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Monday, 15 November 1976  
at 10.30 a.m.  
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 43rd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. VALDES (Bolivia)

later: Mr. LOHANI (Nepal)

CONTENTS

AGENDA ITEM 59: OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 68: TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 67: ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)

ORGANIZATION OF THE COMMITTEE'S WORK

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

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

AGENDA ITEM 68: TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (A/31/82 and Corr.1 (Russian only), A/31/3, A/31/197, A/31/237) (continued)

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

1. Mr. TEIXERA da MOTTA (Portugal) said that, following consultations held with his Government in June 1974, the UNDP had attributed to Portugal an indicative planning figure of \$4 million. Portugal, which did not intend to be only a beneficiary of the Programme and was prepared to make available the experience it had acquired in many fields of development, considered that one of UNDP's main functions was to help to bring about the new international economic order. Moreover, in view of the need to co-ordinate United Nations development activities and to avoid any centrifugal tendency, it was essential that the Programme remain the central body of the development system and that it play an innovative role.

2. In that connexion, his delegation attached great importance to UNDP's interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral activities in rural development and was pleased to note the stress laid on strengthening agricultural support services, institutional infrastructure in rural areas and popular participation at the various stages of development programmes.

3. It also considered that UNDP collaboration with non-governmental organizations and the participation of women in the development process should be encouraged.

4. With regard to the actual concept of development, he said that, if the development process was not to be dehumanized, it should never be forgotten that its ultimate goal was of a social nature and that it should be the outcome of the people's wish to take their destiny into their own hands. In solving the problem, it was therefore essential to take account, first and foremost, of the basic needs of the poorest stratas of society.

5. If the problem were viewed from that angle, it was clear that the responsibility for development rested both with the countries which were in a position to offer aid and with the developing countries themselves, provided that they received the necessary assistance to restore their self-confidence within the framework of collective self-reliance. In that context, the whole venture of technical and economic co-operation among developing countries assumed its full value.

6. He was pleased to note UNDP's efforts to find new ways of promoting development and would draw the attention of developing countries to the need to choose the technology suited to their needs.

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(Mr. Teixeira da Motta, Portugal)

7. Referring to statements made earlier by a number of representatives, he stressed that a general basic agreement should be concluded between Governments, with the various partners having an equal bargaining power. In that connexion, the resolution of the debt problem was a matter of the utmost urgency since it was a major hindrance to development in many countries.

8. The time had come to implement the decisions taken, to take concrete action at the national level, to inform the public, to seek the support of non-governmental organizations and to explain the effects on people's daily lives of the period of transition before the introduction of the new international economic order.

9. In conclusion, he expressed appreciation for UNICEF's efforts to meet the basic needs of children, reiterated his Government's support for the United Nations Volunteers programme, stressed that the United Nations Fund for Population Activities should concentrate on countries with urgent problems and commended the World Food Programme on its efficient action in the fight against starvation and poverty.

10. Mr. ORTIZ de ROZAS (Argentina) said that if 1976 had been a difficult year for UNDP it had been even more so for the developing countries which had seen a reduction in the aid they received. That unwelcome situation was far from being entirely negative, however. It had proved the interest and importance which Governments of developing countries attached to UNDP aid and had underlined the need to base the Programme's operational activities on priorities laid down by the beneficiary countries themselves as well as to strengthen co-ordination between the programming and financing sectors of the Programme and to reduce administrative expenditure so as to free the maximum amount of resources. Also, the generosity of certain traditional donors had been noted and it had been realized that UNDP's vitality depended almost exclusively on the financial means at its disposal.

11. His delegation therefore supported the Administrator's measures to strengthen the confidence of recipient and donor countries in the Programme and to intensify co-operation between UNDP and the various organs in the system. It was concerned to note, however, that annual ceilings had been fixed for programme expenditures, which meant in effect a decrease in the level of resources allocated to each country in accordance with its indicative planning figure.

12. Those measures had been approved for the first time at the Governing Council's session in January 1976 but they had been understood to be exceptional measures, designed to help UNDP to overcome its financial difficulties, which would not be repeated.

13. Since the criteria governing the establishment of indicative planning figures for 1977-1981 had been approved on the basis of normal estimated expenditure for the second programming cycle, the available resources should now be apportioned so as to achieve a balance which, though different from that adopted by the Council in order to cater for a special situation, would satisfy the developing countries.

14. Argentina considered that it was primarily the developed countries, particularly those which had not yet attained the 0.7 per cent target for official

(Mr. Ortiz de Rozas, Argentina)

development assistance, which should help the Programme to overcome its difficulties. That did not mean that the developing countries did not have a role to play in the development process - on the contrary. His Government, for its part, had decided to increase its contribution to UNDP by 10 per cent as compared with the previous year and would pay a sum equivalent to \$1.2 million to the Programme for 1977.

15. His delegation welcomed the decision of UNDP and the main donor countries to give priority aid to the least developed among the developing countries and to those countries which had just attained independence but it trusted that they would co-ordinate the use and orientation of their resources to ensure a balanced distribution among all developing countries.

16. UNDP provided the main, and virtually exclusive, source of international technical aid for Argentina, which was a middle-income developing country, and he considered that all developing countries, irrespective of their level of development, should have access to the Programme's technical assistance under favourable conditions. In that connexion, he pointed out that such assistance would have a multiplier effect in that it would enable some developing countries to help others. The information which OECD provided periodically on development co-operation afforded many examples. For example, Argentina, which was anxious to make a tangible contribution to progress in Africa, had paid a sum of \$2,400,000 to the African Development Fund in 1975.

17. He recalled that, at the twenty-first and twenty-second sessions of the UNDP Governing Council, the possibility had been considered of closing some of the Resident Representatives' offices in order to help the Programme to overcome its financial difficulties. His delegation maintained its opposition to any such measure in view of the important role which Resident Representatives would have to play in the Programme's new activities, such as technical co-operation among developing countries, and within the framework of the concept of new dimensions which it was essential to implement as soon as possible.

18. Argentina was to host the next United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, to which it attached the utmost importance. It agreed with the Administrator of UNDP that preparations for the Conference should be intensified and, in particular, that the financial resources provided for the purpose should be increased. The contribution of \$180,000 allocated under the Programme in that connexion should be supplemented by resources taken from the United Nations regular budget upon a decision of the General Assembly. It also considered that it was essential, in order to ensure that the preparatory work was carried out in the best possible conditions, to appoint the Secretary-General of the Conference without delay. In view of the important role which UNDP would play in organizing the Conference those functions should, in his delegation's view, be exercised by Mr. Bradford Morse, the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, whose qualities were well known. He should be assisted in his task by a secretariat composed of members of the UNDP Working Group on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries and the Economic and Social Council secretariat.

19. Since the Conference might meet at the same time as the United Nations

(Mr. Ortiz de Rozas, Argentina)

Conference on Desertification, his delegation was currently examining the possibility of postponing the dates and had asked the competent Argentinian authorities to indicate a time, at the beginning of 1978, when they would be in a position to provide the necessary facilities.

20. With regard to the United Nations Capital Development Fund, he was pleased to announce that his Government had decided to increase its contribution by 10 per cent and that it would pay a sum equivalent to \$47,750 on condition that it was used for the promotion of technical co-operation among developing countries.

21. His delegation fully appreciated the efforts of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities to implement the Declaration and Plan of Action adopted in Bucharest in 1974. Since the requests for assistance received by the Fund exceeded the level of its available resources, it agreed that criteria should be established in that connexion and awaited with interest the report to be prepared on the question.

22. With regard to the World Food Programme, his delegation maintained its support for the establishment of an emergency reserve fund, which had been approved at the seventh special session of the General Assembly, and considered that purchases made under the Programme to meet its needs should so far as possible be effected in developing countries which were food producers.

23. In referring to the concept of new dimensions in international economic co-operation, he felt that the political decision taken by the developing countries to employ all possible forms of mutual co-operation constituted a fundamental element in the establishment of the new international economic order. The international climate had never been so favourable to those efforts. Nevertheless, it must be recognized that economic development among developing countries already had its own identity, recognized by the movement of non-aligned countries during the Georgetown Conference in 1972 and confirmed in 1976 in the Manila, Colombo, and Mexico City meetings.

24. The Argentine delegation was pleased to note that the documents approved at the Colombo and Mexico City meetings had been well received by the Governments of the industrialized countries; nevertheless, it wished to make it clear that the measures they contained neither envisaged implementing a new international development strategy in which the developing countries would no longer play their important present role nor did they give the concept of collective self-reliance a sense of autarky or isolation. The developing countries sought to harmonize their positions, as was traditional within the Group of 77, and at the same time formulate a series of interdependent measures in all fields. Far from seeking isolation, on the contrary the developing countries hoped to be able to count on the financial and technical support of the developed countries and on the United Nations system as a whole. Consequently, the Argentine delegation was helping to prepare a draft resolution aimed at ensuring United Nations technical participation, since all decisions of a political nature should be taken exclusively by the developing countries themselves.

25. As far as economic co-operation among developing countries was concerned, he

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(Mr. Ortiz de Rozas, Argentina)

regretted that the Secretary-General's report requested in General Assembly resolution 3442 (XXX) had been distributed only the previous week. Nevertheless, he appreciated the efforts made to implement operative paragraph 6 of that resolution.

26. Mr. OYONO (United Republic of Cameroon) said that he recognized the important role played by and planned for the various operational programmes in Africa. He especially wished to thank UNDP for its noteworthy contribution to the development of Cameroon.

27. As a sign of its interest in UNDP activities, the United Republic of Cameroon, in accordance with its means, had each year increased its contributions to the Programme. Despite the difficulties of the present world situation, the effects of which it had felt on its economy, it had made a contribution in 1976 of more than 26 million freely convertible CFA francs.

28. The Cameroon delegation welcomed the efforts made by the Administrator to reorganize UNDP's financial situation, particularly with regard to the measures taken to reduce administrative expenses and mobilize supplementary resources. Nevertheless, despite such efforts and austerity measures, UNDP's financial situation was still precarious and the deficit persisted. The Programme therefore required increased supplementary resources. In that regard, the Cameroon delegation wished to thank those Governments that had announced supplementary contributions, and it hoped that the developed countries and all those able to do so would follow that example and make appropriate contributions to the Programme.

29. The present financial difficulties had both immediate and long-term effects on the development plans of the developing countries. The sudden and unexpected reduction of anticipated external contributions dangerously affected carefully planned development activities in certain key sectors and disturbed the allocation of internal resources. Moreover, owing to the large deficit, UNDP had had to refrain from initiating new projects, whatever their priority, and had to set a ceiling for expenditures for each country for 1976.

30. With regard to the United Republic of Cameroon, the figure set for 1976 was \$3.3 million. UNDP obligations that absolutely had to be met (contractual experts, material ordered, fellowships) amounted to \$3.2 million. It had therefore been necessary to review the entire programme under way in order to see what savings could be made without hampering the smooth running of the programme. The spirit of understanding and co-operation shown by the Cameroon Government and UNDP made it possible to maintain most of the existing projects; however, 1977 was expected to be a very difficult year. The figure of \$2,760,000 allocated to Cameroon for 1977 was considerably lower than the 1976 figure. Assuming that all the projects under way should be concluded, almost all of that sum had already been committed.

31. Furthermore, as a result of its financial straits, UNDP had had to make

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(Mr. Oyono, United Republic of Cameroon)

sizable reductions in its contribution to projects undertaken as part of the regional programme for Africa. Many of those projects were of interest to Cameroon, particularly the Statistics Training Institute, The Wildlife School and the African Regional Centre for Labour Administration.

32. In order to prevent the present difficulties from becoming too great a threat to the execution of programmes, it was urgent to provide UNDP with appropriate financial means. In that context, the Cameroon delegation fully supported draft resolution A/C.2/31/L.2, aimed at giving the Administrator supplementary borrowing authority. Only by borrowing cash resources could the Administrator maintain the financial stability of the programme until a sufficient Operational Reserve of fully liquid resources could be constituted.

33. The Cameroon delegation noted with satisfaction that African problems and co-operation among developing countries figured importantly in future UNDP programmes, and it welcomed the interest shown in the liberation of Africa, particularly the decision of the Governing Council at its twenty-second session to invite the African liberation movements to participate in its work.

34. With regard to economic co-operation among developing countries, a key element in the new international economic order, he said that the desire for collective self-reliance was a manifestation of the profound desire of the third world countries to be less dependent on the developed countries, to strengthen their possibilities for common action, and to play an active role in setting up a new external framework for development efforts.

35. Such collective self-reliance, in favouring personal effort, was not synonymous with withdrawal or autarky. It had but one aim in mind: to mobilize the resources of the third world countries in order to accelerate their development and transform the mechanisms and institutions that had so far regulated international economic relations. For a long time the economies of the developing countries had been linked to the economies of the centres of power by exclusive bi-polar relations that left no room for co-operation among third world countries. That explained why most of the claims of those countries regarding international economic relations had traditionally concerned and continued to concern elimination of the obstacles that in such bi-polar relations impeded their development efforts. It was therefore increasingly evident that intensifying vertical trade alone as a means of solving third world development problems was neither desirable nor practicable. It was not desirable because it contributed to strengthening the dependence of the third world; and it was not practicable because the markets in the industrialized countries would not be sufficient to absorb the increasing volume of goods from the developing countries.

36. In such circumstances, those countries, as they became able to satisfy their needs mutually, had to establish and strengthen horizontal co-operation. First of all, the negotiating power of the third world in the international economic system had to be improved, and then trade, investment and technological co-operation among the developing countries had to be strengthened and intensified.

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(Mr. Oyono, United Republic of Cameroon)

37. Collective self-reliance was the sine qua non condition for truly authentic co-operation. In order to translate the concept of collective self-reliance into reality, the developing countries had adopted homogeneous programmes in fields as varied as trade, postal services, transportation, tourism, currency, science and technology. Implementation of those programmes was based on prior studies and analyses, and required the entire international community to provide assistance to the developing countries. In that spirit, last year the General Assembly, in resolution 3442 (XXX), had requested the specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies to continue to support the promotion of economic co-operation among developing countries. The Cameroon delegation welcomed the activities initiated in implementing that resolution, which were described in document A/31/304.

38. As to technical co-operation in particular, his delegation highly appreciated the activities undertaken by UNDP to help the developing countries to identify their possibilities in that area. It commended the Administrator for having manifested the will to make technical co-operation among developing countries an increasingly integral part of UNDP activities and thanked him for the assistance he was providing to the various regions in the preparations for the world conference on technical co-operation among developing countries, which should, in the light of the results achieved at the Manila, Colombo and Mexico Conferences and the regional preparatory meetings, go beyond the stage of declarations of principle and tackle specific problems.

39. In his delegation's opinion, particular attention should be devoted to the documentation, which would play a decisive role as far as the success of the conference was concerned. An effort should be made to provide representatives, in good time, with well-prepared documents that would facilitate decision making with a view to transposing the different programmes into a series of specific and coherent initiatives.

40. Mr. KITCHEN (United States of America) felt that the testimony of the representatives of many developing countries concerning the value of the operational programmes of the United Nations system illustrated better than any other the importance of those programmes for development efforts, particularly in the poorest and least advantaged countries. His country continued to be a major financial and moral supporter of UNDP, UNEFA, UNICEF, the World Food Programme and the United Nations Volunteers programme. His country intended to provide over \$235 million out of the total sum of \$1.1 billion which those programmes would allocate to technical assistance and humanitarian services in 1977.

41. At a time when UNDP was endeavouring better to meet the needs of the developing world, when the new dimensions were being translated from a theoretical concept into an operating principle, when technical co-operation among developing countries was adding a new dimension to operational activities and when even greater UNDP responsibilities would probably result from in-depth consideration of such questions as desertification, water, science and technology and human settlements, strong leadership, outstanding programme and managerial talent, sound fiscal and financial management and effective evaluation were more important than ever. Care should be taken to avoid the risk of again encountering the devastating

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(Mr. Kitchen, United States)

interruptions in technical assistance, pre-investment studies and natural resource exploration which had been witnessed a year earlier. The Administrator should be commended for his sensitivity to those problems and for leaving no stone unturned in his efforts to provide UNDP with the best possible administrative structure.

42. The results of the UNDP Pledging Conference for 1977 were most disquieting both in terms of total anticipated pledges (\$501 million) and the geographically narrow base of the major contributors. Once again 16 countries had provided over 90 per cent of all the pledges made or projected for 1977. Other wealthy countries could and should do more. His delegation did not accept the argument that assistance offered to developing countries was a function of levels of guilt for a colonial past. All countries which had the capacity to do so had a responsibility to provide assistance to the developing countries.

43. Furthermore, contributions should not be tied to services coming from the contributing country. UNDP must be able to make quick and flexible use of all its pledged resources, especially in the light of its new responsibilities in the area of technical co-operation among developing countries and under the new dimensions. Unfortunately that was not the case and, although UNDP had endeavoured to make maximum use of the services offered by countries which made their contributions in non-convertible currencies, it had been holding some \$30 million in non-usable currencies at the end of the previous year. The United States had made constructive proposals for remedying that situation, including an offer to purchase for dollars substantial amounts of the non-convertible currencies accumulated by UNDP. There might be other solutions more acceptable to the donor countries involved and his country would welcome specific proposals to free those balances for development purposes.

44. His delegation believed that special thanks were due to those countries - developed and developing - which had made extraordinary contributions to UNDP during the current year and to those which, after reviewing their own situations, had announced their intention to forgo part or all of their indicative planning figures for the second cycle. It hoped for further financial support for UNDP in 1977, particularly from relatively wealthy nations which had UNDP programmes, and encouraged the more prosperous of the developing countries to make greater use of reimbursable assistance arrangements.

45. His delegation wished to recall the importance of co-ordinating and integrating United Nations technical assistance for development and to stress the role of UNDP as the central funding and co-ordinating body in that field and the over-all responsibility of the resident representatives in the area of co-ordination.

46. As to the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, his delegation appreciated the progress made in the field of population assistance. Since population growth was inextricably related to all phases of economic and social development, it was entirely proper that UNFPA should emphasize assistance to countries which were encouraging family planning at the community level. It also endorsed the increasing tendency to encourage local responsibility and rely upon domestic talent and skills in the realization of UNFPA-assisted projects.

47. At its previous session, the UNDP Governing Council had accepted, in

(Mr. Kitchen, United States)

principle, the new UNFPA proposals regarding priorities, core programming and minimum levels of assistance in each sector of population activities at the country level. The United States, which had unreservedly supported that decision by the Council, felt that those proposals should help to bring about better use of the Fund's finite resources.

48. His delegation emphasized its continued support for the United Nations Volunteers programme and its confidence in the programme's Co-ordinator, Mr. Gordon. It noted with satisfaction that about 60 per cent of the volunteers were now working in the least developed countries and that the programme had absorbed some of the activities previously performed by the International Secretariat for Volunteer Service.

49. In his country's opinion, it was entirely appropriate that the United Nations should emphasize youth programmes and the training of youth workers and that the Volunteers programme should be designated as "the principal operational unit of the United Nations for the execution of youth programmes", as recommended by the Governing Council in the decision it had taken in that regard and the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1966 (LIX).

50. Since the subject of food and the World Food Programme had already been dealt with on two occasions by Senator George McGovern, he would only reiterate that his country had pledged to continue to intensify its efforts to combat hunger in the world and had provided nearly 6 million tons of food grains for that purpose. All other nations should intensify their efforts to attain the 10 million ton target for food aid in 1975-1976 established by the General Assembly at its seventh special session.

51. For 1975-1976 Governments had far oversubscribed the World Food Programme target of \$440 million. With firm pledges now totalling over \$600 million there was little doubt that the 1977-1978 target of \$750 million also would be met. Looking towards that target his Government had pledged \$188 million in cash, commodities and shipping services.

52. His delegation had taken careful note of the work being done by the Office of Technical Co-operation and it hoped that all projects undertaken by the United Nations with funding from sources other than UNDP would be closely co-ordinated with UNDP country programmes.

53. While appreciating the United Nations concentration, in its regular programme of technical co-operation, on assistance to the least developed countries, his delegation believed that the programme should be eliminated from the United Nations regular budget and transferred to appropriate voluntary programmes, particularly UNDP.

54. With regard to UNICEF, his delegation had been pleased to note the response elicited at the Pledging Conference for 1977. In addition to the official contribution from the United States of America, he recalled that American citizens made contributions directly to UNICEF each year. He hoped that UNICEF would be able to manage effectively the \$200 million placed at its disposal. The basic

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(Mr. Kitchen, United States)

services approach was a constructive one and UNICEF should implement it not only for its country programmes but also to provide information to United Nations agencies and multilateral and bilateral donors on how they might also apply it.

55. The promotion of technical co-operation among developing countries had been a matter of growing interest to the United States in recent years. Such co-operation should be viewed as complementary to other development efforts and as an additional means of mobilizing the untapped resources and capacities of the developing world. Technical co-operation among developing countries should not compete with other developmental activities and should be promoted in such a way that the principal responsibility for its financing rested with the developing countries themselves. The role of UNDP should be simply to facilitate, act as catalyst and co-ordinate action undertaken in that area. It might provide limited financial support, such as in helping finance an information system, assisting with certain training activities and similar ancillary programmes.

56. The determination of the developing countries to work together in playing the principal part in the development process had been expressed at the various conferences they had held in Manila, Nairobi, Colombo and Mexico City. The United States saluted that desire for self-reliance and believed that the industrialized countries must do all they could within the limits of their constitutional systems, to help such co-operation bear fruit.

57. It also supported the activities of the United Nations system in the promotion of economic co-operation among developing countries. Such activities should not distort established programme priorities and discussions on the subject should be open to all Member States. Such discussions might generate action proposals involving the entire United Nations system. For instance, the participants in the Mexico Conference adopted proposals which included invitations or requests to UNCTAD, the regional commissions and other elements of the United Nations system to either execute or participate in various studies. Since such activities might not only upset the priorities of those organizations but entail long-term commitments, it was essential that all Member States should be consulted before those bodies committed resources to implement the proposals involved.

58. In examining the question of operational activities, the Committee should not lose sight of the debates currently going on within the Ad Hoc Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations. One of the proposals the Committee was considering related to the consolidation of the funding of the various United Nations operational programmes. His delegation had indicated its support for that proposal and hoped that the Ad Hoc Committee would be able to develop specific recommendations in that regard.

59. Finally, he stressed the importance of the role of women in development. Efforts must be made to ensure that women became more deeply involved in the planning and execution of United Nations development activities. In their introductory remarks the heads of some United Nations organizations had provided encouraging information in that connexion. The Executive Director of UNFPA, for

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(Mr. Kitchen, United States)

instance, had stated that 32 per cent of UNFPA's professional posts were now filled by women. In addition, many examples had been cited of the full integration of women in the UNICEF programme.

60. Mr. KOSSEV (Bulgaria) recalled that his country supported the United Nations development activities, and particularly UNDP, which was making a considerable contribution to the economic and technological development of the various regions of the world. Bulgaria, for its part, had benefited from important programmes carried out with UNDP assistance.

61. He hoped that under the dynamic direction of its Administrator, UNDP would be able to overcome its difficulties quickly. He welcomed the energetic measures which had been taken to redress UNDP's financial situation, inter alia, by reducing administrative costs while maintaining the volume of assistance granted at practically the same level. He was also pleased to hear that the Administrator intended to seek ways of utilizing all the contributions paid in national currencies. With regard to the proposal made in that connexion by the United States representative, he recalled that his country's position had been defined clearly at the twenty-second session of the UNDP Governing Council and at the sixty-first session of the Economic and Social Council.

62. He expressed the hope that UNDP would apply the principle of equitable geographical distribution to the recruitment of experts, training of fellows, appointment of officials both at Headquarters and in the field, the conclusion of subcontracts and the provision of supplies. Bulgaria offered considerable possibilities in all those areas, specifically in matters relating to the training of cadres from developing countries. It was therefore unfortunate that that country should contribute very actively to development on a bilateral basis by providing thousands of experts and training hundreds of fellows, while its contribution through UNDP remained insignificant.

63. His delegation approved the assistance given by UNDP to the national liberation movements and to countries which had recently attained independence and it hoped that that assistance would benefit the countries of Indo-China to a large extent.

64. He welcomed UNDP assistance to the technical co-operation activities among developing countries and the steps which the developing countries had taken to strengthen that co-operation. However, the activities carried out by the Secretary-General in that area and financed with funds from the regular budget should be entrusted to UNDP and be financed from voluntary contributions.

65. The activities carried out by UNICEF for well nigh 30 years had earned it the respect of the entire world. The fact that UNICEF proposed to support the establishment of the infrastructure necessary to provide "basic services" to mothers and children in the developing countries on a permanent basis was to be welcomed. It was nevertheless essential to strengthen all traditional forms of assistance since those basic services were not a panacea. The organization of an "International Year of the Child" would make it possible to strengthen the Fund's activities both on the national and on the international levels. Bulgaria supported those activities and had therefore adopted a programme with a view to co-operating more closely with the Fund.

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(Mr. Kossev, Bulgaria)

66. Despite the steady increase in the resources made available to the various organizations of the United Nations development system, the economic and social situation of the developing countries had gone on deteriorating for a number of reasons beyond the control of those countries. Everyone knew, however, that approximately \$300 billion were spent each year on the arms race. The reduction of the military budgets, disarmament and détente would make it possible to free considerable resources which could be used for development. In that connexion Bulgaria supported the recent Soviet disarmament initiative and was in favour of convening an extraordinary session of the General Assembly with a view to organizing a world disarmament conference.

67. Mr. Lohani (Nepal) took the Chair.

68. Mrs. ALLAM (Egypt) said that it was with cautious optimism that her delegation viewed the financial situation of UNDP. While it was true that the effective measures taken by the Administrator and timely contributions by donor countries had helped to avoid the worst, it was none the less true that the number of the least developed and most seriously affected developing countries would continue to grow unless UNDP had resources which were predictable and steadily increasing. In spite of the example given by some small developed countries and a small number of developing countries, the contributions pledged for the current year did not constitute the 14 per cent increase over the previous year which the Governing Council had considered desirable. On the other hand, it was encouraging to note that the IPFs for Angola and Mozambique had been increased and that it had been decided to attribute an IPF to the Institute for Namibia and SWAPO. She expressed the hope that the Palestinian people would enjoy the same advantage in the near future.

69. Her delegation wished to express its appreciation to the Governments of various countries which, under the cost-sharing arrangements, had made contributions in connexion with the reconstruction and development activities in the Suez Canal zone. Nevertheless, UNDP would need to receive additional contributions in order to start the second phase of that vital project, since more than one third of the target of \$15 million had to be covered by voluntary contributions.

70. UNICEF should receive increased support from the international community in order to meet the needs of children in the developing countries, especially the least developed and most seriously affected among them. Egypt therefore endorsed the proposal to proclaim an "International Year of the Child". At the national and local levels, the application of the principle of basic services should make possible a wider participation of the local population in improving the living conditions of mothers and children in urban communities and small villages. The Executive Director of UNICEF had requested the Executive Board to approve recommendations for projects in 19 countries, including Egypt and Lebanon. One of those recommendations concerned a previously noted UNICEF project, the cost of which was estimated at \$2.3 million and which was designed to facilitate the return of families to the three major cities of the Suez Canal zone. That project, for which an amount of \$1 million had been requested in the mail poll, would not duplicate the UNDP project.

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(Mrs. Allam, Egypt)

71. She was gratified to note the increase in contributions by some developing and developed countries to the United Nations Fund for Population Activities. Moreover, the growing number of projects undertaken by the Fund in various developing countries was a clear indication of the increasing awareness of the impact of the population factor on the development process. Egypt's population continued to grow at the rate of 22 per thousand and it therefore welcomed the decision taken concerning the priority allocation of UNFPA resources to developing countries which had the most urgent need for assistance in that field.

72. The World Food Programme played an increasingly constructive role. It was essential, however, to note that concessional aid to the poorest countries now represented less than half the food aid which was given to developing countries and which had itself decreased in general terms. In addition, the principle of forward planning had been adhered to by only a few countries and the contributions to the Emergency Food Reserve had been quite small. As there had been little improvement in the food situation in the countries where the Reserve was most needed, particularly in the Sudano-Sahelian zone, it was essential to implement urgently the commitments already undertaken at the World Food Conference and the seventh special session of the General Assembly.

73. Egypt had always actively participated in the United Nations Volunteers programme, in particular in the activities undertaken in African and Arab countries. It therefore hoped that Governments would respond to the appeal to make contributions or to increase their contributions to the programme.

74. With regard to technical and economic co-operation among developing countries, she said that General Assembly resolution 3405 (XXX) on new dimensions in technical co-operation and the programme for technical co-operation and consultancy services approved at the Colombo Conference constituted the basis for action to be taken in that field. The Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, to be held in Argentina, and the activities of the United Nations Office of Technical Co-operation were also of great importance. The Manila Declaration, a number of regional meetings and the Action Programme for Economic Co-operation adopted by the Fifth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-aligned Countries had laid the foundation for the timely adoption of the programme on economic co-operation among developing countries by the Mexico Conference. It should be noted, however, that while the developing countries stressed the basic principle of national and collective self-reliance embodied in technical and economic co-operation among developing countries, they had not lost sight of the complementary nature of the principles of co-operation and interdependence at the world level.

75. Her delegation expressed the hope that the developed countries and the United Nations system would provide at the appropriate time the necessary support and assistance to developing countries for the purpose of strengthening their co-operation with a view to the establishment of the new international economic order.

76. As one delegation had mentioned on several occasions the issue of the economic classification of countries, she wished to draw the Committee's attention to the decisions and actions taken by the Governing Council of UNDP and the United Nations



(Mrs. Allam, Egypt)

Conference on the establishment of the International Fund for Agricultural Development concerning the classification of the country in question.

77. UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, WFP, the United Nations Volunteers programme, and technical and economic co-operation among developing countries were all instruments towards the same objective, namely, the establishment of the new international economic order. It was to be hoped, therefore, that the developed countries would not confine themselves to the expression of moral support and that they would provide concrete aid to the developing countries.

78. Mr. ACHACHE (Algeria) said that he entirely agreed with the analysis given by the Administrator of the reasons for the precarious financial situation of UNDP. The crisis facing UNDP had not been caused by the increase in the rate of execution of UNDP-financed projects, but by disturbances in the general economic framework, inflation, exchange rate manipulations, excessive increases in the cost of expert services and administrative expenditure and the lack of sufficient contributions. With the exception of the Scandinavian countries, the developed countries had not heeded the appeal made by the General Assembly which, in resolution 2973 (XXVII), invited Governments to increase the rate of their contributions to UNDP by at least 15 per cent annually. The average increase in contributions had been only 11 per cent, which had caused UNDP to have a shortage of nearly \$100 million. In those circumstances, it was therefore difficult to believe the statement of the developed countries that they were willing to contribute to the solution of the problems of development.

79. His delegation whole-heartedly approved of the vigorous measures taken by the new UNDP Administrator to reduce and stabilize administrative expenditures. Those measures have unfortunately been taken at the expense of the developing countries, which had witnessed a substantial reduction in the rate of the execution of projects of concern to them. However, those measures had not enabled UNDP to extricate itself from its critical situation. The disappointing results of the 1977 Pledging Conference seemed to indicate that the modest targets of the second programming cycle might not be achieved. He recalled in that regard that just over 60 per cent of the targets of the first cycle had been attained, in real terms.

80. In order to restore UNDP's financial viability, it was essential to attack the roots of the problem. The amount of public aid for development was far from 0.7 per cent of the GNP of the developed countries, which had been the objective set. It was therefore hardly possible, in those circumstances, to put forward the concept of cost-sharing. As the President of the IBRD had pointed out, the developed nations should recognize that the volumes of public aid for development both current and proposed, were ridiculously low. To deal with the current crisis, it was essential that a machinery should be established to make it possible to adjust the level of contributions according to the rate of inflation and that countries deriving direct benefit from UNDP through the supply of equipment and experts should accept the status of "net contributors".

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(Mr. Achache, Algeria)

81. The implementation of General Assembly resolution 3405 (XXX) on new dimensions in technical co-operation, which provided, inter alia, for the execution of projects by the institutions of the developing countries receiving assistance, would enable UNDP to save money and help the developing countries to strengthen their technological capacity. In the view of his delegation, the fundamental purpose of the United Nations development system was to create the conditions which would render it superfluous, since the developing countries did not want to be permanent relief recipients. Technical co-operation among developing countries was also a basic ingredient of UNDP's new dimensions and his delegation hoped that the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation to be held in Argentina would result in the adoption of guidelines and concrete measures to strengthen technical relations among developing countries.

82. Algeria took an active part in the other operational activities of the United Nations system. It contributed regularly to the United Nations Children's Fund and supported the steps it was taking to implement the concept of basic services for children in the developing countries. It was pleased that the United Nations Capital Development Fund had become operational and thought that all States should contribute to it. Having enjoyed technical and financial support from the United Nations Fund for Population Activities for its census projects, his Government had announced a special contribution of \$250,000 to that Fund for 1976. While it appreciated the Fund's activities, and particularly the publication of documentation on population questions, his delegation wished to stress the need for the Fund to continue to respect the sovereignty of States in population questions and to preserve its multilaterality. Finally, it approved of the work undertaken by the World Food Programme and hoped that a large proportion of food aid would be channelled through WFP.

83. The concept of co-operation, particularly technical co-operation, among developing countries was no longer a meaningless phrase. The approach adopted by the United Nations Office of Technical Co-operation could not but stimulate the process of liberating and developing the economies of the developing countries. The establishment of the new international economic order required the modification of the structures of domination and exploitation inherited from the colonial era and the building of new structures compatible with the needs and aspirations of the developing countries. The achievement of that fundamental aim implied implementation of the principle of the permanent sovereignty of the developing countries over their natural resources and the economic activities in their territory. Only when those prerequisites had been fulfilled could there be subregional and regional economic integration and the creation of homogeneous economic spaces.

84. The Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries meeting at Colombo had reaffirmed their desire to create the most favourable conditions for co-operation among developing countries. To that end, they had recommended the strengthening of associations of raw materials exporters, the establishment of new associations for other primary products, the establishment of a special fund for the financing of buffer stocks of raw materials, multinational enterprises, a

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(Mr. Achache, Algeria)

world system of trade preferences, co-ordination of policies for the purchase of goods, technology and services, the strengthening of financial and monetary links through a commercial bank, establishment of a countervailing currency and a payments union and, lastly, the formulation of a global transport strategy. The Conferences of Colombo, Manila and Mexico had given new impetus to the concept of collective self-reliance and had laid the ground for the action to be taken.

85. As had been repeatedly emphasized at those Conferences, the developing countries did not regard a collective economy as a reversion to autarchy. On the contrary, they felt that it required genuine international co-operation in the context of the inauguration of a new international economic order. The United Nations development system and the developed countries could contribute to that effort to create a new global interdependence in the technical and financial fields. In that connexion, his delegation was gratified by the establishment of a new UNCTAD committee, which would be responsible for economic co-operation among developing countries, and for the adoption at the fourth session of UNCTAD of a resolution calling for the implementation by the developed countries of a series of measures to facilitate the expansion of co-operation relations among developing countries.

86. For its part, Algeria spared no effort to promote horizontal co-operation among developing countries. For example, it had hosted the Second Pan-African Fair, the Symposium on Afro-Arab Co-operation, the Constituent Congress of the Fairs Association of the third world, the meeting for the establishment of the Association of Third World Economists. Moreover, Algeria contributed to the OPEC Fund and to IFAD, as well as to various Arab and African funds and continued to expand its financial, technical and trade co-operation with African countries.

#### ORGANIZATION OF THE COMMITTEE'S WORK

87. The CHAIRMAN said that a number of delegations had formally requested that the deadline for submitting draft resolutions on agenda items 57, 60 and 61 should be extended. He therefore suggested that it should be fixed at 22 November.

88. It was so decided.

89. The CHAIRMAN further suggested that the deadline for submitting draft resolutions on agenda items 12, 56, 62, 63 and 64 should be Monday, 29 November.

90. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.