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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 44th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. VALDES (Bolivia)

later: Mr. LOHANI (Nepal)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 62: UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL FUND (A/31/21, A/31/3/Add.1 (Part III))

1. Mr. ALGARD (President, United Nations Special Fund) said that despite the lack of success of past efforts to attract resources to the United Nations Special Fund, he had always reported on it to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly in an optimistic vein. Thus, it seemed paradoxical that at a time when the Fund had acquired its first contributions he had a more pessimistic view as to its future. The reason for his previous optimism was his refusal to believe that appeals by two special and two regular sessions of the General Assembly would go unheeded. He still hoped that he was right and that countries would at least take seriously the attitudes which they had expressed towards the resolutions establishing the Fund. He had always felt that, if only a few countries would come forward, the vicious circle in which groups of contributors refrained from contributing until others had announced their pledges would be broken. Thus, when Venezuela and Norway had come forward early in 1976 with contributions amounting to about \$21 million, he had thought that a breakthrough had occurred, but his hopes had been disappointed and an immediate response by other countries had not materialized. The industrialized countries which he had approached had preferred to give their assistance to most severely affected countries either bilaterally or through multilateral outlets. He had hoped to succeed in persuading the OPEC countries to channel at least part of their aid through the Special Fund, but OPEC had decided to channel its aid for most severely affected countries through a special fund of its own.

2. The immediate task confronting the Fund was to disburse with a minimum of delay the available resources for the purpose for which they had been given. Disbursement of the funds would be decided by a special session of the Board of Governors of the Fund early in December.

3. In the meantime, consultations should continue so that at its next regular session in January 1977 the Board of Governors could make a realistic assessment of the future prospects for the Fund and make appropriate recommendations.

4. Although he had travelled widely and held many talks to attract resources for the Fund, the most important thing for him was that aid for the most seriously affected countries must be forthcoming, that four sessions of the General Assembly had singled out the Special Fund as the most suitable instrument for that purpose, and that a majority of countries had agreed to that proposition.

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AGENDA ITEM 59: OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT (A/31/3, A/31/323; A/C.2/31/L.2, L.3, L.4) (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 68: TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (A/31/82, 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 and Add.1, A/31/197, A/31/237; A/C.2/31/7 and Add.1) (continued)

5. Mr. M'BAYO (Sierra Leone) said that the remarkable recovery which UNDP had made under the guidance of its Administrator was worthy of the highest commendation, and the fact that the Administrator had been able to achieve that recovery without prejudice to the level of programme activities and delivery made the recovery even more significant.

6. His delegation had noted with satisfaction the effectiveness of the Administrator's efforts to mobilize additional resources for the Programme, to induce Governments to pay their arrears, to utilize non-convertible contributions, and to reduce administrative and programme support costs. The momentum thus generated must be sustained if confidence in the Programme was to endure.

7. His delegation fully supported UNDP's efforts to provide material assistance to national liberation movements as well as newly independent countries; that was consistent with the general United Nations commitment to improving the quality of life everywhere.

8. His delegation was fully in sympathy with the Administrator's concern about the need for some contingency arrangement to enable the Programme, even without operational reserves, to enter 1977 with an ability to sustain the momentum generated in 1976. There were indeed arguments against the proposal for short-term borrowing authority recommended by the Governing Council. For example, the 1976 deficits could have been overcome if arrears of all contributions pledged had been paid up in time. Also, the incentive for urgent replenishment of the Programme's funds might become less pressing because of the convenience of the borrowing arrangement, and interest on such short-term borrowing might reduce the over-all funds available for Programme activities. However, in deciding to support the Governing Council's recommendation his delegation had been guided by a number of considerations: unexpected curtailments of Programme activities necessitated by liquidity shortages of the kind experienced towards the end of 1975 might in the long run be more costly to the recipient countries than the interest on short-term borrowing. Furthermore, the outcome of the recent UNDP Pledging Conference had been less than encouraging in terms of the rate of increase on which the Governing Council had predicated the disposition of resources over the next development cycle, a trend which recalled the frustration suffered by the International Development Strategy owing to the failure to attain the 0.7 per cent official development assistance target. Consequently, his delegation was inclined to support the recommendation, being satisfied with the conditions in which the authority would be used.

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(Mr. M'Bayo, Sierra Leone)

9. His Government considered that all the United Nations organizations engaged in operational activities for development should be provided for in such a way as to make them more effective in the establishment of the New International Economic Order.

10. He expressed his Government's appreciation of the invaluable services which UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, WFP and UNV had rendered to Sierra Leone. He also expressed appreciation to all those countries through whose generous contributions the operational programmes of the organizations had reached the present level of viability.

11. Since the conclusion of the seventh special session, the General Assembly had continued to urge the specialized agencies and other organizations to provide continuing support for economic and technical co-operation among developing countries. If the New International Economic Order was pursued in the same co-operative spirit in which the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States had been accepted, that augured well for the future. The Charter was destined to play an important role in the evolution of the New Order.

12. Because of the many limitations besetting the developing countries, self-reliance for them could be meaningful only through some form of collective effort. It was gratifying therefore that they had amply demonstrated their acceptance of the new dimension at meetings such as those in Manila, Nairobi, Colombo and Mexico City, and that there was a new growth of interest in regional co-operative organizations. In view of the success which a number of such organizations had enjoyed in Africa, he looked forward to the conference to be held in Argentina in 1977.

13. Co-operation among developing countries within the conceptual model of the New International Economic Order should reflect a continuing process, using data from the developed world and applying the model to other development questions. Co-operation should eventually be able to make a contribution to the research called for by General Assembly resolution 3345 (XXIX), so that the developing countries themselves would eventually have facilitated the implementation of General Assembly resolution 3508 (XXX), which specifically called for long-range projections of economic development at the regional and global levels. The two resolutions implied that national policy initiatives were a starting point of all development efforts. That emphasis was not in conflict with the strategies formulated for the decade of the 1970s for international economic co-operation. Together with the call for the New International Economic Order, they provided sufficient rationale for the international community to start preparing for the third Development Decade, which must be designed for and devoted to the establishment of the Order.

14. Mr. BOUNNAK (Lao People's Democratic Republic) said that UNICEF assistance was not only humanitarian, it was also a valuable contribution to development, and would be even more useful if it was brought into close harmony with the national and local policies of the recipient Government. It must not start off on the wrong foot; thus, in assisting the least developed and most seriously affected countries, UNICEF should not favour one continent above others merely on the basis of the numbers

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(Mr. Bounnak, Lao People's
Democratic Republic)

involved. Each region of the southern hemisphere had about the same number of least developed and most seriously affected countries, all equally deserving of attention. Lao was a land-locked State which had been seriously affected by colonialism and neo-colonialism and ravaged by an aggressive imperialist war. Under the enlightened leadership of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party, the people had mobilized to fight the second enemy, illiteracy, and the aftermath of the ancient feudal system, with the object of overcoming the third enemy, under-development, and advancing towards socialism.

15. He welcomed the introduction of the basic services concept and its extension to all the developing areas of the world with the object of reaching out to mothers and children everywhere. It was nevertheless true that the concept of basic services for children could only succeed with the active participation and support of the recipient community and that success depended largely on the support of the Government concerned.

16. His Government was mobilizing all material and human resources to eliminate the last traces of the former régime and of imperialist aggression, colonialism and neo-colonialism and to develop the groundwork of a national democratic and progressive educational system. Great efforts had been made to eliminate illiteracy, which was one of the major obstacles to the country's development. Schools were to be built in all villages and districts, and textbooks were to be prepared. Competent teachers at all levels who were dedicated to the revolution would be trained without further delay, and professional education would be given in accordance with the need to build up and develop the national economy. The educational and cultural level of all segments of the population would be raised.

17. In the field of public health, the Government's task was not only to maintain disease control but to strengthen and protect the health of the whole population, particularly mothers and children. Medical care and medicines were given free in towns and rural areas. The Government was also consolidating and developing the groundwork of the health services, increasing the network of dispensaries and developing an awareness of hygiene in the population as a whole.

18. In view of the extent of those programmes, further increases in UNICEF aid to Lao were necessary. He expressed sincere appreciation of the work of the Executive Director and his staff both at headquarters and in the field. He warmly supported the proposal to organize an International Year of the Child.

19. He welcomed the efforts of the Administrator of UNDP and of Governments to improve the Programme's financial situation; nevertheless, the efficiency of its programmes did not depend on financial considerations alone but on other factors such as the way in which experts were recruited while keeping costs down and the manner in which the experience gained in countries with different social and economic systems could be transferred to a recipient country.

20. UNDP should play a major part in the establishment of the New International Economic Order, as it was the main United Nations organ capable of transferring technology and promoting economic and technical co-operation among developing countries.

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(Mr. Bounnak, Lao People's Democratic Republic)

21. Economic and technical co-operation among developing countries afforded a means of putting an end to a situation in which countries with three quarters of the world's population and the greater part of its natural resources had exports within their own group that accounted for only about 20 per cent of their total trade for 1975. That was a reflection of the present international economic situation, the main feature of which, was brazen exploitation and domination of the third world countries. At a time when colonialism, neo-colonialism and imperialism were everywhere in retreat and had suffered resounding defeat, particularly in Indo-China, it was essential to establish the New International Economic Order, which could be a stimulus for economic and technical co-operation among developing countries. The chief aim of such "horizontal co-operation" was to establish collective self-reliance, which was an important element in consolidating political victories and would also provide a solid basis on which developing countries could establish a new international economic order. The outdated economic system of the world consisted of plundering the natural resources of the countries of the southern hemisphere and exporting European-manufactured goods to them, and it must be replaced by new currents of goods, services and technology, directed horizontally. That would not be easy. The creation of new habits and reflexes required new partners in horizontal co-operation and firm political will. The effort would be resisted tooth and nail by those who profited from the present inequitable international economic order.

22. Economic self-reliance would enable the third world countries to develop more quickly and more efficiently, since their mutual help and exchange of experience and technology would be more fruitful. Technology transferred from one developing country to another had every chance of fitting neatly into the cultural and socio-economic climate of the recipient.

23. The Lao People's Democratic Republic had already begun to put economic co-operation into practice - for example, with the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and Democratic Kampuchea - on the basis of the principles of respect for independence and sovereignty, equality and mutual advantage not tied to political conditions.

24. Mr. DHARAT (Libya) commended the Administrator of UNDP on his efforts to overcome the liquidity crisis in the Programme and to reduce administrative costs in line with the decisions of the Governing Council. However, in view of UNDP's central role in the United Nations development system, he hoped that the activities of the Programme would not be curtailed. He welcomed the emphasis on assistance to the least developed countries, particularly in Africa, within the framework of national development policies and in accordance with the decisions adopted at conferences of developing countries aimed at bridging the gap between the poor and the rich countries. He emphasized the need for co-operation between UNDP and regional institutions and welcomed the adoption of the "New Dimensions" approach aimed at promoting self-sufficiency and technical co-operation among developing countries. The programmes for the second cycle and the convening of the conference on TCDC in Argentina emphasized the importance of that approach.

25. The assistance provided by UNDP to national liberation movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity constituted an important contribution to the efforts of those movements to overcome the effects of colonial occupation and the

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(Mr. Dharat, Libya)

difficulties encountered by newly independent States. He expressed the hope that UNDP would continue to provide such assistance and make every effort to reduce administrative difficulties and delays. He welcomed the Governing Council's decision to increase the indicative planning figures for newly independent countries. He also welcomed the decision to increase the expenditure on country projects in order to bring it into line with increases in voluntary contributions.

26. In view of the close link between population problems and social and economic development, he welcomed the increased participation of UNFPA in national population programmes aimed at implementing the decisions adopted at the World Population Conference. His country believed that the human element was one of the most important factors in development. Its national development plans included projects for increasing the role of women and young people in development, and it would welcome any assistance which UNFPA could provide in that respect. The publications of UNFPA and the guidelines it provided on the role of women in population activities were extremely useful. As an indication of the importance it attached to UNFPA activities, his country had made a contribution of \$1 million in addition to its regular contribution to the Fund.

27. Technical and economic co-operation among developing countries was a basic element in the achievement of social and economic development and in the implementation of the decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its sixth and seventh special sessions. He agreed with the Administrator of UNDP that the time had come for developing countries and UNDP to take steps to promote collective self-sufficiency among the developing countries. The decisions adopted at the Mexico Conference on TCDC reflected the determination of the developing countries to achieve collective self-reliance and increase their economic independence. The international community and international organizations should provide the necessary resources for that purpose in accordance with the provisions of chapter VI of General Assembly resolution 3362 (S-VII). The UNCTAD Committee on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries could play a major role in promoting such co-operation at the subregional, regional and interregional levels. The United Nations regional economic commissions could also make an important contribution in view of their long experience in the field of development; their awareness of the development potential of and the difficulties faced by developing countries; and the information they had accumulated on economic and social conditions in those countries. They could also facilitate and co-ordinate the exchange of information between regional institutions in order to avoid duplication of effort.

28. His country attached great importance to its own economic co-operation with other developing countries and had entered into bilateral agreements with many developing countries in order to provide financial support for their economic and social development plans. It also contributed generously to development banks within the framework of the League of Arab States, OPEC and OAPEC with a view to assisting developing countries overcome their economic problems. In addition to its contributions to multilateral programmes, his country provided financial assistance for development programmes in the developing countries through the Libyan External Bank, and it had allocated 6 per cent of its net oil revenues to development assistance in 1975.

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29. Mr. CHRISTOFI (Cyprus) commended the Administrator and staff of UNDP on their efforts to overcome the serious problems which the Programme had encountered during the previous year. He also commended the countries which, through special contributions, had enabled UNDP to maintain its planned activities for 1976. The absorptive capacity of developing countries had clearly increased, and there was a need for higher contributions in order to enable the Programme to meet their requirements.

30. Advances in science and technology provided new opportunities for developing human and material resources and promoting world-wide progress and prosperity. Because of its characteristics and the principles on which it operated, the United Nations, and UNDP in particular, could provide the most suitable forum and machinery for that historic mission. Despite the paucity of results achieved, the First and Second United Nations Development Strategies were landmarks in the history of international co-operation and provided a useful frame of reference for identifying the reasons which hindered the attainment of the established targets.

31. Under the provisions of General Assembly resolution 3362 (S-VII), UNDP was entrusted with a number of important tasks in the furtherance of development and international economic co-operation and the establishment of a new international economic order. He welcomed the statement by the Administrator that the Programme's efforts would be concentrated on helping to build national and collective self-reliance and a new international economic order. However, no substantial progress could be achieved without major changes in the industrial, trade and other policies of the developed countries so as to facilitate increased participation by the developing countries in international economic activities and machinery and easier access for those countries to foreign finance and modern technology.

32. The results of the recent UNDP Pledging Conference were not encouraging. Although the level of each country's contribution was its own prerogative, the only way to help UNDP plan its activities on a sound financial basis was to guarantee a certain level of contributions. Consequently, his delegation favoured the establishment of a pro rata growth rate of voluntary contributions.

33. Despite miraculous advances in science and technology and the tireless efforts of UNICEF to alleviate poverty and squalor and improve the condition of children and mothers, it was disheartening to note that, in the poorest countries, most of them remained untouched by the development process. Moreover, the fact that a child deprived of food and elementary health care could be hurt for life and never grow into a normal adult aroused serious concern for the future of mankind. The "basic services" approach adopted by UNICEF should be pursued vigorously, and recipient countries should collaborate with UNICEF in order to ensure its success. As the transfer of institutional arrangements from the developed countries was not always the best answer to the problems of the developing countries, due account should be taken of conditions in individual countries in the implementation of the "basic services" programme.

34. The achievements and activities of UNFPA were an indication of the growing awareness of the implications of population factors and the important

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(Mr. Christofi, Cyprus)

interrelationship between population activities and economic and social development. Fortunately, the increased resources available to the Fund would enhance its ability to accommodate the increased requirements of the developing countries. The Fund had been highly successful in increasing the participation of women in population activities and in limiting its staff. Its publications were particularly useful.

35. His delegation strongly supported the World Food Programme and considered it to be the most effective instrument for channelling food aid to developing countries and helping them combat malnutrition. The decline in concessional aid was alarming, and he urged donor countries to reconsider their position with a view to increasing that aid.

36. The United Nations Volunteers could develop into a useful and valuable vehicle for supplying services to developing countries, particularly through its training activities. His delegation would like to see more volunteers from developing countries involved in its activities.

37. The guidelines for economic and technical co-operation among developing countries had been laid down at the Lima and Colombo conferences of the non-aligned countries and in the Manila Declaration, and the Mexico Conference on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries constituted the culmination of efforts in that direction. Technical and economic co-operation was a means of mobilizing the untapped resources and capacities of the developing world, particularly as traditional forms of technical co-operation had proved costly. The effective promotion of that concept would be an important contribution to the establishment of a new international economic order. Moreover, developing countries possessed the capability and capacity to assist one another, and the technology, research and training facilities available in developing countries were often more appropriate to the needs of other developing countries. However, political will and a change of attitudes on the part of the developing countries were essential prerequisites in any programmes for co-operation among developing countries. He expressed the hope that the Conference on TCDC to be held in Argentina would achieve a break-through in that respect. It was important to avoid a proliferation of institutions and practices at the regional level. The developing countries should expand existing national entities into regional, interregional or global institutions as appropriate. The organization of an information referral system would prove invaluable in that respect.

38. Mr. KOUADIO (Ivory Coast) said that his country attached the greatest importance to the operational activities for development being carried on by the United Nations system. His country's long-standing co-operation with UNDP had been a source of great satisfaction. Following the completion of a UNDP aid programme covering the period 1972-1976, the Programme's Regional Director for Africa had just visited the Ivory Coast to finalize a programme of aid to the rural population between 1977 and 1981 which was being fully integrated into the country's five-year development plan for the period 1976-1980. The most crucial problem in ensuring rural development was that of providing adequate supplies of drinking water, and both UNDP and his country had, with the active assistance of the Canadian Government, launched a programme for the drilling of protected wells in every one of the approximately 8,000 villages in the Ivory Coast. His country, which itself contributed to the programme through a tax on water consumption, wished to express its thanks to UNDP

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(Mr. Kouadio, Ivory Coast)

and the associated specialized agencies for their vital help. UNDP had also assisted in setting up a Naval and Marine Sciences Academy, which would open in 1977 and would accept students from all African countries. The Academy was of particular importance to his country whose external trade was at present almost totally dependent on foreign shipping companies.

39. His delegation considered that the United Nations Fund for Population Activities did not take sufficiently into account the policies of individual countries. States like the Ivory Coast, which had a small population, were not really interested, in the short term, in birth control or family planning but would prefer simply to know how demographic and other development variables affected health, education, housing and employment in order to be able to take them into account in establishing a balance in the long term.

40. The Ivory Coast, which had long been a supporter of economic co-operation among developing countries, was a member of such bodies as a monetary and customs union of French-speaking West African States and of subregional mutual aid and industrial groups. It also formed part of the recently established Economic Community of West African States, whose formation it hoped would lead to greater economic integration and, in turn, to greater collective self-reliance in the subregion.

41. In the sphere of technical co-operation among developing countries, the Ivory Coast had always promoted exchanges of experience and had therefore concluded bilateral agreements with African, Latin American, and Middle and Far Eastern States at a similar stage of development. It placed great hope in the forthcoming Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries.

42. On a more general level, his delegation believed that economic co-operation among developing countries could be substantially increased if the regional economic commissions were given greater authority and resources and worked more openly with one another. UNDP could play a fundamental role in technical co-operation among developing countries if account was taken of its great experience and indisputable efficiency, and if its role as the focal point of the United Nations development assistance activities was reinforced. In his statement at the opening meeting of the sixty-first session of the Economic and Social Council, the President of the Ivory Coast had observed that the current balance of forces in the world did not favour the developing countries. Economic and technical co-operation among developing countries could become a far more vital reality and could contribute to the establishment of the new international economic order which all desired if the confrontation of the past was replaced by whole-hearted co-operation among all members of the international community.

43. Mr. CHELLE (Uruguay) said that the growing need to find ways of achieving development goals and of bridging the gap between developing and developed countries had led the non-aligned countries and the Group of 77 to develop a framework of horizontal co-operation with a view to achieving collective self-reliance. The decision of the developing countries reached at Manila, and the action taken at Colombo by the non-aligned countries, demonstrated that those countries had the necessary political will and actively acknowledged their responsibility for their

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(Mr. Chelle, Uruguay)

own development. His delegation supported the aims and objectives set out in document A/C.2/31/7 and Add.1. Regional co-operation had long formed the basis of his country's foreign policy and had been one of the corner-stones for action in the Latin American region, as was demonstrated by the establishment of a number of regional economic, trade and financial institutions. Technical co-operation among developing countries was one aspect of economic co-operation; his delegation wished to reiterate its support for the convening of the conference on that subject to be held in Argentina, and hoped that it would produce definite benefits for the international community.

44. He expressed concern at the situation of the United Nations Development Programme, whose operational activities were vital to the efforts of the developing countries. The Administrator of UNDP was to be congratulated on his efforts to overcome that situation. Although the problem had still not been solved, there was no doubt that the developing countries continued to have confidence in the Programme's capacity, even though many of them had experienced difficulties. The fact that the developing countries had been intensely active in the field of technical co-operation and that the presence of the Programme had been a predominant factor should not be considered as a final formula for the redefinition of activities, but simply as one of a number of measures to enable the developing countries to achieve their objectives.

45. His country had benefited from the assistance of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities in a number of priority programmes, such as the 1975 census, and looked forward to the active participation of the Fund in the project for the improvement of the civil registry and vital statistics systems. He reiterated his Government's position that, notwithstanding the justified concern over population growth in some countries, every country had the unrestricted right to determine its own population policy. Consequently, his delegation was opposed to the setting of universal criteria as a predetermined solution for the carrying out of development schemes. The number of children was a matter to be decided freely by parents, and no government action was warranted other than to offer the necessary support for that decision. Furthermore, his delegation was of the view that economic and social development was the best way to achieve population equilibrium, and the study of growth patterns in highly developed countries supported that theory. Consequently, there could be no question of limiting births among those who were socially, economically and educationally disadvantaged. The principal task was to promote truly human living conditions which would induce populations themselves to establish natural limits to growth. In any event, population problems should be solved by the family, which was the basic unit of society, and consequently his delegation was in favour of implementing methods and policies to protect the family. In that connexion, his delegation had already emphasized in a number of forums, including the World Population Conference, that the United Nations should allocate funds to promote the better development and organization of the family in order to foster the idea of the family as a factor of development. UNFPA might be the appropriate body to study the situation of the family as a whole, and the various problems currently confronting it.

46. His delegation supported the approach now adopted by UNICEF; the application

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(Mr. Chelle, Uruguay)

of the basic services concept, in co-operation with other United Nations bodies, was fully consistent with his delegation's concept of development. However, the UNICEF report showed that the Fund was also concerned with special assistance projects, which called increasingly for the long-term approach. The close co-operation in that area between UNICEF, other United Nations bodies and Member States should take account of the other factors of development, such as the problem of available resources. Increasing and sustained support from the countries in a position to provide it, and adequate provision for the priorities of the developing countries, could help to promote clearly defined programmes. It was with that in mind that, at the preceding session, his delegation had strongly supported the idea of proclaiming an International Year of the Child, and it was pleased to note Economic and Social Council decision 178 (LXI) specifically recommending such action for 1979. Accordingly, steps should be taken to determine the scope, objectives and financing of the International Year of the Child. It was essential to designate UNICEF as the principal organ to carry out that task. He supported the general objectives and the areas of action set out in the Secretary-General's report (E/5844) and considered the proposed administrative structure to be adequate. It would be premature to consider the collection of contributions until a clear and well-defined basic scheme had been devised to serve as an incentive to potential contributors, whether countries or organizations. What was important at present was to establish the preparatory structure for proceeding with the formulation of plans, taking into account developments since the question had first been discussed.

47. Mr. DIARRA (Mali) said that the enthusiasm with which the results of the seventh special session of the General Assembly had been greeted had been short-lived, and the alarm had soon been sounded about UNDP's financial deficit, which had turned out to be extremely serious and to require rapid action to overcome the liquidity crisis. As well as the loss of credibility suffered by UNDP, there was the serious problem of its ability to cope with the development tasks assigned to it by the General Assembly. The current session was thus a most appropriate occasion to examine the capacity of UNDP to respond to the needs of developing countries effectively and promptly.

48. At its two sessions in 1976, the Governing Council of UNDP had acted to identify the causes of the crisis and to recommend measures for ensuring that UNDP activities during the second programme cycle would be effective. His delegation thanked those countries which had responded to the appeal to support UNDP with additional contributions or in other ways. However, it could not ignore the regrettable effect on developing countries of the programme reductions, which had been especially hard on the least developed countries, as they were less capable of finding additional financial and other means to supplement UNDP action. No account had been taken of the Governing Council's recommendation that those countries should be protected against the adverse effects of programme reductions; some strategic and vitally important projects had been revised and their implementation had been extended over a longer period. In addition, the UNDP administration's decision not to authorize the execution of new projects, even though they had been approved, had had disastrous effects on the attainment of development objectives under national plans, as the very close correlation between sectoral targets and the anticipated effects of the various projects had been disrupted, often by a delay of two years or more in project implementation. His delegation hoped that in future the UNDP administration would take into account

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(Mr. Diarra, Mali)

that crucial aspect of the problem of the least developed countries and make adjustments when applying general programme reduction measures.

49. The current UNDP crisis, caused by inflation, mismanagement and the attitudes of contributing States, could be solved if all countries showed the political will that was essential to international co-operation and adhered strictly to United Nations recommendations and resolutions. The seventh special session had laid stress on development as a fundamental element in the establishment of the new international economic order and had considered that UNDP, as the central organ in the United Nations system dealing with co-operation, could help to meet the challenge of development. The concept of "new dimensions" had been developed to lend greater credibility to UNDP's activities, and the Programme should seek to emphasize its spearhead role, thus setting an example for other international agencies. UNDP could rely on the support of the Governments of Member States, which welcomed its activities and would be only too glad to have them continue in their countries. A redefinition of the role of the resident representatives might have a salutary effect on cost-effectiveness.

50. The initiatives taken by UNDP in the field of technical co-operation among developing countries had been based on the views of those countries. Such co-operation should be primarily a means of developing and strengthening the technological capacities of the countries concerned, thus becoming an essential element in the establishment of the new international economic order, and UNDP should make it an integral part of its activities. At the project formulation stage, all possibilities for TCDC should be identified and used to the full. The forthcoming Conference in Argentina should enable practical measures to be worked out for promoting such co-operation and determining the role of the United Nations system, under a plan of action covering the various aspects of the question.

51. Mr. MALINGA (Swaziland), referring to the report on the World Food Programme, said that his delegation fully supported the notion that food production in developing countries should be a continuing item of high priority. If those countries were given the means and the technical know-how to produce their own food, they would be able to become self-sufficient.

52. The United Nations Fund for Population Activities had been involved in a number of projects in Swaziland, including the construction of a rural clinic designed to develop basic health services such as maternal and child health as well as family planning. Swaziland's first population census since independence had recently been completed with the assistance of the Fund, for which his Government was very grateful.

53. Referring to the activities of UNICEF, he said that the statement made by the Executive Director concerning the Fund's future action to improve the situation of children in the poorest parts of the world had convinced his delegation of the need to give unreserved financial support to that noble task.

54. His delegation sincerely commended the Administrator of UNDP for his efforts to maintain the maximum programme level in 1976, consistent with available financial resources, by cutting down administrative costs and mobilizing additional resources. His delegation would have been more satisfied if those results had been achieved without making drastic reductions in project /...

(Mr. Malinga, Swaziland)

expenditures for developing countries. However, the Administrator had endeavoured to limit the impact of the reduction on the least developed countries. His delegation wished to express its gratitude to those donor countries which had helped UNDP in its hour of need by assuming the cost of certain projects on a bilateral basis.

55. The over-all picture of the first development cycle was not altogether disheartening. Among the encouraging developments had been the growth and effectiveness of institutions such as UNFPA, the United Nations Capital Development Fund, the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration, the United Nations Volunteers programme and UNEP, and the determination to apply the TCDC concept. The cycle had also revived awareness of the part to be played by women in development.

56. The liquidity crisis of UNDP had been a valuable lesson. The international community had begun to think of better methods of avoiding a recurrence of that crisis, and had been forced to devise reliable early warning systems of the rate of real delivery and its impact on the resources of the Programme. A reliable expenditure forecasting system greatly assisted in project approval. With such a system in the first development cycle, overprogramming would have been discouraged from the outset. His delegation still held the view that overprogramming, administrative mismanagement, non-use of non-convertible currencies and a decline in contributions had been the main factors contributing to the liquidity crisis of UNDP. Above all, if expenditures had been fully consistent with usable resources, the crisis would not have been of such magnitude.

57. His delegation welcomed the efforts of the Administrator to find a more efficient system of information and of forecasting expenditure, and was pleased to note that he had already engaged in staff deployment measures to achieve a more streamlined headquarters. It supported his efforts to examine possibilities of further decentralization, to be coupled with the redefinition of functions and the restructuring of functional units to achieve efficiency at minimum overhead cost.

58. His delegation viewed with concern the recent decline in contributions and associated itself with those which, while fully respecting the principle of voluntary contributions, would none the less urge the Administrator to undertake informal negotiations with a view to achieving more equitable burden-sharing. His delegation recognized the need to rebuild the liquid operational reserve, and therefore supported the proposal of the Economic and Social Council that the reserve should be replenished by short-term borrowing, if such action did not reduce the funds for programme activities. It would be preferable, however, if such replenishment could be carried out through special additional contributions from the donor countries most able to make such contributions. His delegation had been encouraged to note that the Administrator did not expect to need such a facility in 1976 and that he had taken initiatives towards the full use of the accumulated non-convertible currencies.

59. His delegation fully supported the emergence of new dimensions in economic

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co-operation. Large numbers of people in the developing world had seen their standards of living decline in absolute terms. Without additional transfers by the donor countries, the growth of GNP in the least developed countries would be so low in the second cycle that per capita incomes would rise by less than 1 per cent a year. On the other hand, it appeared that, in order to enable the poor countries to achieve a 6 per cent annual growth in GNP during the period 1976-1981, transfers only slightly above existing levels would be required. In that connexion, it was encouraging to note that the World Bank had increased its borrowing spectacularly. Encouraging progress had also been achieved with regard to the "third window" and the interest subsidization schemes, with pledges coming both from developed countries and from the third world OPEC countries. There were also encouraging prospects for DAC-OPEC country co-operation in the agricultural development fund.

60. His delegation whole-heartedly supported the trend towards new dimensions in technical co-operation among developing countries with special emphasis on the building of self-reliance. UNDP had demonstrated its willingness to implement the relevant decision of the General Assembly, in spite of its financial constraints. In that connexion, he thanked all Governments which had served as hosts to regional preparatory conferences for the coming Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, and also the Government of Argentina. The Conference on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries, held in Mexico City, had underscored the importance of collective self-reliance and growing co-operation among developing countries in adopting common policies on such issues as the transfer of technology and transnational corporations.

61. With regard to the proposed distribution of UNDP programme resources for the second development cycle, his delegation, while welcoming the shift in the allocation of resources in favour of the least developed countries, felt that there should be no freezing of the IPFs of countries not falling within that category as a result of the narrow allocation criteria. Because of rapid world-wide inflation, there was likely to be little growth in real terms in the economies of countries whose IPFs had been frozen. His delegation would continue to urge the Committee to reconsider the possibilities of formulating an adequate broad concept embodying IPF calculations. The per capita gross national product and population data employed in the calculation of the IPF presented an inaccurate picture of the real nature of developing economies, since it failed to take account of a number of factors which constrained the level and rate of development. Consequently, his delegation was inclined to agree with the suggestion that the floor concept should be replaced with one which permitted an increase in the IPFs of all vulnerable developing countries which, because of the inadequacy of the criteria, were underallocated. The tendency to freeze IPFs was really damaging to those countries' economies. He also supported the view that countries with frozen IPFs should be given the preference of greater access to the regional programmes.

62. The amount of \$US 5.7 million allocated to Swaziland for the period 1977-1981 represented a reduction of 25 per cent in normal terms, and of 50 to 60 per cent if inflation was taken into account. At the beginning of 1976, Swaziland had already committed \$2.1 million against the next cycle, leaving a balance of \$3.6 million for new projects for the next five years. On 17 February 1976, UNDP had informed his Government that its 1976 programme had to

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be reduced to \$1,280,000, a reduction of over 40 per cent. That had resulted in curtailment of very important projects in the rural development, dairy and animal husbandry fields. Allowing for the current increase, total UNDP funds available in Swaziland would rise from \$800,000 in 1977 to \$1.3 million in 1981. However, in real terms, that increase would be considerably less. Swaziland's IPF allocation for 1977 was therefore approximately one half of the revised 1976 allocation, and only a third of the original 1976 allocation. If additional financial assistance was not forthcoming, the number of United Nations-financed experts in Swaziland in January 1977 would be approximately 10, compared with 46 at the beginning of 1976. His delegation supported fully the recommendations made by the representative of Thailand that all projects which had been subject to reduction should be reinstated, giving first preference to vulnerable countries such as Swaziland.

63. Finally, the impact of increased energy and petroleum costs in Swaziland was particularly acute because of its land-locked position, its dependence on exports and imports and the unstable political situation in southern Africa.

64. Mr. AL-HAIDAN (United Arab Emirates) said that economic and technical co-operation among the developing countries had been seriously hampered since the economic crises of the 1970s, which had led to inflation, severe unemployment and unexpected currency fluctuations that had hindered social programmes in the developed countries and reduced their import capacity. That situation had led to the adoption by the General Assembly of the Declaration and Programme of Action for a New International Economic Order and the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States.

65. The objectives of the new international economic order were to ensure sovereignty of all countries over their natural resources, to improve terms of trade for the producers of raw materials and to increase the transfer of real resources to developing countries in order to promote economic and social development and narrow the gap between the developing and the developed countries.

66. At the UNCTAD IV meeting in Nairobi and the Conference on Economic Co-operation in Paris, the developed countries had shown a lack of will in implementing the decisions of the sixth and seventh special sessions of the General Assembly and a desire to adhere to the existing economic order. The peoples of the world knew that the developed countries depended for their prosperity and progress mainly on the raw materials produced by developing countries, but the developing countries were now becoming a force in the international economic situation and wanted to be on an equal footing with the developed countries. They had convinced the international community of the need for a fair redistribution of technology and technical progress so as to take into account the conditions and needs of the developing countries. That new situation called for the developed countries to reshape their economic, trade, financial and technical policies on the basis of mutual respect between all countries.

67. The slight increase in prices of raw materials over the past two years was still not sufficient to compensate the developing countries for the huge increases

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in the prices of goods they imported; that had led to a deficit in their balance of payments which could not be redressed under the existing economic situation.

68. In view of those unstable conditions, the developing countries had tried to consolidate economic co-operation among themselves and had adopted numerous decisions in that regard, especially at the Fifth Summit Conference of Non-Aligned Countries in Colombo and the Mexico Conference on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries.

69. He believed that effective economic co-operation in all spheres among developing countries and the adoption of the principle of self-reliance must be the cornerstone of the new international economic order. With that in mind, his country had concluded a number of agreements for economic and technical co-operation with developing countries which should lead to an increase in their bargaining power as they sought to attain their objectives.

70. His country had contributed 25 per cent of its GNP to financing economic development programmes in developing countries through bilateral and multilateral schemes. That percentage exceeded by far the amounts given by the developed countries, which had not fulfilled their commitment to official development assistance or reached the target of 0.7 per cent of GNP.

71. Arab economic co-operation under the auspices of the Arab Council for Economic Unity had worked to eliminate customs barriers among Arab countries, to set up joint companies and to promote co-operation in transportation, technology, tourism and the exchange of technical experience.

72. Regional co-operation between Gulf countries was a good example, especially in monetary and economic co-operation, and a great effort should be made to concentrate on that type of co-operation and extend it to take into account the interests of all countries in the area.

73. Full co-operation by all developing countries was needed to establish the new international economic order based on justice and equity and bring about stability in economic relations. It should be remembered that every day in which no progress was made was a great loss to humanity and that objectives could be realized only in conditions of peace and stability.

74. Mr. TSHERING (Bhutan) expressed appreciation to the countries which had responded to the appeals made by the heads of various United Nations bodies and urged the wealthier countries to increase their contributions. That would permit implementation of the programmes envisaged at the sixth and seventh special sessions of the General Assembly and lead to the establishment of a new international economic order which would bring peace, prosperity and justice for all.

75. A spirit of dialogue and mutual understanding and a sense of responsibility had prevailed at the seventh special session, and the time had now come to discharge the obligations which had been assumed.

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76. At the beginning of 1976, the Administrator of UNDP had warned of the precarious financial situation of the Programme, which threatened the hopes of so many people in the developing countries. UNDP had now been brought back on its course and was moving forward with vigour which should help to restore the confidence of the developing countries in the Programme's administration. Unfortunately, the recent Pledging Conference for 1977 had indicated a significantly lower rate of increase than the 14 per cent on the basis of which the Governing Council had planned the disposition of resources over the next development cycle, and it was to be hoped that additional contributions would be forthcoming.

77. Although the financial problems had not yet been overcome, there had been a significant improvement and his delegation fully endorsed the recommendation of the Governing Council and the Economic and Social Council that the Administrator should be authorized to resort to carefully limited borrowing to meet short liquidity problems. His delegation therefore supported draft resolution A/C.2/31/L.2.

78. He was also happy to note that at its twenty-first session the Governing Council had adopted decisions requesting the Administrator, in any rephrasing of the programme which might be necessary, to undertake full prior consultation with Governments of recipient countries, without prejudice to their sovereign rights and development goals and objectives, and calling for special consideration to be given to projects involving the poorest countries and the poorest and most vulnerable strata of the population. It had also been agreed that every effort should be made by the administration to avoid cutting and deferring of expenditure on regional projects.

79. He also welcomed the Administrator's intention to undertake a review of management problems with the aim of increasing efficiency and decentralization. His delegation favoured any decentralization measures which could improve the delivery system of UNDP programmes and remove some of the unnecessary red tape. However, it did not favour decentralization which would prolong the execution of projects and divert UNDP resources.

80. His delegation would favour government cost-sharing arrangements so long as they did not work counter to the usual goals of UNDP or conflict with voluntary contributions to the Programme. Third-party cost-sharing presented a possible diversion of resources, but it was important to preserve the multilateral character and higher quality of technical assistance provided so far by UNDP; any further encouragement for third-country involvement should be examined very carefully in the light of the Programme's fundamental objectives.

81. That must not be confused, however, with the programmes envisaged in the new effort to encourage the execution of projects by Governments and institutions in the developing countries. Such measures could constitute a further step towards decentralization and a means of economizing on administration costs. Government execution of projects would enhance local institutions and increase expertise, thus promoting self-reliance in the developing countries and strengthening the confidence of Governments in development programmes in their countries.

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82. He joined other delegations in expressing concern at the rapidly escalating cost of experts' services, which now accounted for 60 per cent of field expenditure and constituted one of the costliest forms of UNDP assistance. Efforts should be made to reduce increases in experts' costs without neglecting the desired quality of technical assistance, and consultants or experts from the developing countries should therefore be employed whenever they were available.

83. His delegation attached great importance to UNICEF's programmes, which were rendering much-needed services in many developing countries, and agreed with the Executive Director that there was a greater need for simpler, more direct and more massive action on behalf of those most in need of essential services.

84. Bhutan had recently begun to benefit from UNICEF programmes, and it welcomed the new approach which stressed the active participation of the people of the community and the use of responsible volunteers or part-time workers to provide services essential to children's well-being. Impetus had been given to the use of para-professional workers, and services at the village level in the field of maternal and child health care, safe water supply and pre-school education provided in his country had been useful and had supplemented Bhutan's own efforts in providing assistance to the poorer sections of the community.

85. Current UNICEF programmes had helped to attack at its roots the problem of hundreds of millions of children who were growing up in substandard conditions. It was well known that the first five years of life were the crucial formative years and that a child deprived of food and elementary health care could suffer lasting consequences. In view of the magnitude of the needs of children in developing countries, his delegation would be happy to support draft resolution A/C.2/31/L.3 with the hope of improving the situation of children through the expansion of basic services under the Development Strategy.

86. Mr. VAN TOOREN (Netherlands) welcomed the encouraging results of the Mexico Conference on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries, which had based its deliberations on the decisions adopted at the Manila Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77 and the fifth Conference of Non-Aligned Countries with the aim of giving practical effect to the concept of collective self-reliance. The United Nations system should provide assistance to the collective endeavours of the developing countries through combined efforts on the part of the relevant agencies under the guidance of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. In that connexion, he welcomed the preparations being made for the Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries to be held in Argentina.

87. Mass participation in the political and economic processes and the eradication of poverty were essential factors in the achievement of genuine, self-sustained development and were major challenges facing the developing countries. The United Nations system was particularly suited to play a key role in meeting those challenges. Co-ordination of the activities of the system was essential in order to avoid wasting scarce resources on duplication of efforts. The decisions adopted by the UNDP Governing Council and the Economic and Social Council concerning

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the coherence of the United Nations development system were important in that regard and should be seen as timely contributions to the discussions on restructuring the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system.

88. Following the financial crisis in UNDP, it was essential to restore confidence in the Programme, particularly in the recipient countries, which were bearing the brunt of the effects of that crisis. However, the confidence of the specialized agencies and donor Governments was equally vital to the future functioning and growth of the Programme. He commended the Administrator on his handling of the crisis and on the managerial improvements he had implemented. However, in the field of integrated monitoring and control of the operational and financial aspects of the Programme, far-reaching measures involving the full co-operation of all the specialized agencies were required. Financially, the situation was grim. The results of the Pledging Conference fell short of the agreed over-all growth target of 14 per cent. In that connexion, he urged Governments to bear in mind the provisions of Economic and Social Council resolution 2024 (LXI). As a contingency measure for short-term fluctuations in liquidity, his delegation endorsed the Council's decision on borrowing authority. The importance of promoting self-reliance and greater equity both between and within countries had been recognized by the Council and was being translated into policies. The UNDP administration and the recipient countries were faced with the challenge of implementing those ideas. He expressed the hope that the "new dimensions" approach would be applied to country programmes in order to enhance their quality and effectiveness. With regard to the earmarking of funds and multi-bi-co-operation, his delegation shared the concern expressed by the representative of Sweden that there should be no undermining of the basic concept of multilateral co-operation. The resources involved should be regarded as additional and used for specific purposes closely monitored by the Governing Council.

89. His Government was pleased to note the close co-operation between UNCDF, OTC, UNV, UNFPA and UNDP and hoped for further improvements at the working level while maintaining those programmes' flexibility.

90. His Government welcomed the dynamic approach of UNCDF and was pleased to note that the World Bank was taking up the investment follow-up of proven UNCDF pilot activities. It hoped that the good results achieved would help to broaden the support base of the Fund, particularly among the developed countries.

91. His Government supported Economic and Social Council decision 165 (LXI) concerning UNV. It looked forward to discussing the role of youth in development and of UNV in particular at the next session of the Governing Council of UNDP.

92. His Government would continue to support UNFPA. It considered that the priorities for programme selection adopted by the Fund would provide a new emphasis and sense of direction for its activities.

93. He noted with regret that the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration had not met with the wide support that had been hoped for.

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A more pragmatic approach in the application of the Fund's present guidelines might help to demonstrate the viability of the concept and win the necessary support.

94. His Government attached great importance to the work of UNICEF and was convinced that it could provide valuable assistance at the grassroots level. The participation of people who lived at a subsistence level was an essential prerequisite to the achievement of integrated development. In that connexion, he endorsed Economic and Social Council resolution 2022 (LXI) and urged that the "basic services" approach be vigorously implemented.

95. His Government fully endorsed WFP's policies and regarded the Programme as an excellent instrument for the development of the poorer segments of society. It welcomed WFP's increasing co-operation with other sources of assistance, particularly the International Development Association of the World Bank Group.

96. Governments should be enabled to assess whether all operational activities undertaken by the United Nations development system were conducted in a coherent and efficient manner and met the priorities and guidelines which emerged from the discussions on the relevant items. He hoped that in future an integrated report would be provided to enhance the work of the Committee.

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

98. Mr. BOUBOU (Niger) said that the Niger attached the greatest importance to the question of operational activities for development and to all the efforts of the United Nations system to assist the developing countries, for it was unfortunately still among the 25 countries with the lowest gross national product in the world. Furthermore, the Niger had recently endured six years of drought, which had come at a time when the world economy had itself been in difficulty, and the combination of those factors had had disastrous consequences for the national economy. The Niger was grateful for the generous aid it had received at that time from the international community and the United Nations system and for the assistance it continued to receive from UNDP, UNICEF and the World Food Programme.

99. With regard to UNDP, he congratulated the Administrator on his untiring efforts to overcome the Programme's financial difficulties. In that connexion, he welcomed the contributions announced at the recent Pledging Conference, at which the Niger had demonstrated its satisfaction with the Programme's activities by increasing its annual donation by 25 per cent. His country received assistance from UNDP in fields as diverse as training, the development of agriculture and industry, and the eradication of the terrible scourges of trypanosomiasis and onchocercosis. UNDP would also be contributing to the River Niger development programme. The fact that the United Nations Capital Development Fund was now fully operational was gratifying, but he hoped that the industrialized countries would give the Fund wider support.

100. The Niger considered the work of UNICEF to be one of the worthiest undertakings of the international community. UNICEF's substantial donations of

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medicine and milk had saved many lives during the drought. His country would give firm support to the Fund's strategy for the coming years, but hoped very much that UNICEF would intensify its efforts in the fields of health, education, child and maternal nutrition, and rural development, which were of vital interest to the poorer countries.

101. WFP was another body whose generous assistance during the drought had been greatly appreciated. Essentially, the Programme had provided supplies for school canteens and hospitals and for the feeding of workers engaged in construction, agricultural development and well-drilling projects.

102. He thanked the United Nations Fund for Population Activities for its valuable assistance to his Government in connexion with census-taking.

103. Despite its general satisfaction with the aid given by the major United Nations technical assistance agencies, the Niger felt that it was still far below the level required. It was impossible not to be pessimistic when the developing countries' terms of trade deteriorated and the gap between them and the industrialized countries widened every year. Hopes were dashed when the Second United Nations Development Decade seemed likely to end in failure, like the First Decade. And it was nothing short of scandalous that the wealthy industrialized nations remained insensitive to the poverty and illiteracy which were the lot of the majority of the world's population. Bitterness at the obstinate refusal of the rich nations to listen to reason and to devote 1 per cent of their gross national product to combating under-development was fully justified. He appealed to them to realize that a more just and equitable international economic order could be achieved only if they overcame their selfishness and devoted their efforts entirely to genuine and unreserved co-operation with all the countries of the third world, whatever their ideology.

104. Mr. GOUMAS (Greece) said that the development of basic services for children and the move to expand the national supportive infrastructures would give new impetus to the activities of UNICEF. Its work should be given more attention within the United Nations system, since it played so vital a role in establishing the foundation of a better and more peaceful world.

105. The World Food Programme had started to play its part in the design of policies to relieve poverty and malnutrition. It should concentrate on increasing the supply capabilities of the developing countries and gaining wider acceptance for the principle of forward planning in food aid.

106. However, the food crisis could not be solved by such means alone. If the claims on world food supplies by rich nations continued to grow as in the past, malnutrition would continue despite all increases in production capabilities. It was thus necessary to change the food consumption patterns of the rich nations. The application of science and technology to agriculture was essential to increase food production and it was therefore necessary to strengthen the links between national agricultural research institutions and to systemize the exchange of

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information. The agricultural research centres of Greece were prepared to co-operate in any such development and to assist on a mutual basis corresponding research institutions, particularly in developing countries.

107. The further involvement of FAO in technical co-operation in agriculture and agri-business was welcome. The example it had given by reducing its administrative role must be followed by other United Nations bodies involved in operational activities for development. They should not breed large bureaucracies, but should channel as much of their resources as possible to field activities.

108. The work of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities was reaching a stage that promised encouraging results for the future. The dissemination of information on family planning and the support of national population control policies was vital both for improving standards of living and for world peace, since unchecked growth of population might lead to adventurous policies which could endanger peace. He appreciated the efforts of a number of developing countries to introduce population control policies, and hoped that with the help of UNFPA more developing countries with relatively high rates of population growth would follow that example.

109. He noted with satisfaction that UNDP activities were directed towards the goals specified in General Assembly resolution 3405 (XXX), on new dimensions in technical co-operation. It was a matter for satisfaction that, under the dynamic leadership of Mr. Morse, the liquidity crisis had been overcome for the time being. UNDP should give priority to programmes involving the maximum of regional co-operation, and should systematize the dissemination of information on the capacity of research and development institutions in developing countries or those at an intermediate level of development. That was an important prerequisite for enabling developing countries to use the technological capacity of other developing countries. Although technology in general was scarce in such countries, advances had been made in certain sectors in applying technology adapted to specific conditions in the developing countries. Greece, which had managed in the past 25 years to develop its technological know-how in certain sectors, was prepared to co-operate fully in any plans for strengthening technical co-operation among developing countries.

110. Co-operation among countries with similar levels of development permitted an exchange of experience on problems common to all members of the regional group. In the Balkan area, his country had convened in early 1976 a conference to stimulate technical and economic co-operation among the countries of the region, irrespective of their social and political systems. Greece was also taking an active part in the development of the developing countries of the Middle East and of some African countries.

111. Technical co-operation among developing countries was a crucial United Nations activity, and UNDP should continue to play an important co-ordinating role; his delegation had consistently stressed the importance of system-wide co-ordination of United Nations activities relating to such co-operation, and it regretted that

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the Secretariat had not provided the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination at its last session with all the necessary data to look into the degree of co-ordination. The United Nations Office for Technical Co-operation should act as a co-ordinator of programmes not funded from UNDP sources. Both kinds of programmes should conform to the priorities set by the developing countries themselves.

112. He hoped that the United Nations Volunteers programme would be increasingly directed towards the immediate needs of the least developed countries.

113. Mr. MORSE (Administrator, United Nations Development Programme) said that he had listened carefully to the constructive suggestions made in the debate. A summary would be circulated to all UNDP staff not only in New York but throughout the world, since it was essential that all should be fully aware of the views which had been expressed. He pledged that everyone in UNDP would try to ensure that the Programme discharged its responsibilities as the main instrument for technical co-operation in the United Nations system, able to provide a dynamic response to the changing requirements of developing countries and to make an effective contribution to the establishment of the new international economic order.

114. Mr. MOE (Special Assistant to the Executive Director, United Nations Children's Fund) said that UNICEF staff would also be fully informed of the many helpful suggestions made during the debate. He expressed the sincere appreciation of the Executive Director and all his staff for the support which UNICEF's work had received, particularly with regard to the basic services concept. UNICEF had been having special meetings with senior field staff responsible for implementing the basic services programme in developing countries. He expressed appreciation of the new annual income target, of \$200 million, and hoped that it would be achieved with the least possible delay. The UNICEF administration would continue to exercise close supervision over all activities.

115. Mr. SCHAAF (Deputy Executive Director, United Nations Fund for Population Activities) said that the Executive Director and his staff had listened most carefully to the many suggestions regarding the work of the Fund. He appreciated the confidence which the Committee had expressed and hoped that there would be continuous growth in both the quantity and the quality of services which the Fund could provide.

The meeting rose at 6.35 p.m.