



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 46th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. JANKOWITSCH (Austria)

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AGENDA ITEM 61: OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT (continued)

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

AGENDA ITEM 61: OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT (continued) (A/32/3, A/32/3/Add.1 (Part III), A/32/61, A/32/236; A/32/32/L.17/Rev.1)

1. Mr. GONÇALVES (Brazil) said that the role of the United Nations system in enhancing living conditions in the developing world was fundamental and had produced positive results. However, as a member of the Governing Council of UNDP, Brazil felt that there was still much to be done to make the most out of the existing structure of the Programme.

2. UNDP's success was due to its flexibility, the variety of services and types of assistance it provided, its experience, its awareness of national problems and, above all, its respect for the capacity of each Government to formulate its own development strategies and priorities. Brazil was willing to contribute to the maintenance of that same basic policy pattern, which was a very relevant part of the 1970 Consensus. UNDP's capacity to continue to perform its major task of co-ordinating technical co-operation activities depended on that principle. In that connexion, he recognized the Administrator's efforts to ensure the fullest utilization of the machinery existing within the network of field offices so as to assist government policies.

3. Brazil was deeply concerned at the declining share of Latin America in the benefits of UNDP activities. While recognizing that some countries might be suffering more than others, it feared that the continuing concentration of aid might set a new pattern for UNDP activities. Such concentration should be viewed purely as a temporary endeavour. His delegation supported the Administrator's efforts to raise voluntary contributions by 14 per cent annually, although it had felt that the Economic and Social Council was being a little optimistic in endorsing that goal.

4. Brazil was following closely the preparations for the Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, which would be very important for an over-all policy of self-reliance. While satisfied with the results of the second session of the Preparatory Committee, his Government felt that some of the documents submitted were not essential to the work of the Conference itself. The main purpose of the Conference was to outline an alternative pattern for technical co-operation which would enhance the role of developing countries as suppliers of services. Accordingly, it was essential to concentrate on action and to agree upon an effective final document. His delegation looked forward to contributing to the achievement of such a goal and would reiterate its deep commitment to the success of the Conference at the next preparatory regional meeting in Panama.

5. In view of the fact that the results of the 1970 population census had shown that 470 out of every 1,000 Brazilians were under 14 years of age, Brazil was greatly interested in UNICEF's work. The Fund should concentrate increasingly on activities relating to the promotion of development and should continue to place emphasis on employing consultants from the developing world and on increasing the amount of its purchases from that area. His delegation hoped that the Executive Director would succeed in obtaining more funds, and reaffirmed its commitment to voluntary contributions as the appropriate means of financing UNICEF. It noted with satisfaction that several countries had been increasing their contribution to the Fund each year.

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(Mr. Gonçalvez, Brazil)

6. His delegation was studying UNICEF activities in the field of primary education and was convinced that the Fund should enlarge its activities related to the situation of children in urban areas. It supported the idea that UNICEF should concentrate its efforts in newly independent countries, without, however, excluding other areas from its activities. He expressed concern at the fact that, although the amount of funding received by Latin America was higher than in the previous year, in real terms it represented a smaller share of total funds.

7. Mr. ROS (Argentina) welcomed the news that UNICEF was seeking to employ consultants from and make purchases in the developing countries. His delegation was particularly pleased to see that UNICEF was continuing to contribute to improving the level of living of families and of society as a whole. The provision of drinking water and the eradication of slum housing were two examples of how the Fund could satisfy both immediate and long-term needs of the neediest children; the eradication of such housing was a most effective means of combating certain diseases. The Executive Director could perhaps report the following year on some initiatives undertaken in that connexion in Latin America.

8. The 66 per cent increase in voluntary contributions to the United Nations Fund for Population Activities during the past three years testified not only to the growing awareness of the relationship between population activities and economic development but to the esteem in which the Executive Director of the Fund was held. His delegation wished to reiterate a point that had been agreed on at the World Population Conference, namely, that the effective solution of population problems depended on socio-economic variables and that the notion, in vogue a few years previously, that population growth was a great obstacle to development was incorrect. Like 95 of the 114 developing countries which had replied to a recent questionnaire, Argentina believed that the problems of population redistribution and internal migration were of the highest importance.

9. Turning to UNDP, he congratulated the Administrator on resolving the most serious financial crisis in the Programme's history. The adjustment had been difficult for the developing countries because of the annual ceilings on expenditure which had had to be imposed. The IPF levels originally set should be achieved through increased contributions from the developed countries, particularly those whose official development assistance had not reached the target of 0.7 per cent of GNP. He congratulated those countries, particularly Australia, which had made considerable efforts to increase their contributions.

10. The discussion on the role and the activities of UNDP which had started at the twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council was so important that his delegation wanted all States Members of the United Nations to be able to participate in the debate; that was why it attached so much importance to the item under consideration. His delegation's main point was that the debate must not be used as a pretext to reopen the discussion on the 1970 Consensus and the new dimensions policy, which were the foundations for UNDP's activities. The crisis of UNDP - so far as the non-financial aspects were concerned - was due to the fact that opposing pressures and influences were being brought to bear on the Programme; in many cases that resulted in cancelling out the Programme's efforts. That was why the Administrator had called for clear directives from the intergovernmental bodies.

11. With regard to the question raised by the Administrator in his introductory statement, namely, whether the emphasis in operational activities should be on

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(Mr. Ros, Argentina)

correcting the imbalances of the world economy or on setting minimum standards for basic human needs, he said that it was not a question of whether or not there was a conflict between the basic needs approach and the new international economic order. The problem with the basic needs concept was that it was too broad and relative to be one of the guiding criteria for operational activities. All operational activities aimed at satisfying existing or future needs, and only Governments were qualified to determine what strategy they would follow in satisfying their needs and which needs were basic. Accordingly, the basic needs concept had always been implicit in the country programming system. Naturally, every Government was free to request assistance for programmes and projects that corresponded to what were now called basic needs. The real dilemma was the following: either the basic needs concept did not impinge upon the sovereign right of Governments to set their own priorities, in which case it was superfluous, or the concept was designed to prevail over the prerogatives of Governments, in which case it was unacceptable. For that reason, his delegation was greatly concerned to hear that the Development Assistance Committee of OECD had decided to place greater emphasis on the basic needs approach during the next decade. One began to wonder whether, as a recent article in The New York Times had suggested, the tendency to concentrate assistance on the poorest countries and sectors might not conceal a desire to delay the growth, in developing countries, of industries that could compete with industries in developed countries.

12. His delegation was also concerned at the growing neglect of middle-income countries. The present volume of assistance should be maintained at the very least; any efforts to benefit specific categories of countries should be financed with additional resources and should not impair the universality of the Programme or unjustifiably reduce assistance to other categories.

13. Another important item was the substantive co-ordination of technical co-operation, otherwise known as integration. While his delegation was in favour of certain integrationist measures, provided that they were clearly defined and the levels at which they would apply were specified, his Government opposed any integration, consolidation or co-ordination that might affect the right of Governments to set their own priorities. His delegation strongly supported co-ordination in the field and the strengthening of the role of the UNDP resident representatives; that did not imply any change in the procedure for appointing such representatives.

14. Argentina had proposed the inclusion in the agenda of the next session of the Governing Council of an item entitled "Investment follow-up" because it had felt that in recent years the functions assigned to UNDP in paragraphs 52 and 53 of the Consensus and in subparagraph (e) (viii) and (ix) of the new dimensions decision, particularly the function of providing assistance and advice on investment follow-up, had been somewhat neglected. His Government suggested that a study should be made of the possibility of establishing a revolving fund, under the administration of UNDP, for pre-investment activities.

15. He reiterated his Government's request that the global project for the development of fisheries in the Southern Oceans should be cancelled. Such projects should be initiated only after being submitted to the Governing Council.

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(Mr. Ros, Argentina)

16. Finally, his Government was pleased to see that solutions had been achieved by consensus to all the problems relating to technical co-operation among developing countries, as evidenced by the decision adopted by the Governing Council on 30 June 1977.

17. Mr. WHALEN (United States of America) said that the United States would like to see the United Nations development system further expand and improve its field programmes. His Government's policy toward the development system was as follows: firstly, it sought strengthened co-operative efforts devised clearly and specifically to meet the basic needs of the world's poor majority, wherever they were found; it also placed high priority on enhancing the role of women in development; secondly, it sought improved performance and efficiency in United Nations development efforts; thirdly, if the United Nations could make substantial progress towards those objectives, it was prepared to consider greater support for such programmes over longer periods of time.

18. His Government had been pleased to see that UNDP was back on a stable financial footing and looked forward to seeing it strengthen its essential role as the United Nations development system's central funding and co-ordinating body. That was the key to assuring the coherence and effectiveness of the system. The joint planning and other common efforts that the Programme was organizing with its agency partners were additional steps in the right direction.

19. His delegation was concerned at the lack of progress in certain long-standing problems, such as the need to arrive at more equitable cost-sharing on the part of all Member States financially able to support the Programme, the need for voluntary contributions to be made in readily usable currencies - and for arrangements to use the \$35 million in non-convertible funds now on hand for their original purposes but on a non-preferential basis - and the need to reduce arrearages now totalling about \$30 million. Progress on those fronts would increase UNDP's general attractiveness to Governments of Member States. Other steps to enhance UNDP's position included limiting the amount of technical assistance financed by the assessed budgets of the specialized agencies; building a strengthened reserve for emergency purposes to protect UNDP against a recurrence of financial difficulties; and expanding UNDP's role in joint operations involving both multilateral and bilateral funds, as in the case of the Sahel programme.

20. His Government had announced a 15 per cent increase in its contribution to UNDP, an initial pledge of \$2 million to the United Nations Capital Development Fund and a pledge of \$1 million to the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration. Those pledges, along with its continuing support for the United Nations Volunteers programme, which it considered an appropriate mechanism for meeting basic needs, demonstrated his Government's interest in encouraging new United Nations initiatives of technical co-operation with the developing countries.

21. The 25 per cent increase in his Government's contribution to UNICEF reflected its confidence in the Fund's capacity to utilize increased resources effectively. Full co-operation from all United Nations bodies concerned was essential in order to make the International Year of the Child an opportunity to highlight and assess the needs of children and strengthen programmes to meet them. His Government had formed an Inter-Agency Committee to co-ordinate official United States participation

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(Mr. Whalen, United States)

in the Year, and it had recently pledged \$250,000 for 1977 for world-wide IYC activities. His delegation looked forward to the statement of UNICEF's assistance policies and priorities that was to be prepared by the Fund's secretariat and to the other studies agreed upon at the 1977 session of the Executive Board.

22. Turning to the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, he said that it was incumbent upon Member States to consider increasing their pledges substantially in order to bridge the gap between the cost of specific projects ready for implementation and the level of financial resources available. United Nations agencies co-operating with the Fund should reduce their charges to it for overhead costs and infrastructural support. His Government had just announced a special contribution of \$4 million to help the Fund in meeting outstanding assistance requests. While recognizing UNFPA's impressive record, it saw a need for further improvement in several areas, including the following: developing basic country and, through them, intercountry programmes; focusing on core programmes; establishing priorities for future allocation of resources; and increasing the share of country programmes and decreasing that of regional or global programmes.

23. His delegation commended the United Nations for its operational activities, especially for their focus on the least developed countries and their promotion of integration of women in development. However, no regular funds should be budgeted for those operations; instead, they should be financed by UNDP, UNCDF and the United Nations Trust Fund for Southern Africa.

24. Finally, although his Government had expressed reservations regarding the WFP target of \$950 million for 1979-1980, it intended to increase its contribution to \$220 million for that period.

25. Mr. RAMBISSOON (Trinidad and Tobago) said that UNDP had a critical role to play in a number of development issues, such as technical co-operation among developing countries, transfer of technology, rural development and the elimination of poverty within developing countries. His delegation had therefore noted with great satisfaction that all those issues had been identified by previous speakers as featuring largely in any international development effort.

26. While not wishing to detract from the importance of other United Nations agencies, his delegation intended to confine its comments to UNDP. Science and technology were directly related to development, but if the third world was really to benefit from developments in those fields there must be a meaningful transfer of technology, and technology must be adapted to local needs. Accordingly, his delegation looked forward with optimism to the forthcoming Conference on Science and Technology, which would provide a real test for partnership and co-operation between nations.

27. His delegation saw UNDP as the co-ordinating agency for all technical co-operation within the United Nations system. It had noted with satisfaction the Administrator's remarks concerning the need to ensure an integrated and interdisciplinary approach to operational activities, particularly in the field. UNDP should seek to expand its country programming system to integrate the activities of participating and executing agencies, so that recipient countries

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(Mr. Rambissoon, Trinidad and Tobago)

could channel the assistance received according to their own development priorities. There should be greater delegation to field offices to enable them to meet the particular needs of individual countries. Greater emphasis must be placed on evaluation, and that need should be taken into account during the planning stages. Sectoral and multisectoral evaluation would become necessary as UNDP's co-ordinating role increased, but such broader evaluation would help to build UNDP's institutional memory, which could then be an input into improved country programmes.

28. Finally, his delegation recognized the need for UNDP to develop its dynamism and flexibility in response to growing needs for technical co-operation. It was pleased that the Programme had recovered sufficiently that the disruptions in programme implementation could soon be overcome.

29. Mr. RAKA-NOU (Papua New Guinea) said that his Government was very grateful to the various organizations within the United Nations system that had been actively assisting Papua New Guinea in its development programmes, especially in the fields of agriculture, education, health, transport and communications. It would, however, welcome further assistance in order to implement its current national development programmes. Papua New Guinea shared the view of other developing countries that the gap between the rich and the poor should be reduced to the barest minimum. It had pledged to contribute annually a sum of \$US 140,000 for the five-year period 1978-1982 for UNDP programme costs, and had pledged an additional \$US 18,000 at the recent Pledging Conference. His Government had also pledged a sum of \$US 6,200 to the UNICEF general resources. Those pledges reflected Papua New Guinea's support for the programmes of the bodies concerned.

30. His delegation supported the call of other representatives for regional commissions to recognize the wishes and aspirations of the subregional groups, for example the South Pacific Commission in the ESCAP region. It welcomed the establishment of the Agency Task Force and hoped that it would genuinely execute its responsibilities. His delegation wished to reiterate its position that the United Nations should heed the calls for assistance made by developing countries.

31. Mr. CHANG Ping-t sien (China) said that it was the strong desire and urgent demand of developing countries to safeguard their national independence and develop their national economies. The practical experience of many developing countries had confirmed the validity of the policy of self-reliance. It was only when developing countries took action in the light of the specific circumstances of their own countries, relied on the hard work of their own people and used their own resources to the maximum possible extent that they would succeed in developing their national economies at a relatively rapid rate.

32. Self-reliance did not preclude essential international aid; however, any aid, whether extended bilaterally or multilaterally through the United Nations, must strictly respect the equality and sovereignty of the recipient country, attach no political or military condition and seek no privileges. The purpose of the aid should be the independent and self-reliant development of the national economy of the recipient country.

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(Mr. Chang Ping-tsien, China)

33. Many institutional and policy problems persisted in the multilateral assistance of the United Nations, particularly in UNDP activities, which were still far from being able to meet the needs of the developing countries. Following the sixth special session of the General Assembly, the many developing countries had called on UNDP to revise the guidelines and policies of its work on the basis of the principles for the establishment of a new international economic order. Although the decision on new dimensions of technical co-operation had reflected certain demands of the developing countries, it had fallen far short of meeting the demands embodied in those principles. Furthermore, the decision had encountered considerable obstructions during its implementation. Although the world had undergone profound changes, there were still those who refused to agree to substantive reforms in UNDP and attempted to confine the Programme's institutions, policies and activities to the constraints laid down years previously. That approach was not only impracticable, but also ran counter to the wishes of the numerous developing countries. If UNDP was to do something beneficial for the economic development of the developing countries, it must be allowed to adapt itself to current conditions, and within existing UNDP institutions and policies there should be genuine reform in line with the principles on the establishment of a new international economic order, as the developing countries had urged.

34. The development and strengthening of technical co-operation among the developing countries and the promotion of individual and collective self-reliance among them constituted an important step in the struggle for the establishment of a new international economic order. The activities undertaken in that connexion by the relevant United Nations bodies were obviously very inadequate in terms of the efforts required for the establishment of a new order.

35. United Nations technical co-operation activities, from the recruitment of experts, the procurement of equipment and subcontracting to the provision of fellowships, had long been controlled and dominated by the super-Powers and a handful of developed countries. The developing countries rarely had an opportunity to participate. The numerous developing countries had therefore made entirely reasonable and legitimate calls for the revision of the existing rules, regulations and procedures of the United Nations technical co-operation bodies, and in particular for a substantial increase in the share of developing countries in the recruitment of experts, procurement of equipment, subcontracting and financing of research. Those demands in no way constituted an attempt at "sharing markets", as some had alleged. Their realization would most certainly not lead to a lower quality of technical co-operation activities; on the contrary, it was only by meeting those demands that United Nations technical co-operation activities could take a step forward in the implementation of the Declaration and Programme of Action of the sixth special session of the General Assembly and contribute in a practical and effective way to the economic development of the developing countries. UNDP and the executing agencies should take to heart the views and demands of the developing countries and speedily adopt measures to introduce reforms in their irrational rules and regulations in order to respond better to the continuous needs of the developing countries in the field of technical co-operation.

36. China was a socialist country; it shared a common historical past with the countries of the third world and faced a similar fighting task. It had

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(Mr. Chang Ping-tsein, China)

consistently supported and actively participated in economic and technical co-operation among the developing countries and, while working hard to build up its own country on the basis of independence, self-reliance and frugality, it had entered into economic and technical co-operation with friendly countries of the third world through bilateral and multilateral channels. That was genuine co-operation on the same militant front through mutual support and learning from each other. Its aim was to promote the self-reliance of each country. On the basis of that consistent stand, China supported the Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries to be held in 1978 and hoped that the Conference, following the correct orientation of the sixth special session of the General Assembly regarding the establishment of a new international economic order, would give full play to the positive role of the numerous developing countries, eliminate super-Power meddling and sabotage and make a due contribution to strengthening unity and co-operation among the third world countries and to the struggle to abolish the old and introduce the new in the international economic field.

37. Mr. KUSMIERKIEWICZ (Poland) said that the importance of operational activities was constantly growing not only because of their direct positive impact on the economic and social development of the world but also because of their valuable role in promoting multilateral co-operation among all countries, regardless of their economic and social systems, and in contributing to the consolidation of détente and international security, which was an indispensable condition for the development of all countries.

38. His delegation considered that the role of UNDP as the central agency in the United Nations technical co-operation system should be further strengthened and should continue to be based on the principle of universal and voluntary participation. Voluntary contributions should correspond both in size and in currency to the level of development and actual financial position of the donor country. United Nations bodies and agencies concerned with operational activities should not limit their technical co-operation and assistance to only some of the world's regions, as that could lead to dangerous stagnation and would have a detrimental effect. While there was clearly a need to continue the shift in the distribution of resources to the least developed countries, the participation in UNDP assistance of middle-income countries was a very important factor in its expansion. His delegation welcomed the decision of the UNDP Governing Council on the role and activities of the Programme and the reaffirmation of the 1970 Consensus.

39. The successful completion of the first programme cycle and the progress made in programming activities for the second cycle had shown that the five-year programming of technical assistance at the national, regional, interregional and global levels had been a correct approach, enabling countries and regions to utilize the assistance more effectively within their over-all economic and social development plans. The studies undertaken in implementation of General Assembly resolution 3508 (XXX) would also contribute to more effective programming of multilateral technical assistance. His delegation was convinced that, with the extension of operational activities during the second programming cycle, UNDP and the executing agencies would be increasingly interested in a more effective and wider utilization of the Polish offer of co-operation with regard to purchases of

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(Mr. Kusmierkiewicz, Poland)

equipment and services from available UNDP resources for projects in the developing countries.

40. His delegation was concerned about the geographical distribution of posts both in the secretariats of UNDP and the specialized agencies and in the field projects, and believed that the capacity in the field of expert services existing in Poland and a number of other countries, including developing countries, was not sufficiently utilized.

41. Further improvement was needed in co-ordinating activities in the technical assistance programmes between UNDP and the executing agencies, and especially in avoiding duplication of efforts and waste of resources. Although more resources were needed to implement expanding development programmes, the proliferation of funds did not serve that purpose, as it was accompanied by increasingly high administrative costs and consequently had a detrimental effect on the effectiveness of technical assistance programmes.

42. The "new dimensions" concept was a useful instrument in performing the tasks of UNDP; for Poland, that concept meant the linking of the broad objectives of the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order and the progressive principles of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States with the specific goals underlying national, regional and global projects. In its programme of co-operation with UNDP, Poland put considerable stress on the development of co-operative projects involving countries with different social systems and economic levels, such as the Trans-European North-South Motorway Project. The UNDP projects which had so far been implemented in Poland had not only assisted in solving some sectoral problems but had also helped to build up the country's capacity to co-operate with and assist the developing countries, particularly by providing experts and fellowships for projects in those countries. That approach had been fully adopted in all projects under the second Polish country programme. Poland continued to increase its voluntary contribution to UNDP and was quite close to reaching net-contributor status.

43. Poland was one of the countries which had initiated the 1959 Declaration of the Rights of the Child, and it had always supported the provision of assistance to children through international multilateral co-operation. It fully supported the activities of UNICEF, and its co-operation with the Fund had enabled it to devise effective ways of transferring Polish assistance to children in other countries. It shared the concern of the Executive Director about the lack of resources to meet the ever-growing needs and to fund expanding UNICEF programmes; for that and other reasons, it had increased its contribution for 1977.

44. Mr. CORDERY (United Kingdom) emphasized the importance his delegation attached to the operational activities of the United Nations as the "leading edge" of the system, not only in themselves but also for what they could reveal about the problems which the world community faced. Valuable work was being done on basic needs, particularly by ILO following the 1976 World Employment Conference. The discussions in the Committee had shown clearly that there was no conflict between basic needs and the achievement of a more just and equitable international economic order.

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(Mr. Cordery, United Kingdom)

45. His delegation agreed that the financial burden of the operational activities of the United Nations should be more evenly spread. Over the years, his Government had been one of the leading contributors to United Nations voluntary funds, and it intended to maintain and improve its record. It had indicated in the past its willingness to consider, with other donors, possible ways of providing UNDP with a firmer indication of the level of future funds, although it would not be able to support any measures that impinged on the essential voluntary nature of the Programme. He joined previous speakers in urging those Governments which had been less generous than others in the past to bring their contributions more in line with their ability to pay, and reaffirmed his delegation's views on the undesirability of the practice of making contributions in the form of non-convertible currency.

46. There was clearly a relationship between the resources made available for operational activities and the efficiency with which those activities were carried out; donors must be confident that as high a proportion as possible of their funds was going to projects in the field, that those projects were aimed at areas where the need was greatest, and that they achieved the greatest possible impact for each dollar spent on them. He commended the Administrator of UNDP for his efforts to improve the Programme's administrative effectiveness and the steps taken to involve the agencies more closely with UNDP's work. Co-operation between UNDP and the agencies was vital to the efficiency of the system, and the positive response of the agencies to the Administrator's initiatives had therefore been very welcome. His delegation regarded the coherence of the system as a further prerequisite for the efficient management of United Nations operational activities. He reaffirmed his Government's support for the principles of the Consensus and for UNDP's role as the primary source of technical co-operation funds in the United Nations system.

47. Mr. DELIVANIS (Greece) said that the results achieved in the operational activities of the United Nations were the best indication of the efficiency of the United Nations and its ability to contribute to the solution of the problems affecting mankind, particularly those in greatest need. His delegation therefore felt that the organization of the institutions concerned must be as rational as possible, that the co-ordination of their activities must be the best, that duplication of efforts must be avoided, that complete and accurate publicity must be given to results, and that those in charge at both the decision-making and the executive levels should be subject to appropriate rotation and should not always be of the same nationality. There was also a need to avoid excessive formality, unnecessary travel and undue delays, and to concentrate on results.

48. Apart from those very important considerations of principle, Greece was satisfied in general with the operational activities of the United Nations. It believed that contributions must be voluntary and was certain that, the more real results an institution achieved, the more the Governments of Member States would be ready to support it. Everyone, including international organizations, had to adapt to rapidly changing world conditions in order to survive; when an institution was unable to secure funds, that proved that it was not operating effectively, at least in the view of those on whose support it had to rely, which in turn meant that the aims had to be revised or public relations improved so as to persuade the public, and above all Governments, that the activities were effective.

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49. Mr. DE BEIR (Belgium) said that Belgium fully supported the 1970 Consensus and believed that further changes in the methods used by UNDP and the agencies were not justified at present, since there had not been time for all the new elements of the Consensus to be fully assessed. As far as Belgium was concerned, UNDP was the only world programme for development co-operation, it played a central role in technical assistance activities within the United Nations system, and it should remain the principal source of financing for such assistance. UNDP's central role in those activities had indeed been strengthened by the introduction of the "new dimensions". Belgium firmly believed in the principle of integrated development planning, and recognized the need for even better and closer co-ordination of UNDP assistance with that provided by other United Nations bodies such as the specialized agencies, while respecting their fields of competence and responsibility. The restructuring currently under consideration in the United Nations would no doubt provide a solution to that problem, and also to the problem of proliferation of funds, to which his delegation was opposed.

50. His delegation believed that the purposes for which UNDP funds were raised were to meet the needs of the most disadvantaged developing countries, to help the poorest strata of the population, and to contribute to the establishment of a new international economic order. It hoped that the relatively more prosperous recipient countries would forgo all or part of the funds that had been allocated to them for the second cycle, as some had already done. He might add that recipient countries in a position to do so should try to assume an increasing proportion of the cost of UNDP activities in their countries. With regard to the Administrator's appeal to contributors to explore the possibility of making multi-year pledges, Belgium would certainly see what could be done, subject to its internal financial regulations. There were a number of countries which, despite the efforts already made in that direction, ought to pay a still larger part of their contributions in convertible currencies. His delegation also considered it essential that all possible efforts should be made to reduce the exorbitant administrative costs of the Programme; according to its calculations, approximately 28 per cent of available funds had been used for that purpose in 1976.

51. His delegation believed that the central role of UNFPA in co-ordinating international assistance in the field of population was conducive to greater awareness of the importance of demographic problems on the part of Governments of developing countries. The result would, of course, be a fairly rapid increase in requests for assistance, which the available resources would not always be sufficient to meet. UNFPA's funds should therefore be used primarily for the benefit of the countries in greatest need.

52. His delegation believed that an effort should be made to involve women more closely in the various stages of the development activities of the United Nations. It welcomed UNFPA's action in incorporating in its work programme the World Plan of Action on the integration of women in development and establishing a set of guidelines on the relationship between the status of the women and population activities, and hoped that it would continue to follow that course.

53. Mr. ABDULLAH (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that his delegation attached particular importance to the work of UNDP, which was the main body for channelling assistance to promote the economic and social development of the developing countries

(Mr. Abdullah, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)

within the framework of national development programmes. He urged UNDP to continue to give priority to the least developed and most disadvantaged countries, national liberation movements and newly independent States. He commended the Administrator for his decision to establish a Task Force to co-ordinate operational activities and for his efforts to reduce administrative costs.

54. His country supported the decisions adopted at the World Population Conference and the emphasis which the UNFPA placed on programmes for countries with particular difficulties in the field of population.

55. At the recent Pledging Conference on UNICEF, his country had increased its contribution as an indication of its support for the Fund's efforts to improve the situation of children and mothers, particularly in Africa, where more than half the children of the world lived. His delegation supported the target of \$200 million per annum in contributions and the designation of 1978 as the International Year of the Child. He urged UNICEF to make maximum use in its operational activities of the experts available in developing countries.

56. Despite the commendable efforts of the World Food Programme, hunger still persisted in many countries and millions of people throughout the world suffered from malnutrition as a result of the unequal distribution of world resources under the present unjust economic order. In order to ensure the success of WFP's efforts to eradicate hunger, it was essential to establish a new international economic order based on genuine co-operation and free from all threats and pressures.

57. Mr. ISLAM (Bangladesh) emphasized the importance of the role of the United Nations and its operational agencies in establishing the new international economic order. It was wrong to regard the objective of reducing inequities in international economic relations and the basic needs strategy as mutually exclusive. Satisfaction of basic human needs was only one factor in the over-all development of the developing countries, and it was both an instrument for and an effect of socio-economic progress.

58. The assistance rendered to his country by United Nations agencies was expected to total \$77 million in the fiscal year 1977/78, as compared with \$68 million in 1976/77. UNDP was the principal source of that assistance and was carrying out a number of new projects, including projects in the water sector. Consultations were currently taking place between UNDP and his Government concerning the preparation of the second country programme. The United Nations Capital Development Fund had recently approved three projects in Bangladesh, and steps were under way to make them operational. As a token of its appreciation of those activities, his Government had increased its voluntary contribution to UNDP and UNCDF for 1978 by 14 per cent.

59. His Government strongly supported the work of WFP and had recently signed an agreement with the Programme under which 314,000 tons of wheat would be provided over a three-year period for the food for work and the vulnerable group feeding programmes. The food for work programme was particularly interesting as a means of mobilizing vast rural human resources and was being integrated with the Government's general rural economy development plan. While augmenting rural income by creating additional employment, the programme laid the foundation for durable infrastructural development, created local leadership and ensured broad-based mass participation in the rural development process.

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(Mr. Islam, Bangladesh)

60. His country attached particular importance to the work of UNICEF, since more than 45 per cent of its population were children below the age of 15. It fully supported the Fund's work, particularly the emphasis on expanding basic services. He commended UNICEF in particular for its emergency operation in his country following the return of a large number of refugees immediately after the liberation, and for its projects to provide safe drinking water and its rural water supply programme.

61. It was to be hoped that the International Year of the Child would stimulate national and international awareness of the situation of children throughout the world, particularly the 500 million underprivileged children living in a state of poverty and deprivation in the developing countries. With the financial assistance of UNICEF, a Bangladesh research organization, the Foundation for Research and Education, Development and Planning had already completed a study on the situation of children in Bangladesh.

62. Since his country was one of the most densely populated in the world, his Government was particularly interested in the work of UNFPA and recognized its increasingly significant role in the field of population in developing countries. Bangladesh had adopted a population policy that gave priority to family planning with a view to substantially reducing the rate of population growth in order to ensure that the results achieved by national development efforts were not nullified by high population growth. UNFPA already played a catalytic role in those efforts, and his Government looked forward to a substantial increase in the Fund's activities in his country.

63. UNDP should incorporate the concept of technical co-operation among developing countries in its regular programme by encouraging the use of expertise and know-how available in the developing countries in the execution of development projects, thus helping to promote the individual and collective self-reliance of the developing countries.

64. His delegation supported the proposal for improved co-ordination of operational activities contained in Economic and Social Council resolution 2110 (LXIII), which endorsed the decision adopted at the twenty-fourth session of the UNDP Governing Council concerning the role of UNDP in the United Nations development system.

65. Mr. HAJNAL (Hungary) said that his delegation attached special importance to UNDP activities aimed at promoting rapid, balanced economic and social progress in the developing countries, strengthening their production capacity and economic independence and expanding and diversifying their participation in the international division of labour with a view to establishing a more just and democratic system of international economic relations. It was essential to consolidate and extend the process of détente in order to maintain an international atmosphere conducive to the development of economic and technical co-operation among nations.

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(Mr. Hajnal, Hungary)

66. The report of the UNDP Governing Council contained in document E/6013/Rev.1 gave a balanced picture of the achievements to be consolidated and the deficiencies to be corrected in order to enhance UNDP's contribution to the development of the developing countries. His delegation supported the efforts to make programmes more cohesive and more responsive to the needs of the developing countries and favoured forward planning and the integrated approach to development. However, there were certain short-comings in the activities that had been carried out during the first programming cycle, such as the decline in project implementation and over-concentration in the geographical distribution of UNDP inputs. Those short-comings had been further aggravated by the eroding effects of inflation in the developed market economy countries and the 1975 liquidity problems. It was encouraging to note that UNDP had now recovered from its financial difficulties and that a marked improvement could be expected in project approval and delivery.

67. He endorsed the views expressed at the twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council concerning the future role and activities of UNDP and noted with satisfaction that there had been virtually unanimous agreement concerning the need to maintain the provisions of the 1970 Consensus. His delegation supported country programming as the best means of ensuring maximum impact by UNDP assistance. However, it could not support proposals that were tantamount to imposing obligations in respect of the volume or currency of voluntary contributions to UNDP. His country had increased its voluntary contribution to UNDP whenever it had been in a position to do so and would continue those efforts in the future. Ninety per cent of Hungary's contribution was made in its non-convertible national currency, which was fully usable by UNDP. He reaffirmed the views expressed by his delegation and several others concerning the need to expand the geographical scope of the sources of material, technical and intellectual inputs in UNDP-assisted projects in order to avoid the accumulation of assets in certain non-convertible currencies. There was a regrettable lack of information concerning the possibilities that existed for co-operation between his country and developing countries. He hoped that the contacts which had been established between his country and UNDP would help to eliminate that difficulty.

68. His delegation agreed with the recalculation and increase of the indicative planning figures of several developing countries, including Angola and Mozambique, and concurred in the approval of most of the country programmes dealt with by the Governing Council. It could not, however, endorse the approval of country programmes for régimes which continued to act in violation of the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

69. His delegation also supported the decision of the Governing Council to hold only one annual session and a three-day meeting of the Council, which should result in budgetary savings and in better preparation for the sessions.

70. His country endorsed UNICEF's emphasis on projects directly and indirectly related to development and supported the introduction of medium-term planning. It also supported the designation of 1978 as the International Year of the Child and urged that special emphasis should be placed on organizing activities at the country, regional and interregional levels. In Hungary, various government organs

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(Mr. Hajnal, Hungary)

and social and mass organizations were collaborating with UNICEF in the preparation of a wide-ranging programme of action to observe the Year, and a committee would be formed to ensure proper preparation and realization of the programme. His Government was considering holding an international forum of government experts from a large number of countries in 1979 to review the changes that had occurred in the situation of children throughout the world since the adoption of the Declaration of the Rights of the Child, to examine subsisting problems and to work out proposals for improving the condition of children and fully implementing the principles contained in the Declaration. He hoped that the appropriate United Nations bodies would co-operate in the preparations for that forum. His delegation supported draft resolution A/C.2/32/L.17/Rev.1 and urged that a report on activities within the framework of the International Year of the Child should be submitted to the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session.

71. UNFPA played an important role in increasing public awareness of the need to channel more financial and intellectual resources towards solving population problems. He hoped that, as a result of the contacts between his Government and UNFPA, its experience in the population field would be made more available to developing countries.

72. With regard to the World Food Programme, he reiterated the views expressed by his delegation during the debate on agenda item 63 and emphasized in particular the importance of WFP's efforts to promote agricultural and rural development and of the two large-scale WFP projects in Viet Nam. While maintaining its position of principle concerning the establishment of target levels for programmes financed from voluntary contributions, his Government was considering increasing its contribution to WFP.

73. Mr. BOCALANDRO (Uruguay) reaffirmed Uruguay's support for UNDP as the central funding body for technical co-operation within the United Nations system. UNDP made an effective contribution to the achievement of national development objectives and, in his country, had collaborated with national planning bodies in highly successful projects in priority areas in the field of economic and social development. His Government was therefore concerned at the proposals concerning the utilization of resources and the establishment of priorities in UNDP activities made by the Administrator. It had hoped that, as a result of the improvement in UNDP's financial situation and the significant progress that had been achieved towards the achievement of the target of 14 per cent annual increase in contributions, the increase in project approval and delivery which the Administrator had referred to in his opening statement would benefit all developing countries. Unfortunately, however, that increase would not apply to his country or most of Latin America. On the contrary, the indicative planning figure for Uruguay had been reduced in real terms after having been frozen for five years at the level established at the end of the first cycle. Moreover, its participation in the Programme had effectively been reduced while that of many other countries outside Latin America had doubled or trebled over the same period. That reduction had been applied despite the fact that his country had been directly and seriously affected by developments in world trade that had resulted in a considerable increase in the price of its imports and a reduction in the value of its main exports and had seriously hampered its development programme and its efforts to maintain an adequate rate of growth.

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(Mr. Bocalandro, Uruguay)

74. His delegation shared the concern expressed by previous speakers regarding the proliferation of special funds, which created administrative difficulties and reduced the effectiveness of development assistance efforts. All attempts to establish new funds should be actively discouraged unless their purposes were outside the wide terms of reference of UNDP.

75. UNDP could play an important role in promoting technical co-operation among developing countries and his delegation strongly supported the recommendations contained in the study prepared by a Senior Consultant to the Administrator referred to in document E/6013/Rev.1, chapter XII, concerning increased utilization by UNDP of the technical capacity available in the developing countries.

76. Within the context of its traditional position on population issues, his country supported UNFPA's activities. His Government was of the view that all nations had the right freely to determine their own population policy and was opposed to all attempts to establish universal criteria for the solution of population problems. Parents alone had the right to decide how many children they should have, and Governments should not influence that decision otherwise than by providing the necessary conditions to ensure that it was freely made. Population problems should be solved within the family, and his Government supported all initiatives aimed at protecting that unit.

77. His delegation strongly supported UNICEF's efforts to alleviate the effects of disease, ignorance and poverty on children. He emphasized the need to ensure a suitable balance between basic services programmes and special medium-term and long-term assistance measures in order to increase the effectiveness of UNICEF's activities.

78. His delegation endorsed the designation of 1979 as the International Year of the Child and hoped that it would focus world attention on children's issues. His country would make every effort to ensure that the activities of the Year produced concrete results that would lead to an improvement in the living conditions, education and health of children.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.