his country should be in possession of passports and visas, in flagrant violation of an international agreement governing travel between Lesotho and the Republic of South Africa. South Africa had recently closed down three of its eight recruiting offices in Lesotho and had embarked on a policy of phasing out the recruitment of foreign migrant labour in all sectors except the gold-mining industry. As a result, many Lesotho nationals would have to return home and there was no adequate domestic employment for them. In the light of that serious situation, his Government had embarked on a policy of promoting labour-intensive projects as part of its capital investment strategy and also hoped to carry out a rapid programme of industrialization.

6. Lesotho had always provided succour to refugees fleeing the iniquitous apartheid régime. Their numbers had recently been increased by a flow of refugees from the Transkei bantustan, and even from Namibia and Zimbabwe. His Government's ability to provide humanitarian services was largely due to the effective role of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the generous support provided by States Members of the United Nations.

7. The reports of the missions to Lesotho (A/33/112 and Add.1) showed that considerable progress had been achieved in implementing some of the projects identified by earlier missions. Some emergency programmes had already been completed and others were under way. However, his country required further additional assistance in order to implement its development programmes, and he hoped that the international community would respond favourably to its needs. His Government attached particular importance to its hydropower scheme which would greatly lessen Lesotho's dependence on South Africa for electricity, and hoped that the necessary external funding would soon be provided in order to permit implementation of that project. Since Lesotho was one of the least developed and

/...

(Mr. Tsoanamatsie, Lesotho)

most seriously affected countries, he appealed to organizations such as the World Food Programme to consider relaxing some of the rules and procedures applied, to their assistance programmes.

8. His country's problems were a direct result of its total rejection of and opposition to the policies of apartheid and racism practised by the South African Government. It was willing to continue the fight for justice, equality and respect for human dignity and would never acquiesce in that crime against humanity, and it hoped that the entire international community would actively involve itself in that noble endeavour.

9. Mr. FARAH (Djibouti) noted with satisfaction the comprehensive analysis of the socio-economic problems prevailing in his country contained in the report of the Secretary-General (A/33/106). and endorsed the recommendations regarding a programme of assistance and priority projects necessary to provide a foundation for the development and alleviate the strain which the serious refugee problem placed on his country's meagre resources. He also expressed appreciation to the Assistant Secretary-General for Special Political Questions for his efforts to find solutions to the serious problems facing his country.

10. As a newly independent State, Djibouti was faced with the difficult and complex problems of nation-building and economic and social development. The situation was further aggravated by the halt in all major economic activities and the consequent reduction in foreign exchange earnings. Moreover, a prolonged drought in the interior of the country had created great hardship and substantially depleted livestock. As a result, the city of Djibouti, which was the main population centre, had been plagued by an influx of poor people, refugees and displaced persons who placed an additional burden on the already inadequate housing and sanitation services.

11. In order to contribute effectively to efforts to promote international peace and justice, a nation must be truly liberated from poverty, hunger, illiteracy and disease, and there could be no advancement in human rights unless the humiliation of the poor was ended and man's primary needs were satisfied, thereby enabling him to live in dignity. To that end, his Government attached the utmost importance to the urgent implementation of the assistance programme and priority projects listed in document A/33/106. That report also provided clear evidence that his country should have been included in the list of least developed countries. While appreciating the concern of the Committee for Development Planning that his country should be given special concessions throughout the remainder of the current Development Decade because of the specific difficulties and upheavals it had experienced, his Government was dissatisfied with the criteria which the Committee applied to the selection of countries for inclusion on that list. In the case of his country, those criteria were based on inaccurate data which gave a false picture of the current situation, and he urged the Committee to give urgent consideration to the inclusion of his country in the list. He also hoped that the OPEC Special Fund and the EEC STABEX arrangement would provide concessional and

/...

(Mr. Farah, Djibouti)

other forms of appropriate assistance to Djibouti and that the projects enumerated in the Secretary-General's report would attract the sympathy and support of all Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental bodies and all agencies and institutions within the United Nations system.

12. Mr. KHURELBAATAR (Mongolia), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/33/L.47 said that Angola, Benin, Mali, Mozambique and Nigeria had become sponsors. The question of the role of the public sector in promoting economic and social development was of great significance because, as the public sector in developing countries increased in size and importance, those countries had an increasing need for exchanges of experience in that sphere. Furthermore, the question was of particular relevance in the context of the international community's preparations for the new international development strategy for the next decade. Thus, General Assembly resolution 32/179, and other resolutions on the subject of the role of the public sector in promoting the economic development of developing countries, related to one of the most important areas of the economic and social development of young States.

13. The report of the Secretary-General (E/1978/76) had been prepared in accordance with General Assembly resolution 32/179, and the sponsors of the draft resolution noted with satisfaction that the Secretariat had already proceeded to implement that resolution, as had been described in detail by the Under-Secretary-General in his introductory statement. The report rightly indicated that the preparation of progress reports on the role of the public sector required close co-operation among various units of the Secretariat and with the regional commissions, the specialized agencies and other international organizations; in that connexion the sponsors welcomed the major initiatives taken by ESCAP and UNIDO in adopting separate decisions on the question and hoped that they and other organizations would make a substantial contribution to the study of the question of the role of the public sector. That research would also be more useful and comprehensive if it took into account the national experience of various countries, particularly those with a more developed public sector. The dissemination of the great experience accumulated by those countries would be invaluable to other countries with an embryonic or insignificant public sector.

14. A fuller study of the influence of the public sector on the social development of particular societies would also be extremely valuable for developing countries. The sponsors recalled that, in reports submitted to the General Assembly, the public sector was regarded as the sector of the economy with the best long-term prospects. The previous report of the Secretary-General on the subject (E/5985) had stressed that the role of the public sector in most developing countries consisted mainly of providing the material and technical means for satisfying basic social and economic needs, ensuring national control of natural resources and other key areas of economic activity and preventing private monopolization or domination of the economy. Future research, decisions and recommendations should therefore highlight that important aspect of the development of the public sector.

/...

(Mr. Khurelbaatar, Mongolia)

15. In most developing countries, the public sector was used to achieve effective control over the activities of transnational corporations and to exercise sovereignty over natural resources and develop them for the purpose of accelerating the growth of public production to the benefit of the entire population. The sponsors therefore approved of the Secretary-General's proposal to consider in the next progress report the full range of measures from direct investment by the State sector to the regulation, where necessary, of private sector activities in the interests of particular countries.

16. With regard to the role of the public sector in promoting agricultural production, the strengthening of the public sector and broadening of its financial and economic power enabled States to carry out a broad agricultural policy aimed at transforming agriculture into a developed sector of the economy. Furthermore, the introduction of science and technology and of far-reaching agrarian reforms, and the establishment and strengthening of agricultural co-operatives, could be successful, as was shown by the experience of many countries where there was an influential public sector. The sponsors therefore suggested that future studies should concentrate on the role of the public sector in those major questions in which it played an effective and important role in promoting agricultural development. Unfortunately, the current report proposed that attention should be devoted to such minor and transient questions as information on public expenditure on flood and pest control.

17. Where the role of the public sector in implementing the long-term strategy of industrialization was concerned, it should be noted that in developing countries the public sector in most cases was the main instrument for channelling the forces and resources of those countries in a planned manner into the main sectors of industry of long-term significance. In that connexion, resolution 48 (XII) of the Industrial Development Board was very relevant. Document E/1978/76 also indicated that in the subsequent report the public sector would be considered from the angle of a unified approach to economic and social development, including the achievement of a more equitable distribution of income and wealth of a country. The experience of many countries showed that, because of its nation-wide scope, the public sector enabled the State to take a comprehensive approach to socio-economic development and co-ordinate all socio-economic policy so as to ensure the planned and effective development of all sectors of the economy, the steady growth of the material and cultural standard of living of all sectors of the population and economic co-operation. The forthcoming study should go far beyond the questions of the integration of women and minority groups and the taxation of income and wealth suggested in the current report. However, the report rightly referred to the factors of external origin which adversely affected the economy of developing countries; the sponsors would like to see in the next report a detailed study of the adverse influence of such evils of the market economy as inflation and policies of transnational corporations. As the report rightly pointed out, the public sector was often called upon to make adjustments in that respect. The next report should also reflect the role of the public sector in the development of an effective and optimal structure in the field of science and technology and in the creation of broader possibilities for reducing unemployment and increasing the share of developing countries in international trade, and should discuss the question of the administration and control of the public sector. A correct analysis of all those questions would reveal the very important role of the public sector in the socio-economic development of developing countries.

(Mr. Khurelbaatar, Mongolia)

18. The sponsors of the draft resolution hoped that their views would be duly reflected in the future work of the Secretariat on the subject and considered that, at its current session, the General Assembly must take appropriate decisions to support the major initiatives of certain bodies of the United Nations system in the study of the role of the public sector. Accordingly, the aim of the draft resolution was, in the first place, to provide an impetus to the implementation of General Assembly resolution 32/179 and to introduce a few new elements in the light of the resolutions and decisions adopted on the question by various United Nations bodies since the adoption of resolution 32/179. The sponsors expressed appreciation to the Group of 77 for their assistance in preparing the draft resolution, which they hoped would be adopted by consensus.
19. Mr. KOCH (Federal Republic of Germany), speaking on behalf of the States members of the European Economic Community, suggested that there should be an opportunity for informal consultations on the draft resolution.
20. Mr. ALLEN (United States of America) said his delegation also felt that there should be informal consultations.
21. The CHAIRMAN said that, if there was no objection, the decision on draft resolution A/C.2/33/L.47 would be postponed to allow time for informal consultations.
22. It was so decided.
23. Mr. SABOUR (Chad), speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, introduced draft resolutions on assistance to Guinea-Bissau (A/C.2/33/L.52), to Sao Tome and Principe (A/C.2/33/L.53), to Cape Verde (A/C.2/33/L.55), to Lesotho (A/C.2/33/L.56), to Seychelles (A/C.2/33/L.57), to Botswana (A/C.2/33/L.58) and to Zambia (A/C.2/33/L.59). All seven draft resolutions concerned African countries suffering very serious difficulties. Botswana, Zambia and Lesotho were all seriously affected by events in southern Africa, as was Mozambique, the draft resolution on which was not yet completed. Their sacrifices to uphold the efforts of the United Nations and to resist the pressure of South Africa deserved the admiration and support of all Member States. Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Sao Tome and Principe and Seychelles had faced very difficult conditions on their accession to independence and merited the concern of the international community.
24. All the draft resolutions were similarly worded. Like those adopted by the General Assembly in previous years, they reflected the situation of the different countries as described in the reports of the Secretary-General. They should therefore present no problem, and he hoped that they would be adopted unanimously.
25. After drawing attention to a number of minor drafting changes, he said that the following countries should be added to the lists of sponsors: draft resolution A/C.2/33/L.52: Syrian Arab Republic; draft resolution A/C.2/33/L.53:

/...

(Mr. Sabour, Chad)

Cuba, Japan, Maldives, Portugal, Syrian Arab Republic and Trinidad and Tobago; draft resolution A/C.2/33/L.55: Maldives, Syrian Arab Republic and Viet Nam; draft resolution A/C.2/33/L.56: Syrian Arab Republic; draft resolution A/C.2/33/L.57: Maldives and Syrian Arab Republic; draft resolution A/C.2/33/L.58: Bolivia, Cyprus, Norway, Sweden and Syrian Arab Republic; draft resolution A/C.2/33/L.59: India, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic and Yugoslavia.

26. Lastly, the sponsors had decided to delete paragraph 10 of draft resolution A/C.2/33/L.58 and paragraph 9 of draft resolution A/C.2/33/L.59; the following paragraphs should be renumbered accordingly.

27. Mr. KAMAL (Bangladesh) said that his delegation would like to join in sponsoring all the draft resolutions just introduced.

28. Mr. ROCHA (Cape Verde) thanked all the sponsors of the draft resolution on assistance to Cape Verde, the adoption of which would be of great help to his country in coping with the urgent problems resulting from the recent agricultural failures that he had described at the preceding meeting. He had since learnt that the late and inadequate rainfall had meant a 20 per cent decline in the area under cultivation. Cereal production for 1978 was expected to be only 30 per cent of normal. Much hope and effort had been put into the agricultural campaign, and its failure would mean that new labour-intensive projects would have to be initiated to employ the peasants who had been forced off the land and provide them with means of subsistence. Cape Verde's own resources had been exhausted and it would have to rely largely on international assistance.

AGENDA ITEM 66: UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY (continued) (A/C.2/33/L.44, A/C.2/33/L.45/Rev.1)

29. Mr. PIZA ESCALANTE (Costa Rica)\* said that his delegation had the honour to introduce formally draft resolution A/C.2/33/L.44, containing the proposal for the establishment of a University for Peace presented personally by the President of the Republic of Costa Rica at a plenary meeting of the General Assembly. The original sponsors of the draft resolution had now been joined by Chile, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Spain and Suriname.

30. He thought that the best way to introduce the idea of the University for Peace would be to quote the words used by the Head of State of Costa Rica in his address to the General Assembly at the 11th plenary meeting. The President had said that, as the world entered the closing years of the twentieth century and the dawn of the third millenium approached, the question of disarmament as the basis for the establishment of peace must, in his Government's view, be accompanied by a new vision of peace. The purpose of global efforts for disarmament was to eliminate the principal physical instrument of war. All things considered, what was involved was

---

\* This statement has been given full coverage in the summary record in accordance with the decision taken by the Committee during the meeting.



(Mr. Piza Escalante, Costa Rica)

a world-wide decision and a world-wide struggle which might fail to alter the fundamental problem: the absence of a collective and positive will for peace. The struggle for disarmament must therefore be accompanied by a pedagogy of peace; in other words, education for peace. Disarmament might serve to avert imminent disaster; education for peace was a permanent attitude. Disarmament meant discarding an instrument of war in order to achieve the objective of peace. Education for peace meant creating the real conditions for a peaceful world. Consequently, disarmament should advance hand in hand with education for peace.

31. The President had therefore proposed to the thirty-third session of the General Assembly the creation of a University for Peace, within the United Nations University network, as a concrete expression of that new vision of a triumphant and dynamic peace, peace as a result of education and consciousness.

32. The University for Peace would be a great centre of higher learning, open to all peoples and all men of good will, the primary objective of which would be to contribute, through research, teaching, dissemination and free inquiry, to the cause of peace, to mutual knowledge for men throughout the world and to the promotion among all men of a spirit of understanding, tolerance and peaceful coexistence, in order to stimulate international co-operation and eliminate any situation which might imperil universal peace and progress.

33. The United Nations was, by definition, dedicated to the cause of peace, which was its supreme and inescapable purpose. It had created various bodies to perform specific tasks in economic, social and cultural development. However, it lacked the supreme institution, that from which it derived its essence and its reason for being - the institution of peace. The United Nations had been created to safeguard peace, and the entire Organization was oriented towards that central goal. Nevertheless, for historical reasons, its concept of peace had been closer to the notion of peace as the absence of war than to that of peace as the supreme achievement of man, as a continuing task in the domain of learning. He therefore proposed the creation of an institution to prepare men and nations for peace.

34. Every positive and concrete effort against the arms race met with opposition from those who wielded the old Latin principle "si vis pacem, para bellum" - "If you desire peace, prepare for war". However, preparing for war now had a different goal - not the achievement of peace, but the prevalence of fear as the means to world equilibrium. World peace, then, was founded on an act of fear, not on conviction or on an act of conscience. He therefore proposed not a military maxim but a human one: "If you desire peace, prepare for peace".

35. Peace was a dynamic concept. It was a condition of life and thus one of the fundamental human rights. When the matter was viewed in that way, it became a question not of keeping the peace but of achieving it. Peace was a right of the human race, but it was also a duty. It followed that every man, and mankind as a

/...

(Mr. Piza Escalante, Costa Rica)

whole, must be not only the object but the subject of peace. Men could enjoy that right, but they must at the same time keep it in existence. Peace was the work of justice and the fruit of love, but it must also be the product of education; in other words, education must be one of its most effective instruments of action.

36. As the 1970s drew to a close, the world was being called upon to face mankind's needs, in all their tragic urgency. It must at the same time fulfil the requirements of the human race. The University for Peace must be the laboratory of the spirit of peace, the crucible in which the new mentality of peace must be formed over the decades to come, for the twenty-first century must be peaceful or it would not be at all.

37. Peace was not the end of a conflict or an interlude between wars; it was a constantly renewed challenge. It must be the supreme objective and, as such, concrete means must be provided for affirming it, remembering that the present generation reserved its trust for words accompanied by deeds.

38. Peace, like war, was not the result of historical predestination; it sprang from man's freedom. Peace was within man, but it urgently required measures to safeguard and create it: diplomatic relations, covenants, agreements, treaties, economic and human resources, means of information and education, laws and, finally, a vast machinery to give visible and tangible shape to that ceaseless quest of man on earth. What would become of the human race without all those institutions, to which the Costa Rican Government now proposed to add a specific institution, dedicated to preparing for peace and training for peace, two decades before the new millenium?

39. Peace was not merely a matter of noble sentiments. By its very nature it required some measure of precise and diversified knowledge, both theoretical and practical. It was therefore urgent that man's intelligence and culture should be directed towards peace. What was involved, as one eminent person had suggested, was marshalling all man's intellectual faculties, all his cultural and scientific heritage, so that he could become an instrument of peace. What was involved, finally, was preparing and training man's will and intelligence for peace.

40. Peace was made, not found. Peace was not rest, or another word for fear. Peace was the pulse of life.

41. Settlements imposed by fear did not constitute peace. The existing institutions of peace had been born in the wake of the Second World War. They had been inspired by pain and fear. As the pain and fear of that holocaust subsided, however, the possibility of a new war loomed ever greater. Why was that happening? Because, as the old Latin maxim would have it, the world was still preparing for war in order to bring about peace. Thus, the vicious circle continued and mankind was never prepared for peace.

42. With that in mind, the President had offered for the consideration of representatives an institution that would be built not on fear but on a triumphant

/...

(Mr. Piza Escalante, Costa Rica)

and vigorous idea of peace. The world must instill a dynamic mentality of peace in adults, children and young people. To that end, it must put to use one of the greatest and most effective means of ennobling and transforming man - education. In that way, it would be able to forge in man the thoughts and habits of peace, bringing peace first into the minds and hearts of man, and then into world politics.

43. The Government of Costa Rica intended to submit a specific draft resolution on the subject, requesting the General Assembly to consider the initiative of creating a University for Peace along the lines described, as the contribution of a peaceful people to the cause of peace, the supreme goal of the United Nations, on the thirtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

44. He (Mr. Piza Escalante) would like to add a few specific points. The idea of the President of Costa Rica, as expressed in the General Assembly, was based on the conviction that peace, as a positive concept, as the natural state of human society and, now, as a condition for the very survival of mankind, could not continue to be an interregnum between two wars, or to depend on precarious mechanisms for military equilibrium, international balance or mere agreement between Governments, but must be studied, taught and eventually built into the very minds of men and peoples. Peace, therefore, like law, like justice, like economic and social development itself, was above all a problem of education. Far more than through scientific and technological research, education was achieved through humanistic training, through understanding and mutual knowledge - in other words, through learning and living together. The idea of the University for Peace was founded on those twin pillars: learning and living together.

45. Costa Rica's desire to create a University for Peace was not superficial or opportunist; its people lived in peace and practised peace, even in difficult international circumstances such as those it was undergoing at the moment through no fault of its own; its vocation for peace was not propaganda but a living reality most clearly exemplified by the fact that armed forces were proscribed by the Constitution and that it had actually and truly disarmed, without waiting for others to do so first.

46. He mentioned that because it was directly connected with the proposed University for Peace. He could say without undue modesty that Costa Rica had no need of a University for Peace. It felt, however, that with such a University it could contribute to the peace of the world, and could surround it with the environment necessary for building peace as a positive idea in the minds of men. It was the responsibility of every nation and every people to give to the world what it could; Costa Rica offered the world what it possessed, an environment of peace and an indisputable vocation for peace.

47. Thus, the President of Costa Rica had not come to the United Nations to propose the creation of a University for Peace, but to offer one to the world through the United Nations; in other words, to assume responsibility for setting it up, but at the same time offering it generously to the world without any conditions. The

/...

(Mr. Piza Escalante, Costa Rica)

Costa Rican Government had already spent effort and resources on the undertaking; it had produced preliminary academic, financial and architectural studies and designs, and it had also brought to the United Nations a model of the project, which was available to representatives at the foot of the staircase leading from the south side of the gallery between the General Assembly building and the Conference building. Moreover, it had continued those studies and had offered to provide the headquarters for the University for Peace, granting it the privileges and attributes of an international institution, and the land for the University campus, consisting of a property of 600 hectares, 500 of them covered with a beautiful first-growth tropical forest which should, of course, be preserved as yet another demonstration of the growing preoccupation of mankind with environmental conservation. The Costa Rican Government had also undertaken to engage in the effort to finance the institution, so that it would not be an economic burden on the United Nations, the specialized agencies, or on Member States as such. In that way, Costa Rica was taking upon itself one of the problems raised by a number of representatives, quite rightly concerned about the economic difficulties confronting the United Nations.

48. To dispose of another legitimate point of concern that had been raised, Costa Rica had made it quite clear that the proposed University for Peace would be part of the existing United Nations University system. That University, created by the United Nations in 1972 and given its Charter in 1973, in response to a determined effort by the late Secretary-General, U Thant, had been conceived not as a single closed institution but as the universal channel for a series of decentralized efforts and institutions, in all countries of the world, dedicated to research and post-graduate education in fields of interest to the United Nations. In that sense, it had been defined as "a decentralized system of affiliated institutions, integrated into the world university community, devoted to action-oriented research into the pressing global problems of human survival, development and welfare, that are the concern of the United Nations and its agencies, and to the post-graduate training of young scholars and research workers for the benefit of the world community", and special provision had been made for machinery for incorporating those institutions. The University for Peace proposed by the President of Costa Rica did not seek in any way to compete with the United Nations University, or simply to constitute another United Nations University, but sought on the contrary to be part of the United Nations University system, as a specialized international centre within it, thus enriching it and enabling it to begin to embark truly on the second aspect of its institutional mandate, the post-graduate training envisaged in its Charter.

49. The idea put forward by the President of Costa Rica had received a generous welcome from most of the delegations which felt, to use the words of the representative of Colombia at the preceding meeting, that the proposal for a University for Peace could meet with no opposition in the United Nations, since it would foster the primary purpose of the Organization: the search for peace and understanding between peoples.

(Mr. Piza Escalante, Costa Rica)

50. Nevertheless, the Costa Rican delegation was aware that a draft resolution such as the one under consideration must be the subject of consultations and study, and that an opportunity must be given for hearing the detailed opinions of UNESCO, the Economic and Social Council, the Council of the University of the United Nations and, above all, the Secretary-General, who would assemble the results of all the studies and consultations. His delegation had therefore proposed, modestly and without impatience, a draft resolution that was basically procedural in character, recapitulating the proposal and the offer made personally by the President of the Republic of Costa Rica and putting them forward for study, consideration and report by the bodies concerned, and of course by States Members of the Organization. If the draft resolution sinned in anything, it was in being very general, so that there should be no impression of a desire on the part of Costa Rica to impose anything, and in being modestly procedural, so that there should be no feeling that Costa Rica was impatient or presumptuous.

51. In any event, in formally introducing the draft resolution he wished to impress very clearly upon the minds of representatives his delegation's sincere willingness to listen to and take note of any comments or anxieties that were expressed, and to beseech the goodwill and trust of those who joined with it in believing that the effort to build peace in the minds and hearts of men merited the encouragement and support of the world community.

52. Mr. LAVERDE (Colombia), supported by Mrs. CARRASCO (Bolivia) and Mr. GONZÁLEZ ARIAS (Paraguay), proposed that the text of the statement by the representative of Costa Rica should be reproduced in extenso in the summary record, in view of the importance of the subject.

53. Mr. MULLER (Secretary of the Committee) said that the cost of implementing that proposal would be about \$3,000.

54. The CHAIRMAN said that if there was no objection, he would take it that the Committee agreed to the proposal.

55. It was so decided.

56. Mr. NISHIDA (Japan) said that, while his delegation greatly appreciated the spirit of draft resolution A/C.2/33/L.44, it would like further clarification and discussions on the nature and scope of the proposal, and therefore requested the Chairman to organize informal consultations on the subject.

57. Mr. BARCELÓ (Mexico) said that his delegation would have been prepared to vote immediately in favour of the very important proposal contained in draft resolution A/C.2/33/L.44. It believed that the generous offer of the President of Costa Rica should be welcomed by the General Assembly; it showed how a small country was willing, in a spirit of peace, to make available possibilities for the development of peaceful ideas in the context of economic and social development. Furthermore, the University of San José maintained a very high academic standard. However, his delegation would collaborate in informal consultations in the spirit of the provisions of the draft resolution.

/...

58. Ms. SHELTON (United States of America), Mr. QUENTIN (Italy), Mr. NEUHOFF (Federal Republic of Germany) and Mr. LUTFI (Jordan) speaking also on behalf of Lebanon, Kuwait and the Syrian Arab Republic, supported the proposal that there should be informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/33/L.44.

59. Mr. PIZA ESCALANTE (Costa Rica) said that his delegation fully supported that proposal.

60. Mr. VERCELES (Philippines) announced that Cyprus, the Dominican Republic and Ethiopia had become sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/33/L.45/Rev.1, concerning the United Nations University.

61. Draft resolution A/C.2/33/L.45/Rev.1 was adopted without a vote.

AGENDA ITEM 63: UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (continued) (A/C.2/33/L.11)

62. The CHAIRMAN suggested the following formula for a decision by the Committee on draft resolution A/C.2/33/L.11:

"The General Assembly decides to transmit draft resolution A/C.2/33/L.11, entitled 'Marine pollution', annexed hereto, to the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session for its consideration".

63. Mr. PONCET (France), speaking on behalf of the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/33/L.11, said that it had not been possible to complete informal consultations on the draft resolution, and many countries had felt unable to take a decision on a text which referred to so many conventions and protocols that required close study. The text of the decision proposed by the Chairman was therefore acceptable to the sponsors. However, they continued to believe that the subject of the draft resolution was important, and must be considered at the next session of the General Assembly. The question of marine pollution, especially oil pollution, was a source of great concern to his country and indeed to many developed and developing countries, not only because of the deterioration of the environment but also because of the threat to natural resources and particularly to the marine fauna necessary to the subsistence of millions of human beings. It hoped that the General Assembly would study more carefully the proposals of the Governing Council of UNDP on the subject and that, at the following session, there would be broad agreement on a text providing legal and material means to protect the marine environment.

64. Mr. XIFRA (Spain) said that his delegation agreed to the decision, although it fully supported the draft resolution and endorsed the remarks made by the representative of France.

AGENDA ITEM 62: OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT (continued) (A/C.2/33/L.49)

65. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the note by the Secretariat (A/C.2/33/L.49) concerning the recommendation made by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 1978/52.

66. Mr. LAZAREVIĆ (Yugoslavia) said that, after consultations with a number of delegations of both developed and developing countries, his delegation wished to propose the following draft decision:

"The General Assembly decides to postpone a decision on the recommendation on the administrative expenses of the Capital Development Fund contained in Economic and Social Council decision 1978/52, pending further consideration of the question by the UNDP Governing Council and the Economic and Social Council, and that in the meantime the functioning of the Fund will continue in accordance with the measures set forth in paragraph 1 of General Assembly resolution 2321 (XXII) of 15 December 1967."

67. The draft decision was adopted without a vote.

68. Mr. NEUHOFF (Federal Republic of Germany) said that he had joined in the consensus on the draft decision proposed by Yugoslavia, which represented a compromise solution. His delegation had already explained its position on the question of the administrative expenses of the Capital Development Fund in the Second Committee at the preceding session. He merely wished to state for the record that his delegation maintained its position that, in the light of the increased resources of the Capital Development Fund, it could no longer agree to the administrative expenses being financed from the administrative budget of UNDP.

69. Mr. BRECHER (United States of America) said that, although his delegation had joined in the consensus, he wished to state for the record that the United States associated itself with those who had supported the consistent decisions taken during the past two years in the Governing Council of UNDP and the Economic and Social Council in favour of meeting the administrative expenses of the Capital Development Fund from the voluntary contributions made to the Fund. A different arrangement had been appropriate during the earlier formative years of the Fund, but it could now meet its own expenses, and it should do so, in the interests of sound financial management, instead of burdening another programme.

70. Mrs. DERRE (France) said that her delegation had not opposed the consensus, but it shared the views expressed by the representatives of the Federal Republic of Germany and the United States. France's well-known position was that all technical assistance, including support costs for technical assistance, should be financed by voluntary contributions.

71. Mr. QUENTIN (Italy) said that his delegation shared the views expressed by the three preceding speakers, and considered that the administrative expenses of the Capital Development Fund should be met from voluntary contributions and not from the administrative budget of UNDP. That had been Italy's position for a number of years and, since the Fund now had sufficient resources, there was no reason to burden UNDP's budget with its administrative expenses. It was with that consideration in mind that his delegation had joined in the consensus.

/...

72. Miss LOECKX (Belgium) said that her delegation wished to associate itself with the statements just made, and reserved its position regarding the financing of the administrative expenses of the Capital Development Fund.

73. Mr. LAZAREVIĆ (Yugoslavia) said he had understood that the consensus reached meant that there would be no further explanation of the different positions of various delegations, since the issue would be taken up again in the Governing Council of UNDP and in the Economic and Social Council in 1979. Since some delegations had thought fit to clarify their positions, he wished to reiterate his delegation's view. Yugoslavia would not support any change in the financial arrangements for a number of years, until the Capital Development Fund had reached a certain level. That view should be considered if the question was taken up again in the Governing Council. Both UNDP and the UNCDF were financed by voluntary contributions, given for the benefit of the developing countries. Funds were contributed to the Capital Development Fund for investment projects, particularly in the least developed countries. The financing of the administrative expenses of the Fund by UNDP was a form of technical assistance, since the money spent meant that the Fund could reserve more money for investment in the least developed countries. His delegation regarded the two institutions as having a mutually supporting role; that had been its position in the past and would be in the future, for several years.

74. Mr. BOUBACAR (Upper Volta) said he had been surprised and disappointed to hear the statements made by a number of delegations. He had thought that the consensus meant that delegations would not need to reiterate their positions. His delegation strongly supported the views expressed by the representative of Yugoslavia because it considered that the Fund and UNDP were closely linked in their work of providing aid for developing countries, especially the least developed countries. His position reflected the position of the Group of 77, which would be reiterated at the sessions of the Governing Council of UNDP and the Economic and Social Council in 1979.

75. Mr. LOHANI (Nepal) said he too had thought that the agreement reached would obviate the need for any restatement of the positions of delegations, and he accordingly associated himself with the views expressed by the representative of Yugoslavia.

76. Mr. TERADA (Japan) said that his delegation had joined in the consensus decision, but nevertheless considered that the administrative costs of the Fund should be met from voluntary contributions.

77. Mr. SAAD (Sudan), Mr. MÉNDEZ ARROCHA (Venezuela) and Mr. WORKU (Ethiopia) associated their delegations with the views expressed by the representative of Yugoslavia.

78. Mr. EVDOKEYEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation had supported Economic and Social Council decision 1978/52, and considered that the administrative expenses of the Capital Development Fund should be met from voluntary contributions to the Fund.



AGENDA ITEM 69: TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES:  
UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES  
(continued) (A/C.2/33/L.34/Rev.1, A/C.2/33/L.48)

79. Mr. KAABACHI (Tunisia), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/33/L.34/Rev.1 on behalf of the sponsors, pointed out that in the revised version of the text the words "and in the establishment of the New International Economic Order" had been added at the end of the eighth preambular paragraph. The sponsors wished to make a further revision by adding to paragraph 11 wording to indicate that the General Assembly also decided that Arabic would be an official language at the meetings referred to in that paragraph. The sponsors hoped that the revised version of the draft resolution could be adopted by consensus.

80. Mr. ORON (Israel) said that, while his delegation supported draft resolution A/C.2/33/L.34/Rev.1, it must express reservations on the controversial elements in some of the preambular paragraphs.

81. Draft resolution A/C.2/33/L.34/Rev.1, as orally revised, was adopted without a vote.

82. Mrs. ALLAM (Egypt) welcomed the adoption of the draft resolution by consensus. She understood that its adoption with the change in paragraph 11 concerning the use of Arabic meant that the financial implications as set forth in document A/C.2/33/L.48 would have to be amended.

83. The CHAIRMAN said that that was the case.

84. Mr. EVDOKYEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation would oppose the inclusion in the regular budget of the United Nations of the expenses to be incurred as a result of the change in paragraph 11 of the draft resolution. Those expenses should be borne by UNDP.

AGENDA ITEM 58: DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (continued)  
(A/33/238)

85. Mr. OLDAEUS (Sweden), speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries, said that those countries welcomed the inclusion in the agenda of the Second Committee of item 58 (d), concerning the effective mobilization of women in development. The mobilization of women in development had previously been regarded as a welfare measure, but there was now a growing awareness that it was not a cost but a prerequisite for economic development. The active part already being played by women in development must not be overlooked. For example, in most countries women made up a large part, sometimes the majority, of the agricultural labour force. Moreover, since many women were not involved in the cash economy, it was easy to forget that they often fulfilled important functions on which society as a whole depended, such as housework, food processing and child care. There had been a tendency to downgrade the economic value of women's work: an ILO report had shown that farmers replying to questions about women's work often stated that the women did nothing, or only worked in the house, and the women gave similar answers. Yet studies had indicated that in rural areas women in many cases worked twice as many hours as men in agriculture.

/...

(Mr. Oldaeus, Sweden)

86. In formulating policies to improve the situation of women, it should be noted that a development model concentrated on men would not automatically benefit women. The Administrator of UNDP had pointed out that women's crucial role in development had been neglected, with the result that women had often been barred from training programmes designed to promote the expansion and modernization of the production of goods and services, but that the economic and social cost of the neglect of women's role in development was now recognized. More information was needed about the situation of women; in general, separate statistics on women were not collected because it was assumed that women and men were affected in a similar way by development. Clearly, women's productive capabilities could be better used if they were given access to better production techniques, more efficient tools, technical training, and so on. However, even with such improvements women would often continue to be confined to a closed women's world, which put them at a disadvantage in respect of external contacts and hampered their access to education, new technologies and the like. The aim must now be the full integration and effective mobilization of women, for instance by giving them access to areas of life where men had traditionally dominated. That demanded a change in present stereotyped roles of men and women, a change that would release the immense economic potential of women outside the traditional female areas. A new role for men and women was not merely a question of social justice; it would also contribute to a better use of economic resources.

87. The problems referred to did not affect developing countries alone. Many women in the Nordic countries had to fit two working days into one - one at home and the other in professional life. To avoid that, there must be a change in the attitudes of both men and women. It must be realized that new responsibilities for women must be accompanied by the assumption by men of some of the duties traditionally left to women in the family.

88. Education was a valuable means to ensure effective mobilization of women in development. The foundation for stereotyped roles and inequalities was laid early in life, and education could prevent that and give both men and women a freer choice of employment and social life.

89. In the effective mobilization of women in development, action-oriented policies were needed at the national and international levels. Action at the national level must be based on the fact that women were in the majority among the poorest and most disadvantaged. Consequently, policies to improve their situation should be part of general policies benefiting those groups. The mobilization of the poorest and most disadvantaged groups should be seen as both a means and an end of development. Moreover, because of the special situation of women, such a general policy would often have to be supplemented by special measures for women in the areas of law, education, health, employment and development planning. At the international level, a new international economic order should lead to more equitable economic relations, including a more equitable division of labour. That would in general enhance the value of the work done in developing countries, and it would particularly benefit women. Further, the mobilization of men and women in development should be considered in all aspects of the preparation of a new international development strategy.

(Mr. Oldaeus, Sweden)

90. The report in document A/33/238 on the effective mobilization of women in development contained a valuable collection of data and an analysis of the situation of women in different regions and social sectors. The Nordic countries agreed with the main conclusions and policy implications of the report, although some ideas, in particular the notion of "unequal exchange" referred to in paragraph 8, seemed to need further clarification. It was not self-evident that higher wages for rural women would increase the bargaining power of the developing countries, although it was true that better wages for women would give them a higher social status, improve their access to education, and so on.

91. With respect to the role of women in agriculture, the report underlined the fact that most women did not have access to mechanization and more effective production methods. On the contrary, mechanization often meant that their workload increased, as the men took a more active part in acquiring the new technology and consequently left more of the traditional housework to women. That was an example of how the introduction of new technology did not necessarily benefit the most disadvantaged groups that had the least access to innovations. The secondary effects of that development were not always clear, but it seemed to have a rather negative effect on women's economic and social status. There should be further study of the effects of modernization on the situation of women.

92. The conclusions in the report concerning rural women should influence development policy and planning. One example was the move to improve productivity of non-cash crops. Better tools, working methods, training and agricultural credit would help that important sector of the economy to make a better contribution to national income. The Nordic countries agreed with the conclusion that there should be more systematic promotion of the active mobilization of women in trade unions, co-operatives and the like. It was also important that women should benefit fully from and participate in land reforms.

93. Regarding the urban sector, the report stated that women were frequently excluded from blue-collar jobs because of their lack of marketable skills and discrimination in hiring practices, among other reasons. There was a vicious circle, since the lower educational level of women and the strain they suffered through having the main responsibility for child care and housework, made it harder for them to obtain employment in the more innovative sectors of the economy. That in turn reinforced their low economic and educational status.

94. However, in some countries, according to the report, women were increasingly employed in manufacturing industry, often in large production units controlled by transnational corporations. One advantage of that was that women could obtain employment in manufacturing industry and better access to modern production methods. On the other hand, the report pointed out that some of those women were paid subsistence wages and deprived of basic labour rights. It was essential that all workers should receive satisfactory wages, be given a sound working environment and enjoy full trade union and other associative rights.

95. The Nordic countries considered that the report should form the basis for future work. Its line of thinking should be pursued, particularly in connexion

/...

(Mr. Oldaeus, Sweden)

with the new international development strategy. The roles and possibilities of women must be taken fully into account in future major world conferences, such as the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, the fifth session of UNCTAD and the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. Programmes for the integration of women should also be part and parcel of the work of the whole United Nations system. The Nordic countries as a matter of routine took into account the impact of their bilateral assistance programmes on the situation of women.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

96. Mr. NEUHOFF (Federal Republic of Germany) said the informal consultations on science and technology for development were being held up because the statement of the financial implications of draft resolution A/C.2/33/L.39/Rev.1 had not yet been issued. He asked when that document could be expected.

97. Mr. DOWNES-THOMAS (Office of Secretariat Services for Economic and Social Matters) said that the document setting out the financial implications was expected to appear on the following day.

98. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the deadline for the submission of draft resolutions on all outstanding items should be extended to Tuesday, 5 December.

99. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 6.05 p.m.