

United Nations
**GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**

THIRTY-SECOND SESSION

*Official Records**



SECOND COMMITTEE
47th meeting
held on
Tuesday, 15 November 1977
at 3 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 47th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. OLIVERI LOPEZ (Argentina)

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Distr. GENERAL
A/C.2/32/SR 47
21 November 1977
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

77-58098

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The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 61: OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT (continued) (A/32/3 and Add.1 (part III), A/32/61, 236; A/C.2/L.17/Rev.1)

1. Mrs. CISNEROS de PEREZ (Venezuela) said that two factors had caused the work of UNDP to be less than satisfactory. First, the major contributing countries had not provided adequate resources to attain the targets established by UNDP. Secondly, UNDP, which should be the co-ordinating centre for technical co-operation and the central source of development assistance funds, had seen that function weakened, with the resulting adverse effects on the recipient countries. The efforts the Administrator had made to mitigate those short-comings therefore deserved commendation.

2. Her delegation believed that the universal character of the Programme should be strengthened by utilizing the experience and capacities of as many countries as possible, particularly developing countries. Moreover, the technical assistance supplied to developing countries should have a multiplier effect so that those countries could share the benefit of their experience with other developing countries. If technical co-operation was to have a beneficial effect on the recipient country and also to have a multiplier effect, it had to be preceded by the following measures: definition of a national policy for technical co-operation, correlation of the national technical co-operation policy with national development plans, and creation of a co-ordinating unit with the requisite authority to monitor the co-operation received. Such measures would establish a better correlation between the co-operation needed, the co-operation sought and the co-operation received, which would inevitably lead to greater efficacy.

3. Her delegation believed that technical co-operation was very important for the achievement of collective economic independence and a fundamental element of the new international economic order, but that without suitable national organization and structural improvements, it became meaningless.

4. Mr. BA-ISSA (Democratic Yemen) said that a growing number of countries had become aware that development problems affected everybody and that the existing economic structure was not helpful to the efforts of developing countries to improve their living conditions. It was that that made it necessary to establish a new international economic order in which all would participate on an equal footing.

5. UNDP was satisfactorily performing its role of co-ordinating development assistance, both multilateral and bilateral, in spite of the fact that expectations with regard to financial resources and the level of technical assistance had not been fulfilled. It was to be hoped, however, that voluntary contributions to the Programme would increase so that it could effectively perform its functions. Moreover, in view of the limited resources available to developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, the activities of the Programme should complement their efforts to achieve economic independence. In

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(Mr. Ba-Issa, Democratic Yemen)

that connexion, it would be very helpful to make an evaluation of project execution and of the degree of co-ordination achieved with individual United Nations agencies.

6. His delegation welcomed the decision to establish an Arab regional office and trusted that it would soon be given adequate resources to carry out its work. It emphasized the importance of giving assistance to national liberation movements and peoples struggling against colonial and racist régimes; that assistance should continue.

7. Although the United Nations Capital Development Fund played an important role in the least developed countries, whose economic development was at a key stage, the result of its activities had not been as satisfactory as had been expected, largely because of its limited resources. He therefore hoped that the Pledging Conference would be a landmark in the development of the Fund's activities. His country hoped to intensify its relations with the Fund, which had undertaken to execute certain projects in Democratic Yemen.

8. Co-ordination of the activities of all the agencies and organizations of the United Nations was of fundamental importance for their effectiveness. In 1976 his country had suffered a drought of unprecedented severity which had caused great losses and seriously disrupted its economy. The co-ordination of national efforts with the assistance supplied by friendly countries and a number of international organizations had done much to alleviate part of the consequences of that natural disaster.

9. He commended the role being played by the World Food Programme and its contribution to the development and reconstruction efforts of many countries, especially by means of food aid. His country had received assistance from WFP and other agencies, such as UNICEF, UNFPA and the Office of Technical Co-operation.

10. UNICEF was carrying out very constructive work, particularly with regard to meeting the basic needs of children and safeguarding their future. His delegation supported the preparations for the International Year of the Child and hoped that the necessary resources could be found to attain its targets.

11. In his delegation's view, the Executive Director of UNFPA had succeeded in demonstrating the relationship between population and development. He stressed the excellent co-operation prevailing between his Government and the Fund with regard to the establishment of development priorities and project execution.

12. Mr. OYONO (United Republic of Cameroon) said that UNICEF was playing an important part in international development assistance. Natural disasters and the world economic crisis had aggravated the already precarious situation of children in the developing countries. With the assistance of UNICEF, it had been possible to alleviate that situation in part and save the lives of many such children. In proposing the basic services strategy, UNICEF had helped to ensure that the developing countries could provide for the needs of children in all aspects of their

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(Mr. Cyono, Cameroon)

lives. UNICEF efforts should be concentrated on the basic needs of the population, in particular through the use of human resources, since, in practice, the village and the rural community were the major agents of development.

13. His active and direct participation in the work of UNICEF had shown him that the developing countries in general, and Africa in particular, were high on UNICEF's list of priorities. He agreed with the Executive Director that the situation in which children in developing countries found themselves was intolerable, given that the necessary resources and infrastructures were, at least in part, already in existence. What was needed was to strengthen the political will. The fact that the basic services strategy was the fundamental key to a new international economic order benefiting all humanity, and children in particular, was gaining ever wider recognition. That strategy both could and should give tangible results; it was encouraging to note that it had been adopted not only by UNICEF, but by the entire United Nations system, and that the basic principle that the human being was both the means and the end of development had been accepted.

14. The International Year of the Child presented an excellent opportunity to promote the use of the new methods in economic and social development. It was to be hoped that all countries participating in the Year would adopt the necessary measures to strengthen and extend all basic services in favour of children.

15. Mr. ZELAYA (Nicaragua) wondered to what extent the United Nations had contributed to the promotion at the national level of development in accordance with the stipulations of international instruments concerning development, and how the sovereignty of States could be reconciled with the responsibilities of international institutions, which were obliged to fulfil the functions entrusted to them by international consensus.

16. The two United Nations Development Decades had been of fundamental importance for Latin America in general, and for Nicaragua in particular. More than ever, internal reforms were being sought to mitigate the consequences of the economic growth of the region since the Second World War.

17. The increasing interrelation between States and the international community gave rise to the need for certain fundamental operational assumptions. First, if nations and individuals were to be able to exercise their rights to self-determination more fully, the actions of both the State and the people must remain within nationally established and internationally acceptable guidelines. Second, the social function of wealth and the responsibility of those who exercised wealth by inheritance or who administered property on behalf of the nation and the State was more important than the distinction between private or public ownership or control of the means of production and demand. Third, material and human resources were part of a nation's heritage and their use for the common good was one of the indicators of the quality of development. Fourth, individual, municipal or State property, co-operatives, businesses and entities of other kinds were factors which could be manipulated and combined in development planning.

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(Mr. Zelaya, Nicaragua)

18. The economic effects had been taken into account almost exclusively with regard to growth in Latin America. The Economic Commission for Latin America had drawn attention to the general imbalance between social equity and the growth of economic production in Latin America. Between 1960 and 1970, for every \$2 increase in the personal income of the poorest 20 per cent of the population, the incomes of the richest 5 per cent had increased by \$325. Just as the gap between the poor and the rich countries was becoming wider and deeper, so, too, the differences between the privileged national minorities and the great impoverished majorities was becoming deeper and wider. External aid had stimulated and almost encouraged the maintenance of the poor in their intrinsically disadvantaged place in the national order.

19. He wondered if it might have been possible to achieve greater social equity with equal or greater economic efficiency by other means. The Second Committee had to decide whether it would accord more importance to correcting the imbalances and inequities afflicting the world economy or give greater attention to satisfying minimum human needs. His delegation agreed with the Administrator of UNDP that those approaches were complementary, not mutually exclusive. He was also pleased to note that the Administrator had scorned the reduction of the concept of basic needs to the minimum physical needs which had to be satisfied in order to keep a human being passive while he was being used to create wealth which he would not share.

20. An international civil servant had to deal with both aspects of the development question. On the one hand, he had received from the international community a mandate whose intention and ethical content he had to respect; on the other hand, his power to act was limited by the freedom of States to choose their development activities for themselves. His delegation felt that it was necessary to elaborate more fully and apply more widely the concept of unified development, to improve the quality of the services offered, and to use planning and programming methods and procedures open to the participation of all those involved in the common task of development. It should also be made easier for resident representatives to discharge the responsibilities incumbent upon them more fully. The reports before the Committee showed that the UNDP authorities were aware of the magnitude of that task and were dealing with it in a practical and reasonable manner.

21. It was necessary to strengthen the directing and co-ordinating function which earlier resolutions had conferred on the Programme, and to ensure that financing was provided with sufficient regularity to permit stable long-term planning. The United Nations system had a great capacity for development as far as the technical and financial aspects were concerned, but much remained to be done in the field of developing human resources. Although the basic theories had been adequately

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(Mr. Zelaya, Nicaragua)

worked out, the operational apparatus had been unable to adapt to the reality of political factors and social situations. UNDP and the Centre on Transnational Corporations could provide the abilities needed to collaborate on that task, drawing also, under the general co-ordination of UNDP, on the rich experience of the organizations in the system.

22. Mr. de PINIES (Spain) said that his country regarded UNDP as the central body for the financing of technical co-operation in the United Nations system. Since Spain had renounced its indicative planning figure in 1975 and had become a net contributor to UNDP, it was particularly eager to become more closely associated with the work of UNDP and therefore welcomed the fact that it would be a member of the Governing Council from 1978. The financial crisis of the past year and a half had been overcome, and the results of the first programming cycle were encouraging. His Government had decided to continue increasing its contributions and support for UNDP as much as possible and was aware of the fact that, as a country which had attained a certain level of development, its responsibilities with respect to countries at a lower level of development were increasing. However, the economic crisis in Spain continued, and in July 1977 the Government had been compelled to devalue the peseta by almost 25 per cent and initiate a programme of austerity. Spain had not, therefore, been able to increase its dollar contribution to UNDP, but the effort involved in maintaining that contribution was 25 per cent greater than the year before, and the Spanish Parliament would have to approve an increase well above the average increase in contributions to UNDP, namely 10 per cent.

23. His delegation supported the basic policies which UNDP had outlined for the future, and, in particular, the allocation of a growing share of its resources and projects to the least developed countries. It also supported the basic needs approach which it regarded as not only not inconsistent with the objectives of the new international economic order but as one of its basic elements. If technical co-operation did not help to satisfy basic needs - a necessary pre-condition for sustained growth - it could hardly contribute to the attainment of the objectives of the new international economic order. The basic needs approach represented an attempt not to replace the domestic political objectives of States by externally imposed objectives but, on the contrary, to provide countries with scarce resources with the means to attain social objectives which they themselves had defined and established.

24. His delegation also wished to reaffirm the support of his country for the activities of UNICEF and the preparations for the International Year of the Child.

25. Mr. SALAZAR (Costa Rica) said that, thanks to UNICEF, the basic services strategy had been applied in his country's rural health programme since 1970. As a result of the co-operation between national institutions and UNICEF, his country had established a network of health centres, auxiliary nurses and community leaders which had served as a basis for the implementation of other programmes financed entirely by the Government. That was the case of the family allowances and social development programme, which provided daily meals in school cafeterias to two thirds of the primary schoolchildren and paid monthly pensions to citizens over 60 years of

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(Mr. Salazar, Costa Rica)

age who were not members of a pension fund. The experience acquired through co-operation with UNICEF was also reflected in the operations of the primary health services which had helped to lower infant mortality in 1976 to the level recommended for 1980 in the 10-year health plan for the Americas.

26. His Government hoped that, at the national level, the holding of the International Year of the Child would provide an opportunity to revise programmes for the benefit of children, to draw the attention of the public to the needs of children, and to promote specific action in that respect.

27. Mr. QUENTIN (Italy) said that the central role of UNDP in the field of international development operations and its close co-operation with Governments of recipient countries, as provided for under the country programming system, was satisfactory to the great majority of Governments, including the Italian Government. The same was true of the role of the resident representative in co-ordinating all United Nations development activities in the field.

28. With a view to increasing the effectiveness of UNDP activities, it would seem appropriate, first, to strengthen co-operation with the executing agencies both at Headquarters and in the field. In that respect, some constructive work had been carried out by the Inter-Agency Task Force, the meetings of which had been attended by representatives of UNDP as well as by representatives of ILO and WHO, who would shortly be joined by representatives of UNESCO, UNIDO and the Office of Technical Co-operation. His delegation would have liked FAO to have been included among the agencies whose co-operation had been requested. Moreover, the policy of reducing administrative expenditure initiated by the Administrator should be pursued relentlessly.

29. Secondly, from the point of view of donor countries, UNDP would become more effective to the extent that it could count on a stable and increasing flow of resources. The Governing Council should avoid setting over-optimistic targets and should induce donors to base their contributions on commitments covering several years. The Italian Parliament was examining the possibility of deciding on its contribution to UNDP for a three-year period. Moreover, his delegation believed that, in order to distribute the financial burden evenly, appeals should be made to all countries, including countries with centralized economies, to contribute to the well-being of the poorest segments of the world population. However, the appropriate bilateral consultations with Governments should be carried out by the Administrator himself. Multilateral consultations might prove sterile and counterproductive.

30. Finally, with respect to recipient countries, his delegation welcomed the fact that one country which had recently had considerable resources available to it had significantly increased its contributions to UNDP, qualifying for the list of major contributors in 1978; it also welcomed the fact that other developing countries had become net contributors.

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(Mr. Quentin, Italy)

31. As the body responsible for providing technical assistance to the poorest segments of the population, both in countries at an intermediate level of development and in the poorer countries, UNDP should dispense its skills and technology in those areas where private corporations were least likely to operate.

32. Mr. TSHERING (Bhutan) said that, in the present interdependent world, it was important to all countries that UNDP, which was attempting to lay the foundation for self-sustaining growth in the developing countries and to narrow the gap between rich and poor nations, should become viable and efficient. The economic crisis of late 1975 and 1976 had put the viability of the Programme to a severe test, and its financial problem had not yet been entirely overcome. The increase in pledges of voluntary contributions had actually fallen far short of the annual target that had been set of 14 per cent. It was to be hoped, however, that the Administrator would succeed in re-establishing UNDP on a sound financial footing.

33. His delegation fully supported the decentralization process and, in that connexion, welcomed the measures taken to improve programme evaluation and the authorization given to Resident Representatives to approve projects costing up to \$400,000.

34. In the view of his delegation, the cost of experts, which absorbed a large proportion of each country's indicative planning figure, constituted a serious problem. In addition, experts received considerably higher remuneration than the senior officials under whose supervision they were expected to function. Accordingly, his delegation supported the suggestions made at the twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council concerning a study of ways of reducing expert costs without compromising the quality of assistance and a study of the role of experts in the development process. In that connexion, he also wished to stress the importance of recruiting increasingly large numbers of experts from developing countries in order to promote technical co-operation among developing countries.

35. The attempt by UNDP to introduce the concept of new dimensions in technical co-operation was highly commendable. Giving the developing countries an expanded role in the setting of priorities and the execution of UNDP projects would certainly help them to achieve the goal of self-reliance. It was to be hoped that the activities of the second cycle would fully reflect such an approach. His delegation agreed that regional and global programmes should be translated as soon as possible into concrete measures of direct benefit to the developing countries.

36. Since levels of development differed from region to region and country to country, the principles and policies underlying the provision of assistance to developing countries had often been inoperative. That held especially true with respect to assistance to the least developed countries, which called for flexibility, as was recognized by the General Assembly in resolution 2768 (XXVI). It was perhaps because of its flexibility that the Capital Development Fund - which had received contributions from 62 Governments, 57 of which were developing countries - had proved to be so useful. It was to be hoped that other countries in a position to provide assistance would contribute to the strengthening of the Fund's position.

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(Mr. Tshering, Bhutan)

37. An examination of the activities carried out by the Office of Technical Co-operation revealed some duplication with those of other agencies in the system. In the interests of efficiency, the Office should confine itself to those activities which were not within the competence of other specialized agencies.

38. Bhutan especially appreciated the work of UNICEF and supported the observance of the International Year of the Child for which preparations were already being made at the national level. The main thrust of UNICEF efforts in Bhutan had been to support the Government's scheme for integrated socio-economic development. Its assistance had included basic health care, drinking water supply, pre-school care and primary education. His country attached particular importance to the concept of basic services, as was shown by its support for General Assembly resolution 31/167.

39. Mr. MYRVOLD (Norway) said that the stagnation in real terms of voluntary contributions to UNDP was a matter of grave concern to his Government. Despite the appeal made by the Governing Council at the recent pledging conference, the target of 14 per cent had not been attained. His delegation hoped that, in a demonstration of international solidarity, those countries which were in a position to increase their contributions would do so. Norway, for its part, had increased its contribution for 1977 by 26 per cent and would increase its contribution for 1978 by 22.5 per cent.

40. In order to promote the introduction of the structural changes in international economic relations required by the establishment of the new international economic order, UNDP had to adapt its policies and improve its efficiency. Although the Administrator had already taken steps in that direction with a view to making rational use of available resources and establishing better co-ordination, the administrative costs of operational activities carried out by the United Nations system continued to be unacceptably high and there were prospects of a failure to achieve the consolidation of those activities and the funds for financing them, called for by the Ad Hoc Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System. That criticism stemmed from his delegation's desire to see the United Nations play an increasing role in the total development effort of the international community.

41. It was encouraging to note the increased emphasis placed on the strengthening of economic self-reliance, both individual and collective, and on economic co-operation among developing countries. Greater use must be made of the resources of the developing countries themselves, and their Governments must participate more actively in the implementation of projects. His delegation also noted with satisfaction that the concept of basic needs and services, which could be adjusted to the established priorities of recipient countries, was increasingly being reflected in UNDP projects.

42. His delegation joined the Danish delegation in urging UNDP to pay special attention to the particular needs of ILO arising from its current economic crisis.

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(Mr. Myrvold, Norway)

43. As regards UNICEF, his delegation felt that despite an increase of some 15 per cent in Government contributions for 1978, the figure of \$104 million was a modest one. Thus, no effort should be spared to reach the 1979 target of \$200 million, and Governments should raise practically the whole amount. He approved the priority which UNICEF gave to basic services by supporting projects in the field of maternal and child health and clean water supply. He also welcomed the way in which UNICEF was adapting its activities to the concept of an integrated and interdisciplinary approach to development. In many ways, UNICEF was a model of the efficient use of scarce resources. Norway had taken an active part in UNICEF's work, and would continue to do so.

44. His delegation fully agreed with the emphasis on national and regional action to achieve the aims of the International Year of the Child. Norway had contributed \$500,00 to the extra administrative expenses which UNICEF would incur, and appealed to all countries to contribute towards the total of \$4.2 million needed.

45. In conclusion, he stated that his delegation attached great importance to the United Nations Fund for Population Activities and for that reason Norway's regular contribution to the Fund for 1978 would be increased to the equivalent of \$US 11.5 million, subject to Parliamentary approval. Also in 1978, Norway intended to contribute \$1.5 million to the establishment by UNEFPA of a common financing facility for population projects. Criteria had been established for the selection of priority countries for assistance in that field, but it was important to be flexible and to avoid an exclusive list of priority countries.

46. Mr. ROMULO (Philippines) said that the start of the second development cycle and the improved financial situation of the United Nations Development Programme had made it possible to focus attention on what the substantive role of the Programme in development co-operation should be. A fundamental issue was whether the emphasis of the system should be on restructuring economic imbalances between nations, or on satisfying basic human needs, particularly of the most deprived population groups. In his view both objectives were priority matters and were closely linked and interdependent. The basic needs concept was an essential part of the establishment of a new international economic order which would provide the indispensable basis for the development of national self-reliance in developing countries. He considered that the United Nations development system was flexible enough to respond to both priorities.

47. UNICEF was particularly well-suited to the promotion of the basic needs approach to development. The basic services strategy was a feasible means of meeting basic human needs, while promoting the long-term development process by enhancing the productive capacity of human resources, which were the most vital component of the development process. It also served the broad object of mobilizing the population, whose participation was critical to the national development effort. He therefore hoped that the level of voluntary contributions to UNICEF would reach the \$200 million target for 1979. At the UNICEF pledging conference his country had pledged an amount of \$413,732 for 1978.

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(Mr. Romulo, Philippines)

47a. The particular attention given to basic services in the special meeting on the situation of children in Asia showed the priority accorded to those services. The meeting had stimulated the interest of some UNICEF Executive Board members in convening meetings of a similar type in other regions, to provide input for the preparation and observance of the International Year of the Child at the national or regional levels. His delegation expected the preparations for the Year to be intensified in the course of 1978 and hoped that Governments would increase their efforts towards that end on a national level. The Philippines had already established a national commission for the purpose, had enacted appropriate legislation on behalf of the child, and proclaimed a Decade of the Philippine Child. He hoped that the relatively modest operating costs for the preparation of the Year could soon be subscribed. To that end, the Philippines had pledged a contribution of \$100,000 for the IYC secretariat.

48. The decision of the Governing Council of UNDP regarding the role and activities of the Programme confirmed the continuing validity of the 1970 consensus. His delegation therefore welcomed ECOSOC resolution 2110 (LXIII) which basically reaffirmed the principles of the consensus, including the role allotted to Resident Representatives. The extension of country programming to all other sources of United Nations technical co-operation should assist in ensuring an integrated interdisciplinary approach to operational activities at field level so that the country programme would become the basic unit of the United Nations development system. That would considerably enhance co-ordination at country level. His delegation welcomed the joint programming exercises being undertaken by the UNDP administration in co-operation with the agencies.

49. He was pleased to note that the Programme had again acquired a substantial degree of financial stability. However, the pledges at the recent conference would not be sufficient to ensure a 14 per cent annual increase in contributions through 1981. At the Paris Conference on International Economic Co-operation, Governments of developed countries had pledged themselves to make a substantial increase in their concessional development assistance. Nevertheless, the Administrator of UNDP had noted that in spite of the extraordinary efforts of a few donor Governments, the flow of official development assistance had virtually stagnated, in real terms. His Government had pledged \$600,000 to the regular resources of UNDP at its recent pledging conference, and in 1978 would make an additional amount of \$448,000 available in local currency, as a contribution to programme costs.

50. The Philippine Government welcomed the provision in ECOSOC resolution 2110 (LXIII) which called on the Administrator to invite, for informal discussions, interested Governments with a view to achieving, if possible, a multiyear financial basis for the Programme. His delegation had repeatedly stressed the need to promote greater automaticity as well as substantial increases in the flow of official development assistance, to provide a stable basis for long-term development planning.

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(Mr. Romulo, Philippines)

51. His delegation had noted with interest the decision of the UNDP Governing Council to establish a new Regional Bureau for the Arab countries and considered that regional decentralization should be encouraged and Regional Directors out-posted to their respective regions.

52. His delegation was gratified to note the increased support given to the United Nations Capital Development Fund after years of neglect. It also hoped that in time the Special Fund for the Land-locked Developing Countries would play a useful role in helping the countries concerned. The United Nations Volunteers programme deserved to be expanded, since it could evolve into a dynamic instrument for multilateral technical co-operation.

53. The United Nations Fund for Population Activities was well known for its success in terms of increasing the volume of its resources, sound administrative management and effective delivery of assistance. Its activities had contributed significantly to the perception of population policy as an integral component of development planning. His delegation welcomed the steps taken by the Fund to implement the criteria for the allocation of its resources and to formulate basic needs programmes. His delegation welcomed the Fund's support to interagency activities, such as the International Year of the Child, and its work in the field of technical co-operation among developing countries. The inclusion of population distribution and internal migration in the work programme of the Fund was likewise a constructive step. His Government wished to express its appreciation for the assistance it had received from the Fund. The results achieved in that field were encouraging: in 1976, for the first time in many years, the birth-rate, which had been 3.5 per cent, one of the highest in the world, had dropped to 2.6 per cent.

54. The United Nations Office of Technical Co-operation continued to be one of the largest executing agencies for UNDP projects and one of those which had the broadest range of expertise. His delegation believed that the United Nations should be directly involved in the development activities of the United Nations system and that it should therefore continue to devote a portion of its regular budget to technical co-operation activities, without prejudice to the decisions of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System. Lastly, his Government wished to commend the World Food Programme and express its support for the target of \$950 million for 1978-1979.

55. Mr. VAN BUUREN (Netherlands) said that in his country's view, UNDP occupied a central position in the United Nations system for development. At its twenty-fourth session the Governing Council had discussed in depth the content of the Programme (especially in relation to the goal of reaching the poorest sectors of the population), the financing of UNDP and other technical assistance programmes, and the place of UNDP in the United Nations system.

56. The Council had recommended that UNDP and the specialized agencies, in consultation with both donor and recipient Governments, should explore how best to meet development priorities and technical co-operation objectives, bearing in mind the need to assist the poorest sectors. That need should not be viewed in isolation but should be linked with the need to promote structural changes in international economic relations.

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(Mr. van Buuren, Netherlands)

57. His delegation considered that the basic needs concept not only tended to foster growth and equitable distribution of wealth within countries, but also had consequences for relations among countries. It had a considerable influence on the composition of imports and exports, and consequently on the direction of growth in other countries, and could provoke sweeping changes in the structure of production in industrialized countries. Consistent application of the basic needs principle would reduce not only income differences within developing countries, but also differences between countries. The basic needs concept should not be given an absolute interpretation, or be seen as an end in itself, but it merited more attention than it had received thus far.

58. His delegation wished to emphasize that it firmly respected the prerogatives of each Government with regard to the formulation of development policy. However, it might be useful to give an indication of what such a policy entailed. First, it was important to stimulate local initiatives, for true development could not be directed from above but must be wanted by the people themselves. Development must be both acceptable and understandable: an effective development strategy required the participation of the people in the lowest strata of society, even in the decision-making process. The core of that strategy was that need and not demand should indicate the direction production should take.

59. The United Nations Development Programme should be the central funding channel for development activities within the United Nations system and hence, as a matter of principle, his country had channelled a large part of its contributions to development activities through UNDP. As the central funding channel, UNDP was responsible for the efficient management of development resources, and his country welcomed the importance which the Administrator attached to that question. On the other hand, it was regrettable that the 10 per cent increase in voluntary contributions for 1978 fell short of the agreed target of 14 per cent. His country had increased its contribution by 15 per cent, but its willingness to contribute depended on the willingness of other countries to assume a greater share of the financial burden.

60. His Government wished to express its appreciation for what had been achieved thus far by the United Nations Volunteers programme. The United Nations Capital Development Fund was to be commended for the efficient way in which it provided assistance, especially to the poorest groups of the population and particularly in the least developed countries. His Government also wished to express its appreciation for the work of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities; its contributions would increase as the Fund's programmes grew.

61. In his delegation's view, UNICEF's major task during the coming years lay in the formulation of a strategy for basic services for children through which assistance to the poorest sectors of the population could be channelled. The International Year of the Child would receive maximum support from the Netherlands.

62. When agreeing to the target figure of \$950 million for the World Food Programme for 1979-1980, his delegation noted that there would have to be new donor countries.

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(Mr. van Buuren, Netherlands.)

63. In conclusion, he wished to stress the importance accorded by the Netherlands to the Ad Hoc Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System.

64. Mr. HASHIM (Bahrain) said that UNDP played a leading role in the provision of assistance to the developing countries by helping them to exploit their natural resources and diversify their economies. In order to do so, it relied on the support of rich countries, so that it was necessary for the latter to increase their economic contribution to the Programme and provide the much needed expert services.

65. It was not right for the rich countries to enjoy their privileged circumstances while the poorer ones were struggling in difficult situations of scarcity. As the Foreign Minister of Bahrain had stated in the General Assembly, all countries must contribute to the building of the new international economic order. Resources were limited in comparison with population, and international peace and security depended on a better distribution of wealth. It was inadmissible for three quarters of the world's population to receive only one third of the total income and for the developing countries to be no more than a market for the industrial products of the developed countries and sources of raw materials.

66. Bahrain supported UNDP's work in so far as it was able and was grateful for the co-operation which it had received in the last two programming cycles. With a 70 per cent input from Bahrain and a 30 per cent input from UNDP, programmes had been carried out in agriculture, fisheries, transport, health, education, vocational training and economic and social development planning. However, financing difficulties caused by inflation and the cost of experts had been an obstacle to the full success of its programmes. He hoped that in the future co-operation with UNDP would be strengthened.

67. His delegation supported UNICEF's efforts to benefit children. It considered that the celebration of the International Year of the Child was an enormous responsibility and was confident that that undertaking would be successful. In that connexion, he supported draft resolution A/C.2/32/L.17/Rev.1.

68. Mr. da NÓTTA (Portugal) said that, in view of the gravity of mass migration to the cities in developing countries, priority should be given to rural areas in development activities. He therefore welcomed the establishment of the ACC task force on integrated rural development, in which UNDP would co-operate with other bodies. Certain basic guidelines must be followed in that type of activity. Firstly, it was necessary to achieve a balance between agriculture and industry. Secondly, it was necessary to study and develop the proper use of land. The principles of industry should not be applied to agriculture, but, on the contrary, special work should be done at the village level, giving attention to the preservation of moral and cultural values which prevented the disintegration of rural life. In that context, the value of regional planning was unquestionable.

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(Mr. da Motta, Portugal)

69. With regard to the problem of unemployment in the developing countries, it was necessary to find appropriate technologies which provided jobs for the population. If the true purpose was to help individuals, the quality of life approach was more appropriate than the standard of living approach. In that connexion, it was especially important to satisfy basic needs, among which education occupied a very prominent place. It was also necessary to foster new patterns of production and consumption, taking into account the objective of achieving maximum well-being without indulging in excessive consumption.

70. In the development process the transfer of knowledge was more important than the transfer of material goods. It was basically a question of helping developing countries to achieve progress by themselves and to attain self-sufficiency. With regard to project and programme planning, it was necessary to incorporate certain economic and scientific considerations which had thus far been overlooked. Also, a more elaborate evaluation of the results must be made, taking into account both the quantitative and the qualitative aspects. In view of the importance of evaluation, his delegation was gratified at the progress achieved regarding the two-year evaluation programmes on technology and on the needs of the poorest strata of society and was pleased that the Governing Council had chosen rural development as an evaluation theme.

71. UNDP's central co-ordinating and harmonizing functions should be carried out in full partnership with the agencies. In that connexion, the initiative of establishing a special UNDP/agencies task force at Headquarters was a very constructive step. The integrated systems improvement project also seemed to have great potential with regard to the flow of information between the agencies and UNDP. The functions of the Inter-Agency Consultative Board should also be strengthened.

72. His delegation considered that the decentralization of UNDP was essential. It therefore welcomed the Council's decision to give the resident representatives the possibility of approving projects of up to \$400,000 and considered that their function of ensuring co-ordination among the representatives of the various agencies at the local level should be promoted. He hoped that the process of decentralization would also help to reduce administrative costs which were still too high, despite the Administrator's efforts.

73. The United Nations Volunteers programme provided a unique opportunity for young people from all over the world to work in close co-operation with the United Nations and reflected the recognition of the importance of the involvement of youth in the development process. It was also very encouraging to note that 60 per cent of the volunteers came from developing countries and that 30 per cent were women. His delegation therefore supported the decision taken by the Governing Council at its twenty-fourth session to publicize the role of the volunteers and to explain to recipient countries the advantages of their participation in the country's projects.

(Mr. da Motta, Portugal)

74. UNICEF's activities in favour of deprived children in developing countries were very commendable. His delegation supported the concept of basic services for children and considered the criterion of giving priority to village-level programmes, which countries could in the long-term finance on their own, very positive.

75. Mr. QADRUD-DIN (Pakistan) said that in recent years UNDP had been involved in a very difficult process of adjusting to financial difficulties. That phase could now be considered past, thanks to the increase in the contributions of the principal donors and the untiring efforts of the Administrator. UNDP programmes had played an important catalytic role in the developing countries, and he emphasized in that connexion the figures mentioned by the Administrator regarding the effects of development programmes on income distribution, which dispelled the impression that in many developing countries such programmes had led to increased disparity in income distribution. The raising of the standard of living of the poorest sectors of the population was an objective consistently pursued by the developing countries.

76. His delegation considered that, in order to increase UNDP's efficiency, it would be necessary, firstly, to broaden the concept of technical assistance to include assistance at all stages of projects, instead of limiting it to feasibility studies. It would also be necessary to place greater emphasis on the supply of materials and equipment and the increased use of local materials and experts. An effective method in that regard would be to specify precisely the proportions of equipment and experts in each project, taking duly into account the extent to which appropriate materials and experts were available in the various countries. With regard to the types of activity carried out by UNDP, his delegation felt it was necessary to maintain a reasonable balance between the various types of programmes receiving support; excessive emphasis on welfare programmes that were not immediately productive could pose a threat to the survival of other programmes that were directly productive and could provide resources for the former.

77. Emphasis should be placed also on the need for coherence in the activities of the representatives of the various bodies and specialized agencies of the United Nations in the developing countries. Host Governments would find it easier to deal with a unified United Nations representation. That could perhaps be achieved by making the resident representative the leader of the group of representatives of the various organs of the United Nations system.

78. With relation to the United Nations Capital Development Fund, his delegation considered that the Fund should make an important contribution to development activities, particularly in the least developed countries. With regard to the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, emphasis should be placed on the impressive growth of its resources. Control of demographic growth was one aspect of the development process, viewed as an effort to improve the living conditions of the population. In conclusion, he expressed his delegation's continuing support for the work of UNICEF; special emphasis should be placed on the promotion of primary education. It would be desirable for UNICEF's assistance to include the provision of school premises and services.

79. Mrs. ALLAM (Egypt), referring to operational activities for development,

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(Mrs. Allan, Egypt)

stressed that in Egypt UNDP's activities were integrated in the five-year development plan. She drew attention, in particular, to provisions for participation in the expenses of a project begun with UNDP co-operation that would benefit the Suez Canal zone. With regard to the activities of UNICEF, priority attention should be given to children in developing countries, because the offspring of parents having low wages and large families were not in the same situation as the offspring of parents having high wages and only two or three children. In Egypt, a Higher Council of the Child had been established to formulate policies to meet the needs of children. In addition, a national preparatory committee for the International Year of the Child had been set up.

80. The many projects which it was carrying out and the considerable increase in its funds reflected the importance of the activities of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities. Similarly, growing world co-operation on nutrition and food should make it possible to achieve the objectives of the World Food Programme.

81. In connexion with operational activities for development, emphasis should be placed on the co-ordinating role played by UNDP. With regard to technical co-operation, her delegation considered that co-operation among developing countries should not replace traditional co-operation between developed and developing countries. One of the tasks of the Conference to be held in Argentina would be to study various aspects of such co-operation and to reconcile those concepts. Basic needs should not be too rigidly defined; the basic needs of one country were not necessarily those of another.

82. Mr. MORSE (Administrator, UNDP) expressed appreciation for the support for the Programme which had been voiced during the debate and said that all the comments made would be taken into account in carrying out UNDP's activities. The expressions of support for the central role played by UNDP in the technical co-operation efforts of the United Nations system and for the steps taken to strengthen the financial basis of the Programme were very encouraging. In that regard, much remained to be done in order to reach the targets set for assistance to developing countries for the Second Decade. Governments could help in that effort by increasing their voluntary contributions, by paying programme costs, and by paying contributions and liquidating arrears promptly.

83. In the past two years considerable improvements had been made in the management of the Programme. Efforts would also be intensified to reduce administrative costs, not only to ensure that the largest possible share of the resources were devoted to the economic and social development of the developing countries but also to win and keep the confidence of all countries contributing to the Programme.

84. Mr. SALAS (Executive Director, United Nations Fund for Population Activities) expressed appreciation for the favourable comments of delegations and said that he had taken note of the guidelines laid down for the future implementation of General Assembly resolution 31/170 and of the interest shown in the Committee in the flexible application of the system of priorities in the various countries. He would also take into account the comments of representatives on the integration of population programmes in the development efforts being made by the various countries

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(Mr. Salas)

and on the participation of women in population activities. Attention would likewise be given to the guidelines laid down for increasing the efficiency of the Fund's activities and keeping administrative expenses at a low level.

85. In conclusion, he thanked those Governments which had announced an increase in their contributions, and particularly the Governments of the Netherlands, the United States of America and Norway.

86. Mr. MOE (Special Assistant to the Executive Director, UNICEF) expressed gratitude for the support shown in the Committee for the concept of basic services and for the importance which various delegations had attributed to the development of national capacities in the sphere of child-raising. He emphasized in particular the broad support for the preparations for the International Year of the Child and the attention given to national activities in that regard. Taking into account the enormous needs of children and the insufficiency of available resources, it was especially encouraging that it was recognized that UNICEF's resources must be increased substantially and as soon as possible and that the \$200 million target must be reached in 1979.

The meeting rose at 6.50 p.m.