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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 17th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. VALDES (Bolivia)

CONTENTS

AGENDA ITEM 58: UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE FOR TRAINING AND RESEARCH: ¹⁹⁷⁶REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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

AGENDA ITEM 58: UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE FOR TRAINING AND RESEARCH: REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (A/31/14, A/31/237)

1. Mr. NICOL (Executive Director, United Nations Institute for Training and Research), introducing the report of UNITAR (A/31/14), said that the Institute had tried to participate in the common endeavour to promote economic and social development and to establish a new international economic order. Referring to the fifteenth session of the Board of Trustees of UNITAR, held in New York from 14 to 16 September 1976, he said that, on that occasion, in addition to reviewing the work programme of the Institute for 1977 and adopting the revised budget for 1976 and the budget estimates for 1977, the Board had discussed two important questions in detail.
2. With regard to the first question, namely the possibility of organizations in the United Nations system and the Secretary-General making greater use of UNITAR to undertake programmes of studies and training on a contractual basis, there had been a very positive response from representatives of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the United Nations Development Programme. It had been felt that collaboration between UNITAR and other organizations in the system could increase to the common benefit of all the organizations. The report mentioned various examples of co-operation between UNITAR and other United Nations organizations, for instance, the participation of selected organizations as observers in the deliberations of the Board of Trustees. The Board had requested him to accelerate that process of collaboration, and it was to be hoped that the Institute would be able to serve the other organizations in the system by undertaking studies and training programmes. With regard to the second question considered by the Board, namely, the need to secure a firmer financial basis for the operation of the Institute, he pointed out that the previous year he had drawn the attention of the Board to the twin aspects of the problem: increased contributions from Governments and international organizations, and a more secure financial basis for the Institute. The Board of Trustees and he himself personally were grateful to the Committee for the consideration it had given to that appeal, and he noted that an operative paragraph (para. 3) had been added to General Assembly resolution 3403 (XXX), which had been recommended by the Second Committee. There had, however, been no substantial response to that appeal and he therefore urged that a similar appeal be included in any resolution which the Committee and the General Assembly might adopt at the current session, and that the Committee show its support for the principle of giving the Institute a firmer financial and budgetary infrastructure.
3. Referring to the main thrust of UNITAR's activities, he said that every effort had been made to orient its programmes in accordance with the Committee's request to give the necessary emphasis to the results of the sixth and seventh special sessions. A number of the Institute's research and training activities and the Project on the Future were making useful contributions in that area. In selecting projects, care had been taken not to duplicate projects being carried out

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(Mr. Nicol, UNITAR)

by other organizations in the United Nations system which had larger resources. The Institute had thus tried to concentrate on institutional aspects rather than on technical and academic aspects, in accordance with the statute and the guidelines established by the Board, which had endorsed that approach at its recent session. In that connexion, he pointed out that both the Board and his colleagues were ready to consider any specific suggestions which members of the Committee might make.

4. Referring to the compendium of documents on the new international economic order covering the years 1945 to 1975, which had been prepared by the Institute's librarians, he said that it was a practical aid to all scholars and diplomats who wished to study the development of that idea since the founding of the United Nations. The Institute would try to issue it in several languages in the near future.

5. With regard to training programmes, while maintaining its regular programmes, the Institute had developed new major trends in the planning, organization and implementation of both old and new programmes. They consisted in the institution of longer courses in addition to the short-term courses for diplomats, such as the new junior professional trainee programme and the ongoing international law programmes. Of the latter, both the refresher course held in Qatar and the fellowship programme at The Hague had concentrated on subjects relating directly to the new international economic order, such as sovereignty over natural resources and the legal aspects of development lending and of the transfer of technology. In its training programmes, the Institute had given increasing emphasis to immediately relevant questions, such as economic and financial development, medium-term planning and internal migration, and had made greater use of case studies, group discussions, simulation exercises, and so on. Great attention had been paid to interagency training for the staff of international organizations. At the seminar held in summer 1976 at the Schloss Hernstein, near Vienna, which had been attended by officials concerned with training from all parts of the United Nations system, there had been a discussion on the implications of the concept of the new international economic order for staff training within the system, both at Headquarters and in the field. Extrabudgetary financing would thus be sought for as many new activities as possible and attention would be focused in training on the new aspects of United Nations activities.

6. The main areas of research would continue to be the functioning and operation of United Nations organizations and activities, including economic and social development in tune with the system-oriented efforts for the establishment of the new international economic order. The Institute had strengthened its work on the peaceful settlement of disputes. It had continued to establish collaborative research relationships with institutions and scholars throughout the world, including the agencies and organizations in the United Nations system, and had tended increasingly to commission studies in various regions and countries while making maximum use of the limited staff of UNITAR. The Institute was also rationalizing programmes within the context of the financial constraints and implementing new projects where special purpose grants or contractual assignments became available or where major costs could be met by other organizations.

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(Mr. Nicol, UNITAR)

7. Virtually all the research carried out by UNITAR, with the exception of research dealing with traditional issues of peace and security, was directly or indirectly related to the results of the sixth and seventh special sessions, as could be seen from the table of contents of the report (A/31/14, pp. iv and v). Other work planned would deal with such subjects as the economic growth and social progress of developing countries; development policy alternatives for OPEC countries; the role of non-aligned countries in the United Nations; science, technology and management for development; and technology and social planning. Work on the potential of non-governmental organizations in international co-operation for development would continue. Studies had been completed on equitable sharing of world resources, the World Food Conference and global problem solving, and the settlement of disputes in regard to environmental matters. The papers presented at conferences or published by UNITAR staff included monographs on "Africa in the new emerging world order", "Towards a new international economic order: the UN and Third World Regionalism" and "International law and the changing world economic situation".

8. The Project on the Future had progressed considerably along the lines indicated by the Committee. In July and October 1976, two conferences had been held, at Laxenburg in Austria and at Göttingen in the Federal Republic of Germany, on petroleum and natural gas and on microbiological sources of energy respectively. Those conferences had involved the participation of international experts at the highest level from all parts of the world and all organizations in the United Nations system, who had made very high quality contributions which were now being published. Summaries of the results of those conferences were being disseminated for the benefit of officials of a non-technical audience. The following year UNITAR intended to organize conferences on water resources, the development of arid zones, and development planning and economic strategies of the future for developing countries, as well as symposia and studies to be carried out on a regional basis in Africa, Latin America and other areas. Those studies and conferences were directly concerned with issues which were the essential ingredients of any new international economic order and supplemented the work being done elsewhere in the United Nations system. In connexion with the Project on the Future, a study had been commissioned in which various theories and world models for future development would be analysed, which it was hoped would be very useful to officials and thinkers, particularly in developing countries, who were entrusted with the promotion of the new international economic order.

9. In 1976, an important regional training programme had been held in Jamaica and Cuba, with financial support from UNFPA, on various aspects of internal migration and its relationship to economic development. The results had been presented at Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, held at Vancouver. The Institute would like to organize similar workshops in other developing regions of the world if the necessary financial support was available.

10. The Institute's international law programmes were carried out on a regional basis, as established by the General Assembly in 1966. In 1974 and 1975, refresher courses had been held in Africa and in West Asia, and a similar course would be

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(Mr. Nicol, UNITAR)

held in Bangladesh in December 1976 for the rest of Asia and the Pacific. There were also plans to organize courses in the Caribbean and Latin America in 1977. The United Nations/UNITAR International Law Fellowship Programme enabled officials and scholars to keep abreast of developments in international law and to acquire practical experience of the legal work of international organizations. A regional approach had also been adopted in the choice and implementation of research studies. Examples were the studies on the role of the United Nations in promoting co-operation between countries having different economic and social systems, the United Nations and regional co-operation in West Africa, and co-operation for development concerning Arab development funds in the Middle East.

11. Co-operation between UNITAR and the United Nations University was developing along the lines envisaged by the Committee during consideration of the relevant reports. Officials of each organization participated in meetings of the governing body of the other and there were constant contacts between them in order to avoid duplication of resources and overlapping of activities. The Second Committee would have to consider relations between the two sister organizations at the appropriate time.

12. In conclusion, he referred to the statement made by the Secretary-General at the fifteenth session of the Board of Trustees to the effect that the Institute had continued to play an effective role in the work of the United Nations system and that he was glad to note the essentially practical nature of the projects described in the report of the Executive Director to the General Assembly and to note that, in the planning of a number of the projects chosen by the Institute, the request of the General Assembly that UNITAR should have regard to the new international economic order in preparing its programme of work had been taken into account. The Secretary-General had expressed the hope that the members of the Board would consider in detail the financial situation of the Institute and would suggest a way of placing its finances on a more satisfactory footing.

13. He informed the members of the Committee of the death of Sir Kenneth Younger, who had been President of the Board of Trustees since 1965, and said that his death was a great loss not only to UNITAR but to the entire international community.

14. Mr. AMIRDIVANI (Iran) said that his delegation believed in the importance of UNITAR's work, which enhanced the efficiency of the United Nations system in achieving its objectives. He was gratified to note that the Institute's activities had expanded, especially in the economic sector and in relation to the establishment of a new international economic order responsive to the wishes of the overwhelming majority of the international community. It was encouraging to find that the Institute had consulted representatives of Member States and officials of the system regularly about the planning, organization and evaluation of its plans and programmes.

15. The Institute had done useful work in training, and his delegation was gratified that, despite financial constraints, the Department of Training had

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(Mr. Amirdivani, Iran)

continued to develop and had organized many seminars. Those seminars were particularly valuable since they dealt with matters relating to the activities of the United Nations system and other international issues. The courses were intensive and rather short, however, a fact which tended to make their practical scope unduly narrow, and the necessary steps should be taken to extend them to a reasonable length. UNITAR should also appraise the results of the seminars continuously in order to ascertain their advantages and drawbacks.

16. One notable development in connexion with the research activities was that the Institute's studies were attracting increased attention from the world community, as was evidenced by the rise of almost 50 per cent since 1974 in the number of publications, the progress achieved in the activities of the Project on the Future and, above all, the creation of a permanent correspondents' network linking the Director of the Project and persons and organizations interested in questions involving the establishment of a new international economic order. The UNITAR studies on development planning in Africa and Latin America could be a very useful instrument for developing countries in planning their future development, and it was to be hoped that the Institute would carry out similar studies of other regions.

17. The recent study on the future of the world economy sponsored by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs emphasized how difficult it was to eliminate the gap in per capita income separating the industrialized from the developing countries. UNITAR could play an important role in that sphere by supplementing that study by reports on various practical methods of solving the problem. In conclusion, his delegation, which had always given financial support to UNITAR, appealed to all member States to make the contributions that would enable the Institute to continue its work. Such financial support was abundantly justified when it was remembered that in 1975-1976 representatives of 115 States had participated in courses and seminars organized by UNITAR, whereas only 29 States had made contributions.

18. Mr. BIGGS (Chile) said that the work of UNITAR continued to be extremely useful, particularly since it had begun to concentrate on economic and social matters, in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 3403 (XXX). The compilation of background documents on the new international economic order was an excellent piece of work. In the resolution he had mentioned the hope was expressed that UNITAR would have greater and wider financial support from Member States and organizations. His delegation was happy to announce that Chile would renew its voluntary contribution to the Institute in 1977. It was also interested in having closer working links with the Institute. UNITAR was doing important work in training government and foreign service personnel, and Chile wished to place on record its gratitude for the UNITAR training programmes from which 33 of its nationals were to benefit in 1976-1977. In conclusion, he asked for more details on the proposed training seminar for United Nations depository librarians from Latin America and the Caribbean.

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19. Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation wished to refer particularly to the training courses for junior diplomatic and mission personnel and for nationals of the developing countries in subjects related to the activities of the United Nations. That was an important feature of UNITAR's work and should receive greater priority in future. In his delegation's view, the training programmes were organized on a restricted basis, and representatives from only a very limited number of countries could participate in them. Nevertheless, the practice of organizing new courses and seminars in different regions of the world was commendable. Another commendable activity was the detailed research on the peaceful settlement of disputes, given the fact that, as the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Soviet Union, Mr. Gromyko, had said during the general debate in the General Assembly, "The principle of renunciation of the use of force must become an iron law of international affairs" (A/31/PV.7, p. 66). Another question to which UNITAR should give more attention was work on the restructuring of economic international relations and the development of technical and scientific co-operation between countries having different social and political systems and at different levels of economic development. His delegation had always opposed all manifestations of inequality and exploitation in international economic relations and, although it noted with satisfaction that UNITAR's research programme included projects which took account of the recommendations of the sixth and seventh special sessions and of General Assembly resolutions 3217 (XXIX) and 3403 (XXX), it considered that much remained to be done in that sphere. If the research programme of UNITAR were to concentrate on those practical issues it would be possible to improve the quality of the results, to utilize to the full the Institute's human and financial resources, and to eliminate duplication in research, which continued to be a characteristic of UNITAR activities.

20. With regard to the Institute's publications programme, it was essential to ensure that publications were objective and unprejudiced. For the position of States to be misrepresented would be unacceptable. One way of avoiding that would be to ensure more participation by socialist States in the research activities.

21. The main objective of the Project on the Future had been substantially modified. The results of that reorientation, however valuable they might be, might make the studies unduly specific, which would be unfortunate. In conclusion, his delegation hoped that UNITAR would make maximum use of its financial resources, to which the Soviet Union contributed annually, and stressed the advisability of retaining the existing system of financing the Institute.

22. Mr. JAMTOMO (Indonesia) said that, in the view of his delegation, the training provided by UNITAR, which was distinguished by its pragmatism, had been extremely useful and had helped to fill a gap in the training facilities available to the developing countries. However, in view of the growing obligations placed on the delegates and diplomatic personnel, as well as the staff of the United Nations system, for the implementation of the decisions of the General Assembly, those training activities should be expanded. Special attention should be given in the future to the economic side of the work of the United Nations and to building up the negotiating capabilities of diplomatic personnel. Those courses should

(Mr. Jamtomo, Indonesia)

therefore last longer, and they should be organized on a regional basis in co-operation with the regional economic commissions and other subregional organizations.

23. With regard to UNITAR's research activities, he expressed appreciation of the efforts undertaken by the Institute to adjust its research programme to meet the General Assembly's request that it should devote particular attention to issues and problems related to the establishment of the new international economic order. The importance of the studies on restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system, on the administrative effects of ad hoc conferences and on guidelines for evaluation of multinational enterprise assessment in developing countries should also be emphasized, as should that of efforts to promote international stability. It would be desirable for those studies to be completed in time to fulfil their purposes, and it would be appropriate in the future for the Institute to undertake research projects on specific areas of crucial concern to the developing countries, such as various aspects of trade, monetary issues, transfer of resources, transfer of technology, agriculture, industrialization and regional and interregional co-operation.

24. The Project on the Future was a particularly imaginative and original contribution, the work on which should, of course, be co-ordinated with that of other United Nations bodies. Studies on the future should be expanded so as to permit the continuing participation of all Member States and should be concentrated on a review of premises, methodology and findings with respect to global long-term development, with a view to determining measures which could be taken at the international level by the United Nations. In that connexion, any overlapping of the work of UNITAR's Department of Research with that of the Project on the Future should be avoided.

25. UNITAR should also be responsible for informing Governments of the results of global studies carried out elsewhere. The proposed publication of an annual report reviewing the major trends and thinking on the problems of the future was therefore welcome. That project, together with increased dissemination of the Institute's publications, would improve support for the United Nations and would promote dialogue with institutions outside the Organization, which might lead to the building up of a research and training network at the national, regional and international levels. In particular, every effort should be made to strengthen the very constructive co-operation and co-ordination between UNITAR and the United Nations University. Finally, his delegation was encouraged by the fact that UNITAR had been able to reduce the cost of its operation while increasing its effectiveness.

26. Mr. GOUMAS (Greece) said his delegation was pleased that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 3403 (XXX), UNITAR had reoriented its programme and now devoted particular attention to issues related to the new international economic order. Its training programmes and research projects were fully within the spirit of the General Assembly's resolutions. UNITAR's work in the field of transfer of technology had been useful and it was to be hoped that, in view of

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(Mr. Goumas, Greece)

the forthcoming United Nations Conference in 1979, the Institute would carry out further research on that subject. Another extremely important activity was the Project on the Future, which provided the General Assembly and United Nations bodies with the long-term perspective needed to evaluate the feasibility and desirability of medium-term programmes.

27. His delegation agreed with the proposal that the Rector of the United Nations University should be invited to attend planning meetings of the Board of Trustees of UNITAR with a view to improving the co-ordination of UNITAR's activities with those of the University and avoiding any overlap. It also fully understood the concern about the Institute's financial situation, which had reached a very critical state. It was to be hoped that the constructive role of the Institute would receive financial support from countries which had not so far contributed. The possibility of financing particular research activities from non-governmental sources that would be willing to respond should be explored.

28. Mr. MUTUNGA (Kenya), referring to the commendable research work that had been carried out by UNITAR during the current year, said that the study on the settlement of disputes in regard to ocean resources, which took into account the new concepts of international law governing the management of those resources, was especially welcome and timely. If the current divergence of views in the Conference on the Law of the Sea was not overcome the possibility of disputes, especially with respect to the resources of the exclusive economic zone and of the high sea, could not be ruled out. His delegation therefore hoped that UNITAR's study would be available to Governments before the next session of the Conference on the Law of the Sea.

29. As a coastal State with several land-locked neighbours, Kenya was also especially interested in the study that UNITAR was carrying out on the special problems faced by the land-locked countries, and hoped that it would contain recommendations regarding the kind of bilateral agreements which could be entered into between the land-locked and the transit States. It also hoped that UNITAR would issue as soon as possible the study on guidelines for the evaluation of multinational enterprise assessment in developing countries.

30. The question of economic integration and economic co-operation among developing countries had become very important. The pivotal role that economic co-operation could play in the development of the economies of the developing countries had thus far been curtailed by a misunderstanding of its objectives and modalities and in some cases by its clash with the concepts of national sovereignty and territorial integrity. He hoped that the study which was being contemplated by UNITAR would give priority to the imperatives and practical objectives of economic and technical co-operation. In that regard, UNITAR's examination of the role that the United Nations system could play in promoting greater collective economic self-reliance in West Africa was particularly welcome. It would be extremely useful if a similar study could be conducted for the Eastern African region, the countries of which were encountering a number of practical and conceptual difficulties in trying to consolidate their economic co-operation.

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(Mr. Mutunga, Kenya)

31. In conclusion, his delegation had noted with some disquiet the adverse financial situation which UNITAR was facing and believed that, in view of the substantial outlays the Institute had to make, favourable consideration should perhaps be given to the provision of a regular contribution from the United Nations budget to support the infrastructure of the Institute and to meet administrative costs. Kenya had been contributing on a regular basis and intended to continue to do so, and it urged all States to do likewise.

32. Mr. MADEY (Yugoslavia), referring to the report of the Executive Director of UNITAR, said he was gratified that the Institute had paid considerable attention to issues related to the establishment of a new international economic order, thus creating possibilities for making use of objective scientific knowledge in the study of the complex field of international economic relations. He hoped that UNITAR would always strive to ensure that its official publications took an objective approach, particularly when they attempted to clarify some extremely complex and politically delicate issues. The publication of the training manual referred to in document A/31/14, paragraph 37, was very useful, not only as reference material, but also for purposes of comparative analysis, technical and political, in the process of solving world economic problems. In that work, UNITAR should bear in mind the contribution of decisions adopted at various gatherings of non-aligned countries, especially the Fifth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries in Colombo.

33. On the question of co-ordination of UNITAR's activities with those of other United Nations institutions, particularly the United Nations University, it seemed to him that the relationship between the two institutions should be examined in depth so as to make sure that they co-ordinated their activities both functionally and organizationally. Perhaps the Second Committee should give consideration to ways and means whereby Governments could exercise a more direct influence on their important activities, and not only by means of informal or formal consultations through missions, which would only enhance the influence of certain members of the governing bodies, who, as was shown by the composition of the Board of Trustees, were predominantly from developed countries.

34. Where the various studies mentioned in chapter II of the UNITAR report (A/31/14) were concerned, he would like to know why some of them had been undertaken and what objectives they were intended to attain, especially with respect to the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system. Arduous and important negotiations on that subject, which were characterized by differing positions and different interests, were currently taking place. Since it was for Governments themselves to adopt the most adequate solutions, and since structural changes were likely to contribute to negotiations on the establishment of a new international economic order, he requested a clarification of the purpose of the study referred to in paragraphs 48 and 49 of the report. He made a similar request with respect to the study on the functioning of permanent missions and regional groups at the United Nations.

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(Mr. Madey, Yugoslavia)

35. His delegation was aware of the financial difficulties of the Institute and hoped that UNITAR could find sufficient internal strength and possibilities for meeting the obligations it had assumed and for continuing its activity.

36. Mr. BLENK (Austria) welcomed the useful and significant work done by UNITAR on the question of equitable sharing of the world's resources. Global interdependence made it necessary to solve the problems of waste and careless use of the limited basic resources of the world. One issue to be faced by ~~UNITAR~~ and, in the last analysis, by the United Nations as a whole would be the solution of problems, in the context of a new economic and social order, arising out of the interrelationship between food, population, energy resources, raw materials and the environment. In the same context, the problems of exchange of goods and services, with particular reference to the pricing and supply of raw materials, world food security, sovereignty over natural resources and the transfer of technology required fresh examination.

37. With respect to the Project on the Future, he observed that the problem of new concepts and principles for the suitable planning of development in developing countries had to be studied with a greater sense of responsibility. In formulating economic and social policy, Governments had become used to focusing attention on qualitative objectives and had ignored the need for a balanced evolution of the relationship between developing and developed countries. Thus, in the field of technology, policies designed for industrialized countries were followed in developing countries without taking into account their special needs.

38. UNITAR might give some thought to the possibility of eventual studies on decision making at the international level. The usual practice in national parliaments had created a state of affairs in which little attention was being given to long-term, interregional, future-oriented questions, all efforts being focused on short-term problems. The situation in international decision-making bodies was similar, and there was therefore a need for a new international approach uninfluenced by the short-term orientation of national decisions.

39. His delegation noted with satisfaction that the reassessment of priorities and the adoption of suitable administrative arrangements had enabled UNITAR to carry out its new programme with considerable success. He mentioned in particular the publication of a compilation of all the documents which had served as a basis for the adoption in 1974 of the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order.

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(Mr. Blenk, Austria)

40. Austria's co-operation with UNITAR had developed in a most satisfactory way; he referred in that connexion to the annual conferences and seminars at Schloss Hernstein, which were distinguished by the importance and timeliness of the topics chosen and by the high qualifications of participants. A scheme for close co-operation between UNITAR and the Diplomatic Academy in Vienna was also at present under discussion.

41. He pointed out the need for financial support to UNITAR if it was to accomplish the tasks and functions entrusted to it and announced that, subject to parliamentary approval, his Government intended to make a further increase in its contribution to the Institute for 1976.

42. Mr. KOCH (Federal Republic of Germany) said the report of the Executive Director showed that the reorganization of the Institute's work with a view to achieving a greater balance between training and research was making progress.

43. His delegation welcomed the fact that the training programme centred primarily on the courses and seminars for which there was the greatest need and that the duration of those courses and seminars had been extended so as to make them more effective.

44. It was also encouraging that efforts were being made to incorporate a growing number of future-oriented projects in the Institute's research activities; apart from reporting on ongoing and already completed research projects, the Executive Director might also cover in his report those projects which were in the planning stage. He had the impression that the Institute's research programme extended over a wider range than its difficult financial situation would seem to allow. It would be advantageous for UNITAR to concentrate on problems of major importance and urgency, and in that connexion he welcomed the fact that the Institute had started to compile documents dealing with the question of the establishment of a new international economic order. That documentation should not be confined to resolutions of the United Nations and other organizations, but should also include voting results and explanations of vote from all countries, since UNITAR publications should be as complete and objective as possible.

45. His delegation felt that it would be premature to pass a final judgement on the Project on the Future, since it still was in the "take-off" stage. However, the project seemed to constitute a step in the right direction, and it dealt with problem areas which had been neglected by other institutes. He announced that his Government had made available additional funds for a seminar on microbiological energy conversion, a scientific area of importance to those developing countries which were not endowed with conventional energy resources.

46. The question of a division of labour between UNITAR and the United Nations University seemed to have been settled satisfactorily. However, the developments in that field must be followed closely so as to avoid overlapping of the work of the two institutes in the future, which would be unjustifiable in view of UNITAR's limited funds.

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(Mr. Koch, Federal Republic
of Germany)

47. He noted that further progress in UNITAR's activities might be considerably hampered by financial constraints. It would therefore be gratifying if the smaller contributors were to increase their contributions and if those not at present assisting in the financing of UNITAR were to begin doing so, if only to a modest extent.

48. Mr. TREVIÑO (Mexico) said that the UNITAR report reflected the current concern of the international community for the establishment of the new international economic order. In that connexion, UNITAR had devoted itself primarily to training and research and to special projects.

49. With respect to training, he noted with appreciation the knowledge and experience which had been imparted to Mexico's new foreign service officers and expressed the hope that his country might continue to enjoy such valuable assistance.

50. In the field of research, the mandate contained in General Assembly resolution 3403 (XXX) to include specific projects on the problems in the areas identified by the Assembly at its sixth and seventh special sessions and in other resolutions have been carried out. The report laid emphasis on the preparation of papers for research colloquia, the reports on which would show how the principles contained in that mandate were being implemented. Mention was made of the fact that, because the concept of the new international economic order required structural changes in the world, certain projects required a longer time perspective. He agreed, but would emphasize that the immediate need for the practical implementation of certain specific items required that due attention should be given to short-term activities. Only some of the projects required a long time perspective.

51. The studies which were being carried out on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system were closely related to those items, whose many requirements should be reflected in the 1977 report, in view of the benefits which most members of the Organization would derive from them. The fact that a relationship existed with the areas identified by the General Assembly at its sixth and seventh special sessions was due to the desirability of a sectoral analysis of the system based on those areas. It would be useful to adopt that approach, since that aspect of the matter had not been stressed even in the report of the Group of 25. His delegation eagerly awaited the results of the study, which it trusted would be useful in the restructuring process.

52. The studies on the international civil service, especially those referred to in paragraphs 51 and 52 of the report, could be useful in connexion with area VIII identified in the restructuring process by the Ad Hoc Committee.

53. His delegation was interested in the study on the role of ad hoc conferences in alleviating global problems, and believed that such conferences were useful. It therefore shared the view of the Institute regarding the relevance of such studies, although it seemed pointless to discuss the issues only as seen from a strictly administrative perspective.

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(Mr. Treviño, Mexico)

54. Most of the studies focused on the universal interest in implementing the new international economic order, the establishment of which had been proclaimed at the sixth special session of the Assembly and in the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, and all of them seemed to be directed towards finding the most feasible ways of bringing it about. In that connexion, the service rendered by the various publications relating to the new international economic order deserved mention.

55. Mexico's interest in the work of the Institute was also reflected in modest voluntary contributions which it made according to its means. He drew attention to the agreement between the Government of Mexico and the Institute regarding various publications, including those relating to the integration of women in development. The Government of Mexico also offered its co-operation in connexion with the contacts which the Institute was initiating with similar institutes, such as the recently established Economic and Social Research Centre for Developing Countries. That could help to avoid duplication of work within the United Nations system, especially where UNITAR and the United Nations University were concerned.

56. Mr. AL-MAHDI (Iraq) said that his country appreciated the services rendered by UNITAR in the field of training, especially with respect to economic and social questions, which were of great interest to the developing countries. He commended the Institute for its valuable efforts and hoped that they would be focused on practical aspects aimed at accelerating the process of economic and social development in the developing countries. Research should also be focused on practical aspects related to agriculture, industry, science and such development-related questions as sources of energy, which contributed to the development process. His country hoped that UNITAR would succeed in the preparation of further studies providing practical solutions for the implementation of the decisions of the sixth and seventh special sessions of the General Assembly, especially the Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order.

The meeting rose at 5.10 p.m.