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SECOND COMMITTEE

39th meeting

held on

Thursday, 11 November 1976

at 10.30 a.m.

New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 39th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. LOHANI (Nepal)

later: Mr. VALDES (Bolivia)

later: Mr. GORITZA (Romania)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.45 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 59: OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT (A/31/3; A/C.2/31/L.2, L.3, L.4) (continued)

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AGENDA ITEM 67: ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/31/197, A/31/237, A/31/304; A/C.2/31/7 and Add.1) (continued)

1. Mr. MWANGAGUHUNGA (Uganda) said, considering that 18 of the 29 least developed countries and 28 of the 45 most seriously affected countries were in Africa, that continent deserved increased assistance from the international community. He was grateful to those United Nations agencies which had expressed special regard for the African region in aid allocation.
2. His Government attached great importance to the United Nations Development Programme as the largest single provider of technical assistance to Uganda. Present tendencies were transforming UNDP into an agency with an aid-giving style which should be an example to all international aid agencies in both the quantum of aid dispensed and the quality of that aid.
3. A number of suggestions had been made regarding ways in which assistance to developing countries could become more effective. They included measures on the part of the donors to ensure a continuous flow of aid and policies ensuring a predictable aid flow over several years, the provision of aid on a highly concessional or grant basis and measures to ensure that the utilization of aid was not tied in any way, that unspent balances in any particular fiscal year could be carried forward and that aid should be free of any political connotations. In his view, UNDP was one of the few agencies, if not the only one, which came near to fulfilling those criteria, and credit for that achievement should go to the UNDP administration, under the guidance of the Governing Council and of the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council.
4. The end of 1976 would mark the conclusion of the first five-year UNDP country programming cycle, and towards the end of that period the Programme had been experiencing serious liquidity problems. Whereas country programmes were planned over a period on the basis of indicative planning figures, the real resources were disbursed on a year-by-year basis, subject to the circumstances prevailing at that time in each donor country. Such a method created difficulty in programme formulation. Country programmes contained short-term and long-term projects, and in times of financial crisis the fate of long-term projects was uncertain. If UNDP was to play an effective part in promoting and implementing sound country programmes based on the principles and aims of the Consensus approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 2688 (XXV) the programming of

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(Mr. Mwangaguhunga, Uganda)

development requirements should be closely matched with the projection of real resources based on firm political will and commitment by the contributors. He noted with encouragement the economy measures and proposals of the Administrator to bring the situation under control, and hoped that the lessons of the current programming cycle would be applied to the forthcoming one; his Government would continue to co-operate in the endeavour to achieve that objective. He fully supported the draft resolution reproduced in document A/C.2/31/L.2, seeking borrowing authority for the Administrator of UNDP.

5. Another problem with UNDP assistance was the lack of investment resources for prompt follow-up of investment projects assisted by UNDP under country programmes. UNDP technical assistance would not be effective if it had to stop at feasibility studies without seeing the projects through to the investment stage. His delegation viewed the co-ordination of the operations of the United Nations Capital Development Fund with those of UNDP as a logical move towards the solution of that problem.

6. The assistance given by UNICEF in Uganda had covered a number of fields, including basic health services, the provision of workshop equipment and training facilities for transport maintenance staff and drivers, applied nutrition and rural youth services, services for rural women, and the provision of equipment and supplies for project support communication. His Government was grateful to UNICEF for that assistance and hoped for increased co-operation in future.

7. UNFPA had no operational programmes in Uganda, but negotiations currently in progress involved projects in demography, a population centre and a programme for better family living.

8. The WFP adviser now attached to the office of the UNDP Resident Representative in Uganda had formulated a number of new projects in dairy development, food production and malnutrition. The opening of the WFP office was a demonstration of the importance which the WFP authorities attached to Uganda's development efforts in that sector.

9. The assistance to Uganda provided by the Office of Technical Co-operation had taken the form of short-term and long-term projects financed from the OTC regular budget, and also of participation as an executing agency in projects assisted by UNDP. He was disappointed to note that OTC intended in future to concentrate its regular programme resources on regional projects and short-term consultative services, to the exclusion of medium-term and long-term country projects which had been complementary both to UNDP country programmes and to assistance received from other organizations. He hoped that, when resources permitted, OTC would reconsider its criteria for assistance.

10. He had been pleased to learn from the Co-ordinator of the United Nations Volunteers that the programme was growing and that fund-raising had been more

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(Mr. Mwangaguhunga, Uganda)

successful than ever before. However, the Co-ordinator had also reported, in his statement at the 30th meeting of the Committee, that the Governing Council of UNDP had asked the programme to phase its volunteers onto IPF funding by January 1979. That decision seemed hard on the least developed countries, since the object of the Volunteers programme was to provide additional resources for them, and in view of the present financial situation of UNDP the decision might well lead to a reduction in the IPF. While his Government appreciated the role of the Volunteers in development co-operation, the programme might in future be applied on a case-by-case basis and be subject to the available resources at Uganda's disposal.

11. Uganda was committed to the promotion of economic co-operation among developing countries as one means of achieving the objectives of the new international economic order. In a world in which the rich were growing richer and the poor poorer, the developing countries must foster closer economic co-operation among themselves in order to achieve collective self-reliance. That was in accordance with the guiding principle of his country. The political independence which most developing countries had achieved was meaningless without economic independence; they must resolve to develop their economies in accordance with their own needs and on the basis of national aspirations and experience. His delegation had participated fully in the Conference on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries in Mexico City, and endorsed its decisions, particularly those relating to an efficient interregional transportation and communications network and the exchange of information and expertise among developing countries.

12. His delegation welcomed the decision to convene a United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries in 1977, and he expressed appreciation to the Government of Argentina for its generous offer to serve as host to the Conference. He was encouraged by the commitment pledged by the Administrator of UNDP to the concept of TCDC, because UNDP could play a very useful part in promoting such co-operation through its regular programmes in the developing countries.

13. Mr. Valdes (Bolivia) took the Chair.

14. Mr. GUSTAFSSON (Sweden) emphasized that the new Swedish Government would continue to lend its support to the United Nations development system and had declared its acceptance of the ideas behind the establishment of the new international economic order. It would also continue its assistance to the peoples of southern Africa in their struggle for liberty, human dignity and justice.

15. The financial difficulties of the United Nations Development Programme and their manifold repercussions were the single most important issue to have come to the forefront in connexion with operational activities during the past year. Although the situation had improved significantly, much remained to be done. It was essential to restore the confidence of both recipients and donors in UNDP if financial support to the Programme was to increase. Four measures must be undertaken in order to achieve that end.

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(Mr. Gustafsson, Sweden)

16. First, Governments participating in the work of UNDP must be convinced that the human and financial resources invested in the programme were truly relevant in terms of a progressive reduction of malnutrition, disease, illiteracy, squalor, unemployment and inequalities. Accordingly, UNDP resources should go first and foremost to the poorest countries, and the more developed recipient countries should assume a significantly larger share of programme costs in their territories. Moreover, programme activities must be geared to the recipient countries' own efforts to tackle mass poverty and must be concentrated on basic goods and services. Members of the Governing Council must therefore continue to discuss how the Programme's resources could be increasingly geared to serving those most in need, how activities should be shaped in order to reach them, and how that could be effected within the country programming system. In that connexion, the United Nations Capital Development Fund, which concentrated on the poorest people in the least developed countries, was rendering effective assistance, and his Government would continue to contribute to the Fund, which it believed merited much wider support from the industrialized countries.

17. The second measure that must be taken to restore confidence in the Programme was to implement the guiding principles behind the new dimensions and develop much further the concept of technical co-operation among developing countries. He was thinking particularly of the need to increase government execution of projects and to take a close look at the expensive and sometimes not very effective traditional expert assistance. It was vital that a study should be made of alternatives to the traditional system of using long-term experts who received a full United Nations salary.

18. Thirdly, it was imperative that the Programme should vigorously pursue efforts to reduce exorbitant administrative costs. His delegation supported the measures so far undertaken in that respect.

19. Fourthly, a closer and more trusting relationship between UNDP and the specialized agencies and other executing agencies was clearly called for, as a lack of mutual understanding would lead to tendencies to break away from the system. The most recent example was the FAO technical co-operation programme. While his delegation saw some merit in such programmes financed from the regular budgets of the agencies, as long as those programmes maintained an identity of their own and as long as they complemented UNDP assistance, some of them might run contrary to the basic philosophy of country programming. His delegation therefore supported the efforts of the Administrator to strengthen the cohesion of the United Nations development system within the over-all concept of partnership with the executing agencies.

20. In connexion with the question of the respective roles of the component parts of the United Nations development system, he said that, while earmarked funds could sometimes fill gaps which otherwise would not have been filled, at times they were a symptom of a basic disbelief among the donors in the general programme of the organization in question. Rapid growth of that form of financing would in the long run undermine the United Nations development system and dissolve its multilateral character by replacing collective decision-making in the proper governing bodies with decisions by one or a few Governments. Further growth of that particular development must therefore be closely followed, and if necessary checked.

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(Mr. Gustafsson, Sweden)

21. Turning to the question of voluntary financing of the main operational development funds, namely, UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF, he said that, while he in no way questioned the present and future voluntary character of government contributions to those funds, some sort of basic agreement among donors must be reached as to the volume of future contributions. His Government attached particular importance to the need for a more equitable burden sharing among contributors.

22. On the question of borrowing authority, his delegation saw merit in that form of contingency measure and supported a recommendation by the Committee to the General Assembly along the lines of the decision taken by the Governing Council of UNDP at its twenty-second session and endorsed by the Economic and Social Council. Borrowing authority was to be preferred to a sudden curtailment of the programmes due to acute liquidity shortfalls. Naturally, that authority would be used only with the Governing Council's approval.

23. With regard to the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, he noted that the Fund's secretariat had commenced the task of discussing criteria for setting priorities for the future allocation of UNFPA resources. UNFPA must start to assist high-priority countries by identifying the basic needs necessary to make the country self-reliant in the formulation and implementation of population policies. If such measures were taken, with a view to concentrating on high-priority countries and rendering basic services, UNFPA resources should be increased in order that the Fund might implement its newly established priorities effectively. That would imply certain structural changes, such as greater decentralization to UNFPA field co-ordinators and more effective joint programming and implementation at headquarters.

24. His delegation supported the approved income target for UNICEF of \$200 million in yearly contributions. It also supported UNICEF's multidisciplinary approach, based on the mobilization of the population in the developing countries themselves. That approach would require co-operation and co-ordination with other organs within the United Nations system.

25. The world food situation merited special attention; for, while there had been an increase in global food production, the unequal distribution of food resources remained unchanged and little progress had been made towards a viable system for world food security. In order to ensure efficient and continuous planning of the World Food Programme's food aid activities, it was essential that donors should inform the Executive Director of their contributions at an early stage. The demand for emergency food assistance would always remain, and the decision of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes on arrangements for an international emergency food reserve was a step forward. So far only three countries, including Sweden, had made commitments in response to that decision. Food production in developing countries must be stimulated, and it was therefore a positive factor that the World Food Programme to a large extent made its food purchases in such countries. That policy should be encouraged, and cash contributions to the Programme should be increased so that even more purchases could be made.

26. Lastly, as long as the struggle for independence in southern Africa continued, the United Nations development agencies must spare no effort to assist the oppressed people of that region. The United Nations, and in particular UNDP, should play an important supportive role in the struggle and preparation for independence and majority rule and in relieving the sufferings which that struggle involved. The assistance extended so far by many agencies was inadequate. /...

27. Mr. VALLE (Brazil) observed that his delegation had taken cognizance of the information on the present situation of the United Nations Development Programme with mixed feelings. While as a member of the Group of 77 it was pleased to note the positive results of the measures taken to solve the financial crisis, as a member of the Latin American group it considered the analysis of the financial flow earmarked for the programme of technical assistance to be extremely disheartening. According to the analysis, in 1977 Latin America would receive 17.83 per cent of total available resources as compared to 23.19 per cent in 1975, representing a decrease of about 36 per cent. The growing tendency to relegate the countries of the western hemisphere to a marginal position in the process of assistance for development was unjustified and must be corrected. In an era in which the interdependence of economic actions had proved so far-reaching in its effects, it was not practical to allow a significant number of countries to be isolated from the most positive source of multilateral assistance.

28. Under-development was not simply a series of statistical data that could be dealt with individually. Efforts to improve the condition of mankind were an imperative of the time and demanded not only the political will of the developed nations but responsible pragmatism on the part of each developing country. The gesture of helping should have as its counterpart respect for the use that would be made of the help. No one was better placed to judge the best use to be made of it than the recipient. It was therefore with satisfaction that his delegation had heard several UNDP donors state that they maintained their support for the catalysing role of the Programme and respected the priorities determined by the recipient countries, while unreservedly backing the growing demand for multilateral assistance. Those were guidelines that existed and deserved to be maintained.

29. His delegation was particularly satisfied with the activities relating to technical co-operation among developing countries in the context of UNDP and the continuity of the tasks relating to preparations for the forthcoming Buenos Aires Conference. The shared experiences of the recipients of assistance, the similarity of the problems they faced, their common efforts to redefine economic theories and policies in the light of their own conditions, were just a few of the arguments that could be advanced to justify greater reliance on technical co-operation among developing countries as an instrument for development assistance within the United Nations system. Such co-operation might well offer the solution to many of the problems besetting those countries. The results of the work of the group of experts on the Latin American TCDC project was a clear example of the benefits to be derived from the combined efforts of developing countries in the field of technical co-operation. The organizational efforts for the Conference must be developed in connexion with the activities of UNDP. It would be extremely useful if the Secretary-General of the Conference were a person in a position to project into the Conference his knowledge and experience of over-all technical co-operation activities and of the recurrent needs and expectations of the developing nations.

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(Mr. Valle, Brazil)

30. The Brazilian Government looked forward to having a UNICEF representative in Brasilia. While the Fund's assistance would represent only a fraction of Brazil's total requirements, it would be most important. The effectiveness of that assistance would be strengthened if it were geared less to the attainment of immediate results than to the progressive upgrading of the human resources involved, through an integrated policy envisaging a better quality of life for children.

31. Mr. KUYAMA (Japan) said his delegation was glad to note that UNDP's financial situation had improved considerably. It hoped that further efforts would be made with regard to financial management, including an improvement in the system of forecasting and controlling expenditures, improved controls on the costs of experts, and better co-ordination between the finance and the programme policy sections of UNDP. While it expected UNDP to continue to grow, it also expected UNDP programmes to be managed within the limits of available resources.

32. Inasmuch as UNDP was going to start 1977 without reserves, and in view of the recommendation of the Governing Council and the Economic and Social Council to the General Assembly, the possibility of granting limited borrowing authority to the Administrator might have to be considered, on the understanding that it was an exceptional measure authorized only until the end of 1977 and subject to the prior approval of the Governing Council. In that connexion, improving the liquidity of the operational reserve was indeed a crucial issue.

33. His delegation had been gratified to note that the Governing Council and the Economic and Social Council at their recent sessions had reaffirmed the central role of UNDP in international technical co-operation efforts. It hoped that the spirit of General Assembly resolution 2688 (XXV) would be respected by the entire membership of the United Nations system, and especially by the specialized agencies, such as FAO, since the 1970 Consensus still constituted the basis for maintaining and improving United Nations development co-operation activities in a coherent and co-ordinated way.

34. His Government appreciated the important role played by UNICEF in carrying out humanitarian activities. While it supported, in general, the integrated approach in the fields of clean water, health, food and nutrition, basic education and women's services envisaged in the basic services approach, better co-ordination should be established with other United Nations agencies in order to avoid possible duplication of activities.

35. Finally, he said that his Government attached great importance to international co-operation on population problems and was therefore gratified at the role of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities. Where the position of UNFPA in the context of the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system was concerned, no action should be taken which would jeopardize the efficiency of the current management of the Fund. The allocation of more resources to the Asia and Pacific region would be warranted

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(Mr. Kuyama, Japan)

on the basis of some criteria, including size of population and per capita income. A move by the UNFPA secretariat for consideration of that matter might be useful.

36. Mr. TISHCHENKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that the measures recently applied by UNDP were still insufficient to enable it to play its proper role in the development process; he hoped that positive steps would be taken to strengthen it. Much had been heard of UNDP's financial difficulties; they were in fact manifestations of the chronic crisis of the capitalist system which had produced inflation in Western countries. However, UNDP's financial crisis had been exacerbated by the fact that, at a time when its income was insufficient to meet its operational needs, its administrative expenses had risen sharply; in the period 1972-1975 they had risen more than twice as fast as programme costs, to a record high level of \$52.5 million. As the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Governing Council of UNDP had pointed out on several occasions, the previous UNDP administration had shown grave deficiencies in planning and controlling disbursements and implementing country programming. In particular, the practice of planning expenditures on the basis of presumed financial availabilities rather than actual resources had led to a permanent imbalance between programmed and actual expenses. His delegation had therefore been particularly pleased to hear the observations of the Administrator of UNDP concerning the measures which he personally and the Governing Council had taken to impart more flexibility to UNDP in the use of programme resources. Particularly important were the measures taken or proposed to cut administrative costs and reduce the deficit, to pay off debts, and to reorient the programme to meet the needs of the least developed and other disadvantaged developing countries. He particularly stressed the importance of assistance to national liberation movements; such aid should be expanded and made more operational.

37. He reminded the administration of UNDP that the accumulation of non-convertible balances of programme funds could provide a basis for holding seminars and training courses for personnel from developing countries, and UNDP and the specialized agencies should make full use of the balances for that purpose. His delegation could no longer accept a system whereby UNDP relied on the experience of a small group of Western countries, to which it gave a large number of subcontracts and purchase orders, while at the same time choosing experts from those countries and organizing in them most of the training programmes for the benefit of developing countries. Such a procedure was not conducive to a restructuring of international economic relations in accordance with the forward-looking decisions of the General Assembly, and the administration of UNDP should take measures to correct that anomalous situation. More subcontracts should be given to firms and organizations in socialist countries and developing countries. Experts, and candidates for posts at UNDP headquarters and in the offices of its resident representatives, should be selected so as to make maximum use of the experience of various countries.

38. His Government's position of principle with regard to technical assistance provided under the regular United Nations budget was that it should no longer be financed in that way; it should be combined with UNDP assistance, and both should

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(Mr. Tishchenko, Ukrainian SSR)

be financed on a voluntary basis. He hoped that the Ad Hoc Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System would come to a similar conclusion.

39. Economic and technical co-operation among developing countries was playing an ever larger part in international economic relations. The efforts of newly independent States to integrate among themselves were their response to the imperialist policy of undermining their economic and political sovereignty. That view had been supported by the Fifth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries and by the meeting in Mexico City in September 1976, at which the programme of "horizontal" co-operation had been elaborated - a concept that showed in its true colours the neo-colonialist contention that the development of third world countries would follow automatically from the economic growth of the developed capitalist countries. That theory derived from the theory of "mutual dependence" by which monopolistic circles endeavoured to maintain a system of subordination and exploitation in international economic relations.

40. With those considerations in mind, the Ukrainian SSR and other socialist countries advocated the adoption of measures in the United Nations to develop and strengthen co-operation among the countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America in trade, industry, finance and the exchange of technical knowledge. The socialist countries had expressed their willingness to study new forms of co-operation with new institutions and organizations established jointly by the developing countries themselves. Such an association would be based on the principle that co-operation among developing countries should not discriminate against the socialist countries or place them in a worse position than the capitalist countries. That principle was embodied in the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States.

41. The socialist countries had considerable experience of economic integration within the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, which was based on the principles of equality and mutual help, respect for the sovereignty of all the partners, and use of the productive capacity of member States to enhance the welfare of their peoples, in contrast to the competitiveness, hostility, exploitation and plunder of developing countries which characterized the imperialistic system of economic relations. The experience which the socialist countries had built up in the course of co-operating among themselves and with other countries would be a significant factor in establishing effective economic relations among developing countries.

42. The success of any move towards integrating the developing countries would be governed by the extent to which it was founded on progressive socio-economic trends. In that connexion, he drew attention to the report of a group of experts on economic co-operation among developing countries (TD/B/AC.19/1), which stated that the elaboration of an effective system of co-operation required State action rather than passive reliance on market forces. The report also stressed the predominant role of the State sector, and particularly of State enterprises, in promoting productive co-operation among developing countries. The accuracy of the experts' conclusions was confirmed by General Assembly resolution 3488 (XXX) on the role of the public sector in promoting the economic development of developing countries.

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(Mr. Tishchenko, Ukrainian SSR)

43. One of the basic tasks of economic and technical co-operation among developing countries was the maintenance of a close interdependence of the economic and social factors in development. That would enable the developing countries to strengthen their national economies, withstand the attacks of imperialist monopolies and achieve a fundamental change in their external economic relations.

44. Mr. RIVAS (Colombia) welcomed the fact that the new administration of UNDP had been able to rescue the Programme from the crisis which had seriously threatened it a year ago. Although further internal savings still could be effected and arrears in contributions had yet to be collected, the outlook for the Second Development Co-operation Cycle warranted optimism, and it was to be hoped that all Governments would continue to increase their support of the Programme to the fullest extent possible.

45. His delegation considered it essential that the trend within UNDP favouring the least developed countries should not go so far as to jeopardize other developing countries which still required multilateral technical assistance. While it agreed that assistance to the countries at the lower end of the development scale should increase in proportion as resources increased, it could not agree that, when resources remained stationary or declined, only those countries should be viewed as being in need of aid. His delegation could not accept the freezing of IPFs for the great majority of the Latin American countries and wished that injustice to be rectified in the future.

46. While his delegation could appreciate the motives behind the call by some major donors for UNDP to focus on programmes which benefited the poorer segments of the population of developing countries, there was a danger that that might lead to UNDP's unduly influencing the development policy-making process, which was the responsibility of Governments alone.

47. In its effort to reduce project costs, UNDP should consider experimenting more boldly with innovations already recommended in various reports to the administration, including lump-sum payments to experts and direct implementation of projects by Governments. Colombia could not agree with those industrialized developed countries which objected to the latter innovation; one of the basic objectives of UNDP was to promote technological self-reliance in the developing world, and one way to approach that goal was gradually to assign responsibilities to recipient Governments.

48. His delegation fully agreed that the Administrator of UNDP should be granted short-term borrowing authority as an exceptional measure and in justifiable circumstances. In view of the Administrator's seriousness and sense of responsibility, the proposed restrictions on that authority were perhaps somewhat exaggerated.

49. Colombia attached particular importance to the activities of UNICEF, an organization with which it had always felt a special bond because of the assistance it had received from the Fund, and the contributions it had in turn been able to make to the Fund's activities. His delegation welcomed the extension of basic services to children in rural areas and marginal urban slums; such services

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(Mr. Rivas, Colombia)

constituted both a new dimension of the Fund's work and an aspect of national action closely linked to the concept of self-reliance and community co-operation which was so important to the peoples of the developing countries. Colombia had already launched programmes for the expansion of basic services to marginal urban populations, with results which exceeded the most optimistic expectations. He hoped that all Governments would enthusiastically support that new dimension of assistance to children.

50. The General Assembly should endorse the Economic and Social Council's recommendation that 1979 should be proclaimed the International Year of the Child. That would be a powerful stimulus to Governments to develop national programmes for children and awaken public opinion to the need to devote priority to the plight of children, which in the developing countries could have a serious impact on social progress. The budget should be more modest than that submitted to the Economic and Social Council, and UNICEF should ensure the co-ordination of activities in connexion with the Year.

51. His delegation greatly appreciated the work of the Executive Director of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities and welcomed the sizable increase in government contributions and the growing expansion of the Fund's services. It was particularly gratified at the favourable response of the oil-exporting countries. Colombia, which had been closely linked with the Fund's programmes, would submit in 1977 a large-scale project to continue its integrated schemes for family planning and public health and for demographic statistics. His country particularly appreciated the publications programme of the Fund.

52. Colombia was entirely in favour of technical co-operation among developing countries, particularly where horizontal co-operation on technical and scientific matters was concerned. That new dimension of international technical co-operation had been promoted in various international forums. Although some industrialized countries had expressed scepticism as to the usefulness of TCDC, the developing countries were determined to increase their collaboration in order to ensure that the transfer of technology would involve the whole international community. In that connexion, he noted that a working group of the Latin American countries had recently met to plan technical co-operation activities among the countries of the region and had begun to elaborate a plan for horizontal co-operation which utilized the existing resources of the continent and could help in the elaboration of guidelines for the development of similar plans in other regions.

53. As for economic co-operation among developing countries, while it was absolutely essential to continue the efforts to restructure economic co-operation between the industrialized countries and the developing countries, there could be no doubt that the strengthening of co-operation and economic integration at the subregional, regional and interregional levels was a basic facet of the new international economic order which all States should promote. The conclusions of the recent Conference on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries in Mexico City should serve as a basis for measuring the scope of such co-operation, and the Conference's decisions and recommendations should be refined at future meetings of the developing countries. Due consideration should be given to the initiative of

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(Mr. Rivas, Colombia)

the Government of Pakistan in calling for a summit conference of developing countries which would seek, inter alia, to promote specific measures for economic co-operation among third world countries.

54. Mr. STRAUSS (Czechoslovakia) welcomed the efforts made by UNDP to reduce administrative costs and increase the effectiveness of its activities during the period under review. Those efforts had resulted in certain positive improvements, although the administrative costs were still high, particularly when it was borne in mind that the Programme's finances came from voluntary contributions of Member States and should therefore be used to the maximum extent to finance projects, primarily in the developing countries. One way to reduce such costs further and increase the effectiveness of the Programme's activities would be to ensure closer co-operation and co-ordination between UNDP and the specialized agencies and to strengthen co-operation between the Programme and recipient countries.

55. The administration had endeavoured to lessen the impact of continuing inflation in the capitalist countries on its finances, and he hoped that every effort would be made to improve the situation in 1977. As the Administrator had stated, the maximum utilization of the voluntary contributions of all countries, including those made in non-convertible currencies, could be of assistance in that regard.

56. His delegation attached special importance to the Second United Nations Development Co-operation Cycle for 1977-1981 and considered it important that technical assistance during that period was to be channelled also to the least developed countries and the most seriously affected countries. It was pleased also that special attention was being devoted to the countries which had fought for their liberation for many years and had only recently freed themselves from colonial rule, and that provision was made for assistance to national liberation movements. Technical assistance should not be granted to régimes whose policies violated the principles of the United Nations Charter.

57. The principles contained in the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order and in the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States were of particular importance for the activities of UNDP.

58. His country had participated in the Programme's activities for many years. There were many opportunities to utilize fully the voluntary contributions which his country provided, in particular through projects to enable the developing countries to enhance the technical level of their industries. It was well known that Czechoslovakia provided assistance in the form of experts, equipment, the training of specialists and the organization of seminars. His delegation wished to emphasize that it regarded UNDP as an organization designed to promote the development of broad international co-operation and that it was universal in scope. It was keenly interested in regional projects and other projects carried out in the developing countries by UNDP. the Programme should strive for more equitable geographical distribution of its staff, and a flexible personnel policy should take into account the experience of experts from countries with different economic and social systems, including those from developing countries.

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(Mr. Strauss, Czechoslovakia)

59. His delegation welcomed technical and economic co-operation among the developing countries, a form of co-operation which proceeded from the premise that their own domestic resources and progressive socio-economic reforms were the motivating factors for their development.

60. With regard to the activities of UNICEF, his delegation supported in particular projects which were designed to create a social, health and educational infrastructure and which helped to improve the standard of living of children and mothers. It also supported the declaration of an international children's day, which would focus greater attention on the need to improve the plight of children. His country had made a voluntary contribution to UNICEF for many years and had participated actively in its work. UNICEF should make the maximum use of all resources at its disposal, in particular for projects contributing to improved basic social, health and educational conditions for children and their mothers. Czechoslovakia was ready to share its experience in those fields with interested countries.

61. A significant contribution to the development of the developing countries would be the implementation of General Assembly resolution 3093 (XXVIII) calling for a reduction of the military budgets of States permanent members of the Security Council by 10 per cent and the utilization of part of the funds thus saved to provide assistance to developing countries. The memorandum of the USSR on the termination of the arms race and disarmament and the statement by the Soviet Government on the restructuring of international economic relations submitted at the current session of the General Assembly also deserved special attention in that connexion.

62. Mr. BIGGS (Chile) commended the Administrator of UNDP for having succeeded in rescuing UNDP from its difficult financial situation. In order to help the Programme to overcome the remaining difficulties, he agreed that the Administrator should be granted short-term borrowing authority until the end of 1977, in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 164 (LXI).

63. While his delegation endorsed the decision of the Governing Council to allocate a substantial share of UNDP resources during the next co-operation cycle to the poorest countries that should not affect the principle of universality laid down in the consensus, which meant that assistance should be channelled to all countries with technical co-operation needs, irrespective of their level of development.

64. He noted with dismay that the over-all resources envisaged for Latin America during the next cycle would be seriously reduced; taking cost increases into account, the actual resources for the region in 1977 would be one half of those obtained in 1975.

65. As a result of the political will of the Chilean Government and the strong recovery of the national economy, his country had been able to decide to increase its voluntary contribution to UNDP for 1977 to \$700,000, and in recent months it had reduced its debt to the Programme by at least one half.

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(Mr. Biggs, Chile)

66. His country's interest in technical co-operation among developing countries had been clearly demonstrated by its active participation in the regional meeting held in Lima in May 1976. It had also participated as an observer in the work of the group which had recently adopted the regional draft on that type of co-operation, a plan for horizontal co-operation which had appeared at exactly the moment when the need for it was most clearly felt. The personal commitment of the Administrator regarding technical co-operation among developing countries was encouraging, and it was with such co-operation in mind that the decisions of the sixth and seventh special sessions of the General Assembly on development and international economic co-operation should be implemented. His delegation would continue to participate in the preparations for the Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries to be held in Argentina.

67. Turning to the activities of UNICEF, he said that his country fully appreciated the effective work which the Fund carried out on behalf of children in the developing countries and was once again increasing its voluntary contribution for the coming year. Chile was deeply interested in the expansion of basic services for children and believed that the concept should be incorporated in national development plans and strategies. It supported the draft resolution recommended by the Economic and Social Council in that connexion. UNICEF should play the leading role in the preparations for the International Year of the Child; his country had been a sponsor of General Assembly resolution 3406 (XXX) indicating how the preparatory work for the Year should proceed.

68. His Government was grateful for the assistance provided to two specific projects by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities and was considering the possibility of making a voluntary contribution to the Fund. He reiterated his delegation's belief that it was for each country to determine its own population policy. His Government, exercising that sovereign right, had launched a programme which was designed to enable parents freely to determine the number and spacing of their children, as part of an integrated national development plan. His country was a pioneer in the administration of family planning programmes. As the host country to the Latin American Demographic Centre, Chile viewed with special concern the reduction in the funds allocated to regional and interregional population programmes by UNDP and UNFPA.

69. His delegation welcomed the efforts made by the Office of Technical Co-operation, despite the serious difficulties resulting from the financial situation of UNDP, not to reduce substantially the programmes for which it served as executing agency. The Office should collaborate in programmes for technical co-operation among developing countries by participating in regional programmes and providing the services of experts to assist the developing countries in formulating priorities and defining actions relating to the implementation of the new international economic order. In particular, his delegation supported the regular programme of the United Nations referred to by the Director of the Office in his introductory statement (A/C.2/31/SR.30, para. 53).

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(Mr. Biggs, Chile)

70. Although his country was not a member of the World Food Council, it had been represented at all its meetings by an observer because of the importance it attached to the Council's work. Chile was, however, a member of the Intergovernmental Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes and participated actively in its work. It had pledged \$45,000 to the World Food Programme for the biennium 1977-1978. His Government was also considering the possibility of making a contribution in convertible currency to the International Fund for Agricultural Development.

71. Lastly, his delegation agreed with the proposal made in the Committee at a previous meeting that international organizations should be able to discriminate by not co-operating with countries having régimes which subjected their populations to mass terrorism. His country would be prepared to agree to amendment of the United Nations Charter and of a number of resolutions which prevented discrimination against such States if it were also agreed that, as his delegation had proposed in the Third Committee, a commission should be established to investigate the implementation of human rights in all countries of the world, and not only in a particular country or countries where such investigations were motivated by a desire for political revenge and were conducted and manipulated accordingly. The provisions which he had in mind as requiring amendment included Article 2, paragraph 7, of the Charter and certain paragraphs of General Assembly resolutions 3201 (S-VI), 3202 (S-VI) and 3281 (XXX).

72. Mr. Goritza (Romania) took the Chair.

73. Mr. LAWLESS (Australia) said that the need for an integrated approach to development assistance would be even more important in the future, and UNDP's central role in co-ordinating the United Nations Development efforts should therefore be strengthened in order to avoid wasteful duplication of activities. In that spirit, Australia's contribution to UNDP for 1977 would be 40 per cent more than in 1976. His delegation welcomed the Administrator's assurance that he proposed to accord high priority to further improving the performance of UNDP's management and increasing its cost-effectiveness, and noted that inadequate management control had been an important contributing factor to the over-expenditure of the previous year. As the Administrator had said, much remained to be done; the programme for the second cycle was ambitious. However, in view of the disappointing results of the recent Pledging Conference, there must be some doubt as to whether there would be sufficient resources available to UNDP to sustain its planning estimates at least in the first years of the second cycle.

74. One of the first issues which would come before Australia as a new member of the Governing Council would be the meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries. Technical and economic co-operation among developing countries was an important element in the development process, and his Government was already directly involved in such co-operation through its participation in the Colombo Plan, ESCAP and other regional organizations. One of the central purposes of the Colombo Plan was to encourage regional co-operation, and members had a long tradition of mutual

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(Mr. Lawless, Australia)

economic and technical co-operation which had blurred the distinction between "donors" and "recipients". Australia had been represented at the regional preparatory meeting on technical co-operation among developing countries in Bangkok, and considered that all members of the region, developing and developed, had a role to play. It was willing to consider specific proposals for assistance in that field.

75. While recognizing the importance of the concept of collective self-reliance, his delegation would not wish to see co-operation among developing countries regarded as an alternative to wider co-operation. All efforts should be directed towards a common goal, and co-operation should be complementary and mutually reinforcing. Accordingly, it would like to have the opportunity to continue to be involved as a full participant in any discussions in that area which were funded from the regular budget. That question might also profitably be considered by the Fifth Committee.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.