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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 19th MEETING

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

AGENDA ITEM 80: DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION:

A/39/3 (Part II); A/39/56, 71, 88, 95, 110, 118, 126, 131 and Corr.1, 133, 187, 226, 236, 269, 302, 303, 304, 314, 323, 331, 448, 495, 536, 554, 560; A/C.2/39/3 and 4 (continued)

- (d) INDUSTRIALIZATION (A/39/16, 301, 376; A/C.2/39/8; ID/CONF.5/46) (continued)
- (f) FOOD PROBLEMS (A/39/19, 270) (continued)
- (g) ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (A/39/154 and Corr.1, 408) (continued)
- (i) ENVIRONMENT (A/39/25, 132, 432, 433, 580) (continued)
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- (l) UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL FUND (continued)
- (m) NEW AND RENEWABLE SOURCES OF ENERGY (A/39/44) (continued)
- (o) IMMEDIATE MEASURES IN FAVOUR OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (A/39/398) (continued)
- (p) DEVELOPMENT OF THE ENERGY RESOURCES OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (A/39/420) (continued)

1. Mr. BORG (Malta) said that the slow down in the international investment in new export-oriented manufacturing enterprises had adversely affected his country, which was heavily dependent on the industrial sector for foreign exchange earnings. The Government was making every effort to attract foreign investment to that sector, hoping that the country would also benefit from the accompanying technological and managerial spillovers. Malta attached great importance to UNIDO's activities, particularly those relating to human resources development and scientific and technological development, and welcomed UNIDO's technical activities programme.

2. The developing countries needed financial and technical assistance in order to adopt national food strategies and so achieve greater food self-reliance. It had been estimated that between \$8 and 12 billion would be needed each year for that purpose in the period 1982-1987. As a net food importing country, Malta could not but be fearful for the future, and it would appreciate help in the agricultural sector, especially in the form of scholarships. In addition, its offer to host a regional food storage centre should be taken seriously, as it would accelerate assistance to neighbouring countries.

3. Turning to the environment, he recalled that his delegation had already informed the Committee of recent developments relating to the issue of remnants of war. The United Nations and its agencies must monitor implementation of resolutions, since failure to implement them jeopardized the Organization's credibility.

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(Mr. Borg, Malta)

4. His delegation attached tremendous importance to economic and technical co-operation among developing countries and therefore welcomed the Caracas Programme of Action and subsequent review meetings, the initiative taken by the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe to discuss with other regional commissions and with UNDP the proposal to establish, within the ECE secretariat, an interregional Service for the Exchange of Economic Data to complement such activities.
5. Mr. MANN (Canada) welcomed the imaginative work plan agreed to at the first substantive meeting of the World Commission on Environment and Development. Given complete independence in the influential role desired of it, it would enhance UNEP's reputation by increasing awareness of environmental issues. The priority given to such issues recently by the non-aligned countries was encouraging, and a positive example of the multilateral process at work. It was therefore particularly unfortunate that extraneous political issues had prevented the Economic and Social Council from responding constructively to that priority at its second regular session.
6. His Government fully recognized that many developing countries urgently required accelerated industrialization in order to move towards self-sufficiency in food, health care and education. It had devoted important resources to helping them realize their industrial potential, and had provided considerable support for the UNIDO network of Senior Industrial Development Field Advisors and the System of Consultations. It welcomed the imminent transformation of UNIDO into specialized agency. Although the Fourth General Conference of UNIDO had not lived up to everyone's expectations, its adoption by consensus of a significant number of specific resolutions constituted a substantial achievement. In seeking ways of dealing with the issues on which the Conference had failed to agree, the Committee must try to determine the reasons for that failure. Whatever the reason, his delegation looked forward to a continuation of the consensus approach adopted at the Conference.
7. The current world food situation could be summarized in the statement by the World Food Council (A/39/19, para. 3) that the world was feeding nearly 1 billion more people in 1984 than it had in 1974, and there was ample food produced globally for all the world's people, yet there remained hundreds of millions of hungry and malnourished people. His delegation hoped the General Assembly would endorse the Council's conclusions and recommendations designed to eradicate hunger and malnutrition. It believed that, to a large extent, the means for doing so already existed, and that there was, as could be seen from paragraph 14 of the Council's report, a significant degree of international agreement on the need to apply them. His Government believed that the food and agriculture sectors were of fundamental importance to overall national development, and had therefore given agriculture the highest priority in its development assistance programmes. Canadian food aid - much of it channelled through the World Food Programme - amounted to over \$325 million annually, and was expected to increase, along with its assistance to agriculture, by 1985.

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(Mr. Mann, Canada)

8. Given the estimate that one half of assistance to food and agriculture over the past decade had come through multilateral channels, his Government was especially concerned at the difficulties being experienced by the principal agencies funding agricultural development. All States should do their utmost to support the co-operative spirit of the International Fund for Agricultural Development by ensuring that its resources were replenished at an early date and Canada would support efforts to overcome the negative impact of protectionism on international agricultural trade. Naturally, it was necessary for aid recipients to create a climate which would ensure the maximum benefits from increased resource flows. A system of meaningful price incentives was the chief - though by no means the only - requirement for establishing an effective food production and distribution system. His delegation had strongly supported efforts to encourage developing countries to intergrate their national approaches to food problems into meaningful food sector strategies as a necessary first step towards solving them.

9. It was clear from the report of the World Food Council that producing more food was easier than ensuring that the food reached all who needed it. While freer trade in agricultural products and food aid were part of the remedy, more effective means must also be found at the national level to ensure that all people had access to adequate and nourishing food supplies. That would not be easy, since it involved fundamental choices regarding the distribution of national resources, agrarian reform and a broader spread of the efforts and fruits of economic development. However it was essential if hunger was to be eliminated.

10. That was also the theme of the report of the Secretary-General on the situation of food and agriculture in Africa (A/39/270). His delegation particularly welcomed the recommendations focusing on immediate action for better producer pricing; provision of agricultural inputs and improved efficiency of distribution systems; and population policy and increased domestic allocation to agriculture.

11. Mr. KATTER (Australia) said that his delegation fully appreciated the recommendation of the Economic and Social Council - decision 1984/54 - that the General Assembly should mark appropriately the tenth anniversary of the World Food Conference. Given the limited progress that had been made towards achieving the goals of that Conference, the observance should perhaps include a critical appraisal of the efforts made during the past 10 years. Due recognition should be given to the fact that almost a billion more people were being fed currently than in 1974, and to the advances made in agro-science and in the early detection of emergency situations. Particular tribute should be paid to FAO, and the growing role of the World Food Programme should be strongly endorsed. The World Food Council also deserved to be commended for consistently reminding the international community of the importance of co-ordination and of the need to consider food security as more than a matter of increasing production or responding to emergencies, and for providing a clear idea of the areas where greater effort was needed. Member States of the United Nations should take the opportunity to measure their own national policies and performances against the recommendations and conclusions contained in the Council's report (A/39/19). A key element in that self-analysis should be the list of tasks seen as necessary in order to meet the Conference's objectives.

(Mr. Katter, Australia)

12. Australia recognized that the elaboration of realistic national food strategies was essential to the achievement of food self-reliance. Of course, different countries had different needs and the aversion felt in many quarters to generalized prescriptions regarding the elements of any individual strategy was understandable. However, experience had shown that some things, such as adequate investment and suitable incentives for producers, were basic to the attainment of a nation's food sector potential and thus required international endorsement.

13. Also important for the achievement of food self-reliance was a free and undistorted system of agricultural trade. The Council's strong affirmation of the need to establish greater freedom of international trade in agricultural products, since global food security had been seriously affected by some countries' import restrictions and export subsidy programmes, must be heeded in deeds and not simply in words.

14. The fact that in the 1984/85 financial year over 10 per cent of its overall official development assistance was to go to food aid and food security was indicative of the importance Australia attached to food problems. Development assistance was a crucial aspect of international co-operation on food problems, and Australia had sought not only to respond speedily to emergency situations but also to help countries reduce their future vulnerability to such emergencies. Its experience of food production in circumstances often similar to those experienced by developing countries was being readily shared through training programmes and projects.

15. Mr. LADOR (Israel) said that Israel supported various international development programmes, including those United Nations projects that were truly directed towards developmental efforts, and attached importance to projects that promoted the fundamental dimensions of development, namely, satisfactory levels of nutrition, agricultural development, and industrialization programmes commensurate with realistic absorption capabilities. Israel urged the international community to redouble its efforts to alleviate and solve those basic issues of development.

16. His Government unequivocally rejected the Secretary-General's report on living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories (A/39/233-E/1984/79), which had been based on misrepresentation of statistical data and was an intentional distortion of reality. Although it had been commissioned in order to investigate the deterioration in the living conditions of the Palestinian inhabitants of Judea, Samaria and Gaza, it nevertheless acknowledged that the standard of living in those territories had improved beyond recognition in nearly all areas. Reference to the situation in Judea, Samaria and Gaza before 1967 had been omitted in order to obscure the revolutionary improvements which had occurred during less than 18 years of Israeli administration. There was no mention of the situation in neighbouring countries, or of the situation of the Palestinian Arabs when they had been under Jordanian administration. Moreover, the protracted world economic crisis and its world-wide implications had been completely overlooked.

17. Facts could not be obliterated by drafting voluminous reports or by passing countless resolutions. Israel had never tried to draw in "iron curtain" behind which it would have a free hand to perpetrate gloomy designs, as certain countries

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(Mr. Lador, Israel)

did; it would continue to be completely open to the world, as true democratic societies were. Paragraph 19 of appendix III to the 1984 report of the Director-General of the International Labour Office (ILO) indicated that the "unemployment rate, which fell from 4.1 per cent in 1970 to 1 per cent in 1982, was 1.5 per cent of the active population (3,400 persons) in January-September 1983". That corresponded to full employment, and many developed - not to mention developing - countries were experiencing much higher unemployment. The Director-General of ILO had also affirmed, in his 1983 report that, in real terms, daily wages in the West Bank and Gaza had risen by an average of about 5 per cent per year between 1975 and 1981, so that the wage gap between workers in the occupied territories and in Israel had virtually disappeared, and that, during the period 1976-1982, the annual average growth of the gross national product in those territories had been 10 per cent, and that of private consumption 8 per cent.

18. The 1984 ILO report confirmed the findings of the Secretary-General's 1983 report on living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories (A/38/278-E/1983/77) - findings which had been omitted in his 1984 report. In 1983, the Secretary-General had noted that capital formation in the occupied territories was high relative to that of many developing countries. It was rather strange that different survey teams dispatched to those territories by the United Nations reported opposite facts about a prevailing situation.

19. Regarding housing conditions, the Secretary-General's 1983 report had included statistics which demonstrated the improvements made, whereas in his 1984 report, there had been an attempt to hide the dramatic progress which had been made for the benefit of the Palestinian Arabs since 1967. With regard to education, both the Secretary-General and the Director-General of ILO had acknowledged in their 1983 reports the improvements in educational facilities and student enrolment in Judea, Samaria and Gaza. In the field of health, the Secretary-General had noted in this 1983 report the provision of environmental health, immunization and maternal and child care services by an adequate network of clinics and health centres, as well as the expansion of services in five health institutions in the West Bank and three in the Gaza Strip in the years 1979 to 1981 alone.

20. The Government of Israel was determined to persevere in its humane policy which benefited both the Jewish and Arab population. It had recently put the final touch to the Ben-Porath Plan, designed to grant financial and technical aid to those inhabitants of the refugee camps who wished to improve their living conditions and integrate themselves fully into their society. The Arab countries had attacked the Plan, alleging that its only purpose was to compel the inhabitants of the camps to emigrate. Although such allegations had been reflected in the Secretary-General's 1984 report, the Government of Israel had no intention of moving, transferring or compelling any one to "rehabilitate" himself against his own free will. The rehabilitation programme would be carried out in the refugee camps and only by the free choice of each person concerned.

21. The Jewish settlements in Judea, Samaria and Gaza, on which the Secretary-General's 1984 report focused, were not a disservice to the cause of peace, but an expression of Israel's firm belief in constructive, peaceful and mutually beneficial coexistence with the Palestinian Arab population. The Jewish villages

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(Mr. Lador, Israel)

posed no danger to their Arab neighbours, did not in any way jeopardize the prospects of the Arab population, and had not displaced anyone, as they had been established on land that was public domain. Regarding the legal aspects of the settlements, Israel was not an occupying Power in the West Bank, because the West Bank had never been recognized as Jordanian. Israel's claims to the territory were at least as good as those of Jordan, which had held the territory for 19 years after a war of aggression, whereas Israel had taken the area in the course of a war of self-defence. As a matter of convenience, Israel applied the Geneva Convention generally in its administration of the West Bank, but did not admit that it was legally obliged to do so.

22. Israel was determined to continue providing, in the most efficacious manner, for the needs of the Palestinian Arabs in Judea, Samaria and Gaza and to help them to continue to develop and prosper. The Government of Israel extended its hand to all neighbouring peoples, including the Palestinian Arabs, who were willing to march together towards understanding and co-operation. The peoples and Governments of the Middle East, with very few exceptions, would at long last realize that their future and well-being were at stake, and that it was far more worthwhile to take risks for peace than to gamble on war.

23. Although another antagonistic draft resolution on the item before the Committee might satisfy a few radicals and prolong unjustified sufferings on both sides, it would improve neither the lot of the Palestinian Arabs nor the chance for an overall settlement of the conflict. It was time to put an end to ridiculous allegations and to seek a way which promised a secure future.

24. Mr. LICHILANA (Zambia) said that the notion entertained in some quarters that Africa's food problems were primarily the result of bad planning and economic mismanagement was incorrect. Although Zambia had long recognized that agriculture would always be the mainstay of its economy, it had been compelled, during the period 1965-1974, to divert funds from agricultural development to other projects, mainly to establishing new routes for shipping its copper to the east coast - because of the imposition of sanctions against what was then Rhodesia - and to industry. It had also been obliged - and for the same reason - to start producing essential items which it had formerly imported. Such industries used imported raw materials and the cost of maintaining them was high.

25. Zambia's problems had been further exacerbated by long spells of drought during the last three crop seasons. Given good rains, it hoped to become self-sufficient with respect to staple crops. In the industrial sector its goal was to establish industrial units capable of processing local raw materials, but in order to do so it would require international financing and technological know-how. It was also setting up small-scale village industries to produce agricultural implements.

26. Turning to economic and technical co-operation among developing countries, he drew attention to the report of the Secretary-General on co-operation between the United Nations and the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference (A/39/408). The interest shown by international organizations in Zambia's efforts

(Mr. Lichilana, Zambia)

to co-ordinate its development projects was most welcome, for although primary responsibility for development rested with Zambia, external financial, material and technological resources were also needed.

27. Mr. CHIRAPANT (Thailand) said that the prevailing economic crisis, especially in the developing countries, required immediate and systematic international action, long-term policy co-ordination and the reform of global growth. Recovery had so far only reached some developed countries, while the developing countries were still facing the problems of indebtedness, low commodity prices, stagnation in food aid, and protectionist measures.

28. To achieve a more equitable distribution of global industrial resources and the technical transformation of the developing countries, the activities of UNIDO in the priority areas established by the General Assembly for the period 1985-1986 must be adequately funded, and industry should be redeployed from North to South on the basis of dynamic comparative advantage and in accordance with developing countries' national policy and priorities.

29. The problem of poverty and underdevelopment in Africa was also very important, and Thailand had endorsed Economic and Social Council resolution 1984/70, on the Industrial Development Decade for Africa. His delegation supported the maintenance of the Senior Industrial Development Field Advisors Programme, and considered that the allocation of financial assistance to technical co-operation projects should not be dependent on developing countries' initial level of industrial development. His Government attached high priority to industrialization; it contributed 530,000 baht (approximately \$US 24,000) annually to the United Nations Industrial Fund, and hoped that regional financial institutions for industrial development would be established.

30. As a developing country heavily dependent for the financing of its development programme on export earnings from food, agricultural products and raw materials, Thailand was greatly concerned that commodity prices had dropped to their lowest level in more than 30 years. Increasing protectionist measures by the industrialized countries continued to accentuate the economic plight of the developing countries, to the detriment of trade growth and global economic recovery. Too little attention had been paid to the impact of trade barriers on the problem of famine and malnutrition in the world.

31. Despite its limited resources, Thailand had been able to provide modest food aid and financial contributions, as well as technical assistance to Africa's least developed and land-locked developing countries. It had contributed to relief and emergency aid programmes particularly through the provision of humanitarian assistance, including food aid, to refugees from Indo-China as well as to the displaced civilians along the Thai-Kampuchean border.

32. Economic and technical co-operation among developing countries, which formed part of the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, was an important means of restructuring global economic relations. Thailand played an active and positive role in such co-operation. It recognized the great potential of South-South co-operation, in particular in the fields of

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(Mr. Chirapant, Thailand)

trade, energy, raw materials, and money and finance, and had hosted a meeting in August 1984 which had resulted in the establishment of an action committee on co-operation in fossil fuels, the first of its kind under the Caracas Programme of Action.

33. The past activities of UNEP had been very beneficial to the developing countries, in terms both of the provision of necessary resources for environmental protection projects and exchange of information and experience. His delegation welcomed the adoption by the UNEP Governing Council at its twelfth session of a number of important decisions, including that directed towards increasing assistance to combat desertification, particularly in the Sudano-Sahelian region, and called for increased support to the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian office.

34. Human settlements activities, particularly the provision of housing, infrastructure and services for the homeless and the low-income and disadvantaged groups in urban and rural areas, were important for promoting national, economic and social development.

35. Recent adjustments in fuel prices should not be considered as diminishing the need for a lasting and effective solution to the energy problem, including energy conservation and the utilization of alternative sources of energy. Investment, development and growth in the field of energy in the developing countries should also be encouraged. His delegation renewed its call for the early establishment of the proposed energy affiliate of the World Bank and for the early implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action for the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy. In order to permit successful implementation of that Programme, all countries, especially the developed and more affluent, should provide adequate financial resources to the United Nations system.

36. Mr. BARNETT (Jamaica) said that the fact that the Committee's work had not yet produced the positive results expected by the developing world did not diminish its importance but should encourage both developed and developing countries to correct that situation, in the first place by seeking to achieve agreement for action on crucial issues of development co-operation.

37. The future of developing countries was bound up with progress in expanding their industrial and agricultural production. Although the target for them of attaining 25 per cent of world industrial production by the year 2000, set at the Second General Conference of UNIDO in 1975, was modest measured against its importance to economic growth, progress towards it was not encouraging. Jamaica shared the disappointment of other developing countries at the failure of the Fourth General Conference to make progress on crucial issues, in particular the financing of technical assistance, and was concerned at the reduction in resource allocation to the Senior Industrial Field Adviser Programme. Moreover, not only had technical co-operation activities significantly declined in all regions, but a disproportionately low level of resources was allocated to Latin America and the Caribbean. Only five of the projects in which UNIDO was involved in Jamaica had been completed in the last three years. His delegation nevertheless paid tribute to the UNIDO secretariat for its efforts to improve technical assistance in spite

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(Mr. Barnett, Jamaica)

of the difficult financial situation. The limited resources available could be used to greater effect by employing more local raw materials and expertise. His own Government stressed the importance of training and educating people as a prerequisite for sustained development.

38. Jamaica was currently pursuing a programme designed to reduce dependence on imports and to increase the contribution of local human and natural resources to industry. Implementing the programme had emphasized the need for technical assistance in various areas, and for the technological transformation of industries: over half of Jamaica's industrial technology was obsolete and his delegation believed that technical assistance should place greater emphasis on the problems of small developing countries with limited resources. UNIDO projects in Jamaica were addressing some of those problems, and his country looked forward to continued co-operation both with that organization and with UNDP.

39. As a country which imported more than 95 per cent of its commercial energy requirements, Jamaica had been disappointed by the failure of the second session of the Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy to tackle the problem of mobilizing more resources. It was a cause for grave concern that the levelling-off of oil prices appeared to have induced apathy towards the development of new and renewable sources of energy. Jamaica remained strongly committed to the Nairobi Plan of Action and had continued its energy resource development programme on both national and regional levels. It had also initiated several energy management and conservation programmes, such as the establishment of an Energy Credit Fund with the assistance of USAID. While Jamaica was grateful for the aid it had received, it recognized the need for a sustained international effort and therefore accorded the highest priority to efforts to mobilize adequate financial support for implementation of the Nairobi Plan of Action.

40. The areas identified by the Director-General of FAO as those to which developing countries should address themselves in the quest for solutions to the world food problem and for development in general were of primary concern to the Jamaican Government. In agriculture as in industry, Jamaica accorded the highest priority to training and education as a means of increasing productivity. The strengthening of ties between the agricultural and industrial sectors was a key element for the structural transformation of economies based largely on agriculture, and developing countries should therefore be given increased assistance in promoting agro-industry. The Jamaican Government, for its part, had recently launched a programme designed to maximize the use of uncultivated land, increase employment in agriculture and create new export opportunities for non-traditional crops.

41. His delegation wished to express its solidarity with countries suffering critical food shortages and its strong support for international efforts to redress the effects of drought and desertification in Africa. Over the past year, Jamaica had increased its commitment to tackling environmental problems at both national and regional levels, and had continued to co-operate with UNEP. Regional co-operative efforts such as the Environmental Training Network for Latin America and the Caribbean, were making commendable progress. His delegation welcomed the

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(Mr. Barnett, Jamaica)

UNEP Governing Council decision concerning the further administrative and financial strengthening of the Network, and commended the part played by UNEP in increasing the international community's awareness of the connection between environmental issues, the rational use of resources and economic and social welfare at all levels.

42. Jamaica was looking forward to hosting the eighth session of the Commission on Human Settlements in 1985, and considered its theme to be a particularly relevant one in view of the Government's drive to develop the country's rural infrastructure. He also wished to reiterate his country's support for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless.

43. The Committee's deliberations during the current session should be action-oriented since the crisis confronting developing countries required specific measures to be taken in the near future. The Report of the Secretary-General on Immediate Measures in Favour of the Developing Countries (A/39/398) was extremely useful, and the Committee should try to ensure that it did not only talk about the crisis but took action to tackle it.

44. Mr. WANG Baoliu (China) said it was regrettable that the Fourth General Conference of UNIDO had not reached agreement on the economic difficulties facing the developing countries or on world industrial restructuring and financing. His Government hoped that those resolutions which had been adopted would be implemented, and called upon the developed countries in particular to honour their commitments. One contribution to the follow-up to the Conference would be for those countries which had not yet ratified the new constitution of UNIDO to do so, thus permitting its early transformation into a specialized agency.

45. Although the slow growth of industry in the developing countries had internal causes, there were also external causes - high interest rates, protectionism, declining capital flow and mounting debt burden - which could not be ignored. Some developed countries had to a certain extent carried out their commitments to help industrialize the developing countries, and he hoped that those which had not done so would follow suit.

46. The developing countries still lagged far behind the developed in food production, trade, consumption and reserves. Progress was very uneven, with African countries in the most serious situation and in urgent need of international assistance. China subscribed to the analysis made by the World Food Council at its tenth session in June 1984 and supported its main conclusion on future policy measures, that the developing countries should make a sustained effort to increase food production. The international community should support that effort, but agricultural assistance was currently declining: the financial plight of the International Fund for Agricultural Development was a case in point. His Government appealed to developed countries to contribute more actively to the second replenishment of the Fund, and hoped that those which had not fulfilled pledges for the first replenishment would do so without further delay. China would contribute within the limits of its capabilities to alleviating the food situation in Africa; it fully endorsed the World Food Council's decision to accord that problem priority treatment, and hoped that the international community would take practical and effective measures to that end.

(Mr. Wang Baoliu, China)

47. China approved the report of the UNEP Governing Council on the work of its twelfth session, expressed deep sympathy with Africa on the effects of drought and desertification and hoped that the United Nations Plan of Action on Desertification would be implemented more effectively. Environmental questions were closely related to the efforts being made to achieve balanced economic and social progress. The developing countries urgently needed help in taking into account the relationship between environmental and other factors when formulating their national plans, and he hoped that the developed countries would assist them to overcome their environmental difficulties by providing technological and financial support, thereby contributing to a better environment throughout the world. The Chinese Government treated environmental protection as a matter of priority and was willing to co-operate with all countries in efforts to improve the quality of the global environment.

48. China appreciated the work of the Commission on Human Settlements and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements. It also supported the designation of 1987 as the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, which reflected the importance attached to human settlement by the international community.

49. The international community had not yet formulated effective measures to promote the development of developing countries' energy resources. In the three years since its adoption, the Nairobi Programme of Action had not been properly implemented despite the efforts of the agencies concerned within the United Nations system. To speed up the economic expansion of the developing countries, the development of their energy resources must be treated as a matter of urgency, and developed countries should vigorously support them by making capital and technical assistance available and by lifting various restrictions on the transfer of technology. The international community should take measures to speed up implementation of the Programme of Action, seek to alleviate the shortage of energy in the rural areas of developing countries and study the possibility of establishing an energy development fund or an energy affiliate within the world Bank so as to provide the developing countries speedily and effectively with the necessary finance.

50. Where economic and technical co-operation among developing countries was concerned, the international community, in particular the developed countries and United Nations agencies, should provide the support and finance required because the world would truly prosper only when the economies of the developing countries were activated. China had always supported economic and technical co-operation among developing countries to promote the development of their national economies on the basis of equality and mutual benefit.

51. On the subject of immediate measures in favour of the developing countries, the response to General Assembly resolution 38/200 in the negotiations of the agencies and organizations concerned had not been positive. The results achieved were far from meeting the urgent needs of developing countries, whose economies did not, as the past year had shown, necessarily benefit from recovery in developed countries. Despite all their efforts, the developing countries were still suffering from severe external constraints and their economies were in serious difficulties. Immediate measures were needed to help them surmount those

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(Mr. Wang Baoliu, China)

difficulties, and China was in basic agreement with the analysis and proposals in the Secretary-General's report on the subject (A/39/398), which underlined the seriousness of the situation. China hoped that all countries, in particular the developed countries, would take an active part in negotiations on immediate measures within the United Nations system and reach early agreement so as to assist the recovery of the developing countries and revitalize the world economy.

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.