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SECOND COMMITTEE
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at 3 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 23rd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. HARLAND (New Zealand)

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

AGENDA ITEM 80: DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (continued) (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)

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1. Mr. KITIKITI (Zimbabwe) said that the food crisis in sub-Saharan Africa was only one side of a multifaceted crisis affecting the world economy.

2. Global production of food had been growing at an average rate of 2.3 per cent from 1968 to 1983. A slight drop of 1 per cent had occurred in 1983 because the United States had deliberately reduced its acreage under coarse cereals. While the world supply situation was very satisfactory, how could it be reconciled with the acute situation in Africa? Africa's situation was due primarily to natural causes such as the three years of successive droughts in southern Africa and to desert encroachment, cyclones and floods which had devastated other regions in sub-Saharan Africa.

3. The man-made component of the crisis was not very easy to summarize but became explicit when the World Bank report on sub-Saharan Africa was compared with the report of the tenth ministerial session of the World Food Council - reports which reflected divergent ideological positions. The World Bank report, while acknowledging the negative impact of the recession, commodity market instabilities and protectionism on the expansion of food production in Africa, launched an attack on the role of the State and emphasized the need for adjustment policies, for the promotion of private investments and for pricing policies favourable to free enterprise. The World Food Council report, on the other hand, conceded the need for pricing policy adjustments but for the purpose of benefiting small farmers without placing hardships on poor consumers. Zimbabwe fully endorsed the latter argument. Whereas the World Bank and IMF treated food as a commodity, the World Food Council proclaimed that access to food was a human right, which implied

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(Mr. Kitikiti, Zimbabwe)

diversified social production forms more appropriate to increasing production, such as co-operatives, State farms and communes. Hunger, famine and undernourishment constituted a denial of human rights and of the Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition.

4. Statistics on the food deficit grossly underestimated demand and did not take into account the food needs of unemployed workers and landless peasants who were unable to express their demands in the markets. Demand for food was, however, increasing at a time when the deficit countries had a reduced food-importing capability caused by a general recession, the burden of indebtedness and of profits remitted by transnational corporations. At the FAO Regional Conference for Africa, held at Harare in July 1984, the African countries had adopted a Declaration in which they had reaffirmed their accord with the application to Africa of the new concept of world food security as adopted by the FAO Conference and the United Nations General Assembly.

5. The food crisis should be placed in its historical perspective in order to identify its causes - other than natural disasters and population growth. It was a proven fact that all the currently afflicted societies in Africa had been self-sufficient in food production before the advent of colonialism and imperialism. In Zimbabwe, for example, the colonialists had suppressed the production of food crops in order to establish a monopoly position in agricultural production and to provide the labour required for the settlers' farms, mines and factories. That having been insufficient, the régime had then resorted to extreme measures such as forced labour recruitment, destocking policies and land appropriation, thus creating in the long run a class of landless peasants who could be forced to work in the settlers' farms, and an employed proletariat. Such was Zimbabwe's experience of free enterprise. Needless to say, the Zimbabwean people had taken up arms and the new leaders had been confronted with a dual task of simultaneously carrying out a socialist transformation of the peasant sector and raising its productivity through political education and the popularization of science and technology. The meaning of free enterprise at the international level had meant that developed countries reserved the right to limit production and, in some cases, to destroy grain stocks in order to influence prices.

6. According to the proponents of the free-enterprise argument, the major constraints on food supply were obstacles erected by African States to the spread of capitalist production relations in the countryside and in that connection they proposed adjustment policies. Should policies be adjusted to suit an equilibrium which would constitute the colonial status status quo? That equilibrium, based on exploitation, was highly unstable because the workers and peasants would always struggle to destabilize it. Progress towards food self-sufficiency could therefore be achieved not by adjustment policies but by revolutionary policies designed to make food a right of every citizen and not an object of capitalist production and speculation. Attention should also be drawn to the danger represented by transnational corporations which, in the absence of international control measures, made their own laws.

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(Mr. Kitikiti, Zimbabwe)

7. Responses from the international community had been insufficient, given the increase in the food deficit and the gravity of the food situation in Africa. They had been sporadic and untimely. Governments should respond to the appeals made by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director-General of FAO, even if there was no consensus on the genesis of the crisis. In its report, the World Bank had argued that any delay by donors in taking action could not be justified on the grounds of major disagreements on the diagnosis and prescriptions. In order to deal with the food crisis in Africa, the international community should launch a campaign much broader in scope and with a medium-term and long-term time-frame. In its 1984 report, IMF had demonstrated that multilateral flows were superior in many respects to bilateral projects. It was unfortunate that the peak of bilateralism coincided with the rise of conservative Governments in Europe and America, the breakdown of détente, increased world tension, loss of confidence in international co-operation and unprecedented levels of military expenditures.

8. Africa was a continent which had contributed immensely to civilization and the development of Europe and the Americas through its exploited labour and plundered natural resources. In its hour of need the world had an obligation to respond with effective measures.

9. Mrs. GOETSCH (Austria) said that the results of the fourth session of the General Conference of UNIDO had been reasonably positive, given the still very serious economic difficulties which many developed and developing countries were facing and which tended to diminish their room for manoeuvre in negotiating. Thus, the Conference had adopted resolutions on concrete measures aimed at accelerating the industrialization of developing countries and it was to be hoped that during the present session the Second Committee would be able to adopt the two draft resolutions on restructuring and on mobilizing financial resources. With regard to the conversion of UNIDO into a specialized agency, Austria hoped that the States which had not yet done so would soon ratify the UNIDO Constitution.

10. Austria remained convinced that UNIDO's system of consultations had the potential to fulfil an important role in assisting the process of industrialization in the developing countries. It had shown its value as a unique tool for dialogue between representatives of industry and government from developing and industrialized countries. Austria would therefore welcome any proposal to enhance the quality of the system. However, Austria would not favour any departure from its present very informal character, which allowed business representatives to participate in consultation meetings on a personal basis.

11. There had been no substantial improvement in the environmental situation. While there were signs of a growing consensus on the urgency of measures to protect the environment, the practical steps taken often fell short of actual needs. The most serious problems could be solved on a permanent basis only by international co-operation. Austria noted with satisfaction that most Governments had realized that the protection of the environment was too important to be jeopardized for short-term political advantage. It was pleased with the success of the twelfth session of the Governing Council of UNEP, whose efforts to strengthen environmental law and to reduce the waste of natural resources, especially by searching for methods of recycling, were of great importance.

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(Mrs. Goetsch, Austria)

12. Austria was acutely conscious of the difficulties and exigencies of protecting the environment. It had set up a special ministry to deal with that question and also an environmental fund. Furthermore it had ratified the ECE Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution, had undertaken to reduce SO₂ emissions and was prepared to adopt most stringent car-emission standards.

13. In view of the urgency and extent of the problem of desertification, Austria welcomed the fact that a new item had been introduced to deal with that question. Austria hoped that it would be possible to find lasting solutions for the long-term benefit of the African peoples. For its part, Austria hoped to be able to raise the level of its assistance to Africa over the next years.

14. Whereas most of the industrialized countries had to grapple with increasing surplus problems, 10 years after the World Food Conference, the problem of hunger was still unsolved. The reasons for that state of affairs were manifold: natural disasters, population increases, ill-advised policies and so on. However, the adoption of national food strategies by a growing number of countries showed that the importance of a sound agricultural base was now generally recognized. Another hopeful sign was the recognition that food aid, essential as it was, must be administered with great care in order to avoid negative effects on agriculture.

15. The countries directly affected by the food crisis and the industrialized countries, which bore a responsibility to assist the national efforts of developing countries, should place equal emphasis on immediate survival and on long-term food security. In that context, Austria supported the highly effective and necessary activities of IFAD and hoped that negotiations on its second replenishment would be successful. The responsibility of the international community also extended to the sector of agricultural trade. Developing countries must be able to export their agricultural products to finance the necessary development of agriculture, including infrastructures.

16. Austria supported the activities of the World Food Programme and attached great importance to the International Food Aid Convention as well as the International Emergency Food Reserve.

17. Finally, Austria wished to express its concern about the exploitation of forests, which were very important for the ecological balance. That question should therefore be a priority subject of the World Forestry Conference to be held in Mexico in 1985.

18. Mr. MOKADDEM (Tunisia) said that the fourth session of the General Conference of UNIDO had not justified the hopes placed in it. The lack of any agreement on the measures to be taken to facilitate industrial restructuring and the mobilization of financial resources for industrial development had been a cause of deep disappointment. It was therefore to be hoped that the General Assembly at its present session could agree on the measures necessary for achieving the objectives established in the field of industrialization in the developing countries. In that respect, particular attention should be given to the African continent and especially to an increase in contributions to the United Nations Fund for Industrial Development so as to ensure the implementation of the programme for the Industrial Development Decade in Africa.

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(Mr. Mokaddem, Tunisia)

19. Furthermore, the time had come to convert UNIDO into a specialized agency in order to strengthen its role as a catalyst in the field of industrialization. The time had also come to appeal to the countries which had not yet done so to ratify UNIDO's new Constitution.

20. With regard to food problems, the situation continued to deteriorate in Africa and was becoming more and more disquieting. The international community must therefore take urgent and specific measures to remedy the food and agricultural crisis on that continent, in accordance with the proposals contained in the Secretary-General's report (A/39/270). In conformity with the Lagos Plan of Action, the African countries themselves, including Tunisia, had undertaken, individually and collectively, activities designed to ensure their food self-sufficiency. However, national food strategies were only likely to achieve the desired results if they were given large-scale financial and technical support from the international community. In that respect, the replenishment of the resources of IFAD were of particular importance. Moreover, such support should not be restricted to short-term action but should also include medium-term and long-term measures in order to avoid the recurrence of new food crises.

21. Finally, economic and technical co-operation between developing countries should be encouraged as a contribution to the beginning of new international economic relations. Far from replacing North-South co-operation, South-South co-operation would enable the developing countries to utilize their potential to the full. In that respect, the Caracas programme of action concerning economic co-operation between developing countries deserved the support of the international community and all United Nations bodies should include a TCDC component in their programmes and be given the resources necessary for that purpose.

22. Mr. ZLATANOV (Bulgaria) said that the issues addressed under agenda item 80 were closely linked to the restructuring of international economic relations on a just and democratic basis and were of primary importance for the socio-economic development of the developing countries seeking to overcome their economic backwardness. The progressive decisions adopted by the United Nations in that area had not been implemented as a result of the policy of confrontation adopted by the aggressive circles in the West and the consequent escalation of the arms race, which had created obstacles to the development of equitable and mutually advantageous co-operation and had led to further deterioration of the economic situation of the majority of developing countries.

23. While UNIDO had in general made a positive contribution to the industrial development of the developing countries, the crisis in the capitalist economy had jeopardized the goals set forth in the Lima Declaration and Plan of Action on Industrial Development and Co-operation and the New Delhi Declaration and Plan of Action on Industrialization of Developing Countries and International Co-operation for their Industrial Development. Particularly deleterious to the industrialization of those countries were protectionism, high interest rates and a wide variety of economic sanctions and pressures. UNIDO should therefore devote further attention to assisting the developing countries in formulating their national industrial development plans. The United Nations Secretariat should, for its part, encourage the interest of the developing countries in the most advanced

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(Mr. Zlatanov, Bulgaria)

technological achievements in microelectronics, biotechnology and genetic engineering which were pivotal to the development of their scientific and technological potential. The System of Consultations was a complementary mechanism for providing technical assistance, provided that it was maintained within its established framework.

24. Statements had been made on the unsatisfactory results of the Industrial Development Decade for Africa. Nevertheless, Bulgaria fully supported the initiatives and programmes within the framework of UNIDO aimed at giving assistance to the developing countries of the region and had co-operated with UNIDO in carrying out assistance programmes for the African countries.

25. The decisions adopted by the Fourth General Conference of UNIDO should be implemented and not revised. While they did not reflect entirely the proposals put forward by the developing and socialist countries for a comprehensive solution to the problem of the industrialization of the developing countries, their constructive spirit had been maintained. The cause of mutually advantageous co-operation would be served by implementing the provisions concerning the interrelationship of the problems of peace, security and industrial development, confidence-building in international economic relations and the evaluation of the socio-economic aspects of industrial development. In addition, the problems of industrial co-operation should not be separated from global economic issues. In that regard, equitable international economic co-operation could not be achieved by imposing a free-market model of development.

26. His country had, to the best of its abilities, assisted the developing countries in building and developing their national industries. More than 7,200 students from those countries were being trained in Bulgaria, and their number was expected to reach 15,000 by the end of the decade. Bulgarian organizations had trained and retrained specialists in the transfer of equipment and entire projects to the developing countries and had helped to strengthen their industry and agriculture.

27. Food problems - particularly grievous in some African countries - continued to be of serious concern. Food was short for socio-economic, climatic and financial reasons. Debt servicing, which depended on rising agricultural exports, was hampered by the drop in export prices. The decline in exports and consequently in foreign-exchange earnings had led to the impoverishment of a number of developing countries, where millions were threatened by famine. They could be saved, and the food problems solved, only through profound socio-economic transformations aimed at mobilizing the necessary internal resources, establishing genuine control over natural resources and all sectors of the economy, ensuring overall economic growth and pursuing a balanced demographic policy, but in the final analysis it was only through the establishment of peace and the easing of international tensions that complex economic and social problems, including food problems, could be solved.

28. His country had helped the developing countries to develop their agriculture by implementing projects and training agricultural specialists. In 1982 and 1984, it had hosted two forums of the Food and Agriculture Organization on agriculture, in particular food problems.

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(Mr. Zlatanov, Bulgaria)

29. With regard to co-operation on the environment, special attention should be devoted to problems concerning the interrelationship between population, resources, development and the environment, the impact of apartheid on the environment and the ecological aspects of the International Development Strategy. The establishment of a global monitoring system by the United Nations Environment Programme and its co-operation with the Economic Commission for Europe in the field of pollutant-free technologies and transborder pollution were commendable. Bulgaria also welcomed the provisions in the report of the Multilateral Conference on the Environment on the close relationship between environmental protection and international peace and security.

30. It also supported the progressive provisions in the Nairobi Programme of Action on the problem of sources of energy, which was of major importance for development in general and for that of the developing countries in particular. Implementation of that Programme was largely contingent on the concerted efforts of all organizations within the United Nations system dealing with new and renewable sources of energy. In that context, the activities of the Intergovernmental Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy, which dealt with the priority goals of the Programme of Action, were commendable.

31. The activities of the Commission on Human Settlements were also noteworthy. One concrete expression of international co-operation in that field was the designation of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless. More and more countries had begun to include the planning, building and managing of human settlements in their development programmes. There was no question that strengthening co-operation between the Commission on Human Settlements and UNEP would be beneficial. The role of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements could be further developed as an information organ and its effectiveness could be enhanced in the area of demonstration, training and extension projects. It would be advisable for the thematic reports to reflect better the experience of the socialist countries.

32. Mr. HASSON (Democratic Yemen) said he would first take up the question of the living conditions of the inhabitants of the occupied territories, whose lands had been confiscated and whose water resources had been diverted for the benefit of the Israeli settlements, as indicated in the report of the Secretary-General (A/39/233), which also contained the report prepared by three impartial international experts. It should be stressed that Israel had refused to co-operate with the Secretary-General and had prevented the experts from carrying out the task assigned to them by the General Assembly. The report showed that at the end of 1983 Israel had expropriated 260,790 hectares of land or 47.4 per cent of the West Bank territory, i.e., most of the arable land of the Jordan Valley. It continued to establish settlements in a manner that limited and impaired the growth of Palestinian towns and villages, without sparing Jerusalem or Hebron. The Israeli Government had started to execute the "Ben-Porat Plan", designed to enable it to carry through its policy of establishing settlements. There had been 138 of them at the end of 1983, with 72 new ones planned for 1983-1986. In other words, Israel intended to establish within four years a number of settlements representing 50 per cent of the number built in 17 years; and far from complying with the resolutions and appeals of the international community, it was accelerating the

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(Mr. Hasson, Democratic Yemen)

pace of its settlement programme and defying the resolutions of the General Assembly. The report indicated that the result of the Israeli policy was diminished importance of the agricultural sector owing to the seizure of the best lands and water resources, without a corresponding development of an industrial base; a reduction in the number of jobs in the occupied territories; restrictions on building; and reorientation of production towards goods that could be sold to Israel. Despite the income growth cited by Israel, there was no real development and the West Bank economy was totally dependent on the Israeli economy. Nor could one overlook Israel's decision to build a canal linking the Mediterranean Sea to the Dead Sea, in violation of all the United Nations resolutions and the Geneva Conventions, or the harm which that project would do to the environment, economy and population of the occupied territories, as indicated in decision 12/7 of the Governing Council of UNEP.

33. As for immediate measures in favour of the developing countries, the report of the Secretary-General (A/39/398) proposed solutions in all the areas specified in paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution A/38/200, solutions which, it indicated, should be regarded as an emergency programme for stimulating the economic resurgence of the developing countries in the light of present circumstances and should mark a first step in the practical implementation of the International Development Strategy. The Secretary-General's conclusion that the adoption of General Assembly resolution 38/200 had led to measures which were too few, as well as inadequate, to deal with the alarming situation of the developing countries should also be stressed. Without decisive national and international action, stagnation, and even economic regression, might continue to afflict many developing countries until nearly the end of the decade. That conclusion should prompt the international community to implement the constructive proposals contained in the report, as part of the establishment of the new international economic order and implementation of the objectives of the International Development Strategy. In particular note should be taken of the formula in paragraph 47 for financing the development of the energy resources of the developing countries through an energy affiliate at the World Bank and the reference, in paragraph 20, to the possibility of establishing a supplementary fund aimed at recapturing for the benefit of the poorest countries, the resources that all donors other than the United States would have contributed to IDA but which were withheld because of burden-sharing considerations. The measures proposed for food and agriculture also deserved attention and the Secretary-General had rightly tried to make the international community aware of the gravity of the economic situation of the countries of Africa, which must be helped to increase their food production and to accumulate food reserves. The resolutions adopted by the World Food Council at its tenth session also deserved support, particularly in view of the need to replenish the resources of IFAD and IDA, both of which played a role of primary importance in the agricultural development of the developing countries.

34. Turning to the question of industrialization, he stressed the importance of industry in the development of the developing countries. With that in mind, he felt that the time had come to strengthen the activities of UNIDO by providing it with the required resources and hastening its conversion into a specialized agency. In conclusion, he associated himself with the majority of delegations in expressing concern over the poor progress made in following the course recommended at the fourth session of UNCTAD.

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35. Mr. AL GHAMDY (Saudi Arabia) said that food problems were important because of the impact they might have on the orientation of development and international economic co-operation. It was ridiculous to speak of co-operation and prosperity when millions of people were dying of hunger and the international community was hesitating to take the measures required to improve their lot. The President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) had indicated that, in this world of wealth, the international community had been unable to feed the hungry, even on the occasion of World Food Day. As the report of the World Food Council showed, however, the international community had the means to do so, provided that it dealt with the causes themselves, showed political willingness to solve those problems and recognized the immediate importance of agriculture for establishing peace and prosperity. The world had the technical and financial resources to eradicate hunger once and for all. The President of IFAD had said that, unfortunately, the Fund had been concerned with solving financial problems rather than turning its attention to the programmes it was supposed to implement in the developing countries.

36. Saudi Arabia gave as much aid as it could to fraternal African countries in order to solve their problems, as part of bilateral aid or through regional or international organizations. To overcome the food crisis of the third-world countries, both the developed and the developing countries must increase their production of foodstuffs and not lower the prices. Some countries, however, instead of increasing production, were trying to reduce it in order to keep up the prices. In a spirit of international solidarity, Saudi Arabia was trying to make the concept of food security a reality. It had achieved self-sufficiency in cereals and had even managed to produce surpluses which were exported to the developing countries, particularly those which had been afflicted by natural disasters such as drought and desertification.

37. With respect to industrialization, it must be pointed out that 10 years later, the objectives set forth in the Lima Declaration and Plan of Action on Industrial Development and Co-operation had not been achieved, as indicated in the report of the Fourth General Conference of UNIDO which had not fulfilled the hopes placed in it. It had been incumbent on UNIDO to take strong and prompt action to promote industrialization in order to spur on the economic and social development of the developing countries. The formulation of industrial strategies should, therefore, now be encouraged, the human and financial resources required should be mobilized and the ties with other sectors, particularly the agricultural sector, should be strengthened.

38. The Industrial Development Decade for Africa was not proceeding as planned, which might be due to the natural disasters which had struck that continent. In that connection the international community must fulfil its commitments under the Substantial New Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries.

39. Saudi Arabia attached very great importance to economic co-operation among developing countries because it constituted a means of economic integration and made it possible to achieve self-sufficiency, as stated in the Caracas Programme of Action. Within the Gulf Co-operation Council, Saudi Arabia had demonstrated what economic co-operation among developing countries at the regional level could be by stressing the importance of the public sector in the implementation of

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(Mr. Al Ghamdy, Saudi Arabia)

industrialization strategies and the need for training to bridge the gap between the developed countries and the countries which comprised the Council.

40. However, such co-operation could not be dissociated from international co-operation. In that connection, the developed countries should fulfil the obligations arising from their relations with the developing countries by, first of all, removing protectionist barriers and opening up their markets to goods produced in the developing countries.

41. Concerning the report of the Secretary-General on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories (A/39/233), he recalled, that Israel had not permitted United Nations experts to visit the occupied territories. Consequently, the international community had no firsthand information on the inhuman and degrading treatment inflicted on the population of those territories. Nevertheless, the report provided information that was quite alarming, on the basis of which the international community could take measures to help the Palestinian people escape its cruel fate. It was paradoxical to hear the representative of Israel speak of the prosperity enjoyed by the population of the territories which his country occupied: he no doubt believed that the international community was totally ignorant of the situation. However, the representatives participating in the current session were not children who could be misled by absurd logic, but experts who were well versed in the matter. Moreover, one had only to read the Israeli press and to listen to those Jews who spoke the truth. Israel was closing schools and universities, murdering and persecuting schoolchildren and students at Bir Zeit University and other universities and schools, including institutions for which the United Nations was responsible.

42. The confiscation of more than 65 per cent of the occupied territories and the allocation of 50 per cent of the expropriated land to Israeli settlers were illegal and criminal acts which the international community had a duty to condemn. The Israeli policy of controlling agricultural production, restricting industrialization, and controlling prices and trade and the general feeling of insecurity were draining the resources of the Palestinian people and creating structural imbalances in the occupied territories.

43. The United Nations must take decisive action against Israel. Such measures, which would be compatible with the Charter, would only serve to strengthen the role of the Organization in the maintenance of international peace and security. In allowing Israel to manipulate the fate of the Palestinians in defiance of Security Council and General Assembly resolutions, the United Nations was losing credibility. The Secretary-General's report could open people's eyes to Israel's actions in the territories which it had occupied since 1967 and from which it sought to expel an entire people.

44. Mr. CHOWDHURY (Bangladesh) noted a virtual absence of growth and development consensus in important areas affecting the global economy; even in areas where a consensus had traditionally existed, multilateral co-operation had suffered for lack of adequate and effective support, and opportunities for action had been bypassed. The Fourth General Conference of UNIDO had been foremost among those opportunities. His delegation did not underestimate the agreements which had been reached on human resources, science and technology, rural development and

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(Mr. Chowdhury, Bangladesh)

agro-industries, measures for the least developed countries and the strengthening of economic co-operation among developing countries. The fact remained, however, that, in the absence of a consensus on the two most vital draft resolutions - on mobilization of financial resources for industrial development and world industrial restructuring and redeployment - the outcome of the Conference had been discouraging. The consequences of that situation would have an impact on those areas in which agreement had been reached. It was therefore of the utmost importance that the General Assembly should, during the current session, strive to reach a consensus on those two draft resolutions in order to facilitate development co-operation and accelerate the industrialization of the developing countries.

45. His delegation welcomed the fact that the technical co-operation programme remained a cornerstone of UNIDO activities. While it was pleased to note the overall increase in programme delivery during the past 10 years, it was none the less concerned at the decline recorded since 1982, which was particularly serious for the developing countries as their economies continued to suffer from the recession. The System of Consultations must be used more effectively to promote industrial co-operation between developing and developed countries and among the developing countries themselves. The solidarity meetings organized by UNIDO for the least developed countries played a useful role in that regard, but their outcome would depend on the follow-up which they received. His delegation hoped that the specific approach adopted by UNIDO with regard to the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries would be of use for the mid-term review to be carried out in 1985. In all those areas, the inadequacy of resources paralysed UNIDO efforts. Despite repeated appeals, the resources of the United Nations Industrial Development Fund still stood at less than one quarter of the agreed target. His delegation hoped that those anomalies would be rectified and that the conversion of UNIDO into a specialized agency would give impetus to the industrialization of the developing countries.

46. The World Food Conference had adopted important decisions aimed at eliminating hunger and malnutrition; nevertheless, the ranks of the hungry and malnourished had increased, even though world food production was sufficient to satisfy the needs of the world's population. In Africa, 24 countries were suffering from a persistent food shortage, and Asia remained the region with the largest concentration of the malnourished and destitute, despite remarkable progress in some countries. It was most distressing to note the decline in bilateral and multilateral external assistance during the past two years. The second replenishment of the International Fund for Agricultural Development had yet to be made, in spite of the significant role which that organization played. The target set for the seventh replenishment of the International Development Association, the most significant source of credit, particularly for the least developed countries, precluded any increase in assistance to those countries; indeed, IDA assistance might even decrease in real terms. His delegation believed that the declining trend in external assistance must be reversed, and attached very great importance to the recommendation of the Executive Director of the World Food Council that external resources of at least \$5 billion should be mobilized within five years for the implementation of food aid and technical and capital assistance programmes, and that that assistance should be channelled through existing agencies. It was also important that the progress which had been made in the application of modern technology to agricultural production in developing countries should be sustained.

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(Mr. Chowdhury, Bangladesh)

47. The effects of environmental deterioration, which were closely related to the desperate situation of food and agriculture, were all-pervasive. His delegation shared the concern of the Executive Director of UNEP at the acceleration of desertification and its serious consequences for the livelihood and survival of at least 20 per cent of the world's population in over 100 countries. Yet the reduction in real terms of resources earmarked for the Environment Fund showed the international community's apathy in the matter. He hoped that the general concern over environmental deterioration would be reflected in concrete action to redress the situation.

48. As an energy-importing developing country, Bangladesh attached great importance to development of the energy potential of the developing countries, which required access to advanced technology, scientific know-how and sizeable investment. The delegation of Bangladesh noted with concern from the report of the Secretary-General (A/39/420) that there was still some uncertainty with regard to international support, particularly financial support, for that sector. In that context, the proposal for the establishment of an energy affiliate of the World Bank should be effectively promoted. Similarly, sustained and increased effort should be generated for the early implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action for the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy, particularly in the developing countries.

49. Urgent work on the problem of human settlements was also necessary. Of the estimated increase in the world's population by 1.7 billion during the next two decades, some 90 per cent would occur in developing countries, and nearly 70 per cent of the increase would be concentrated in urban centres. That would create havoc unless a systematic effort was made to deal with the problem. His delegation therefore attached great importance to the observance of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, and urged those countries that had not yet done so to identify projects for the occasion.

50. A significant dimension for promotion of multilateral co-operation was the strengthening of economic and technical co-operation among developing countries. Since ECDC was an indispensable component of the overall process of development co-operation and was complementary to the co-operation that existed between developed and developing countries, the negativism recently shown towards that trend was somewhat unwarranted. In that connection, he was disheartened to note that the supplement to the World Economic Survey focusing on economic and technical co-operation among developing countries had not yet been made available.

51. General Assembly resolution 37/252 on immediate measures in favour of the developing countries had still not been implemented. It was unfortunate that that item reappeared every year on the agenda, underscoring the failure of the international community to take effective steps in that regard.

52. In his delegation's view, it was important that the Committee should consider all the agenda items before it from the perspective that the developing countries were undergoing increasing hardship. The net financial resource transfers to those countries, which had averaged \$40 billion between 1978 and 1981, had almost disappeared, and a reverse transfer of resources was now taking place from those

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(Mr. Chowdhury, Bangladesh)

countries to the developed ones, particularly in view of the drying up of credit flows and higher interest payments. In fact, it seemed as if the developing countries were financing the economic regeneration of the developed countries. The debates in the Committee would be meaningless unless they were able to develop a consensus to reverse that regrettable trend.

53. Mr. AL-GHILANY (Oman) said that, with the intensification of the world economic crisis, associated with the imbalance in the structure of international economic relations, environmental problems, which were extremely complex, had become even more critical. While the achievement of the goals of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade was the main prerequisite for sustained development, environmental issues were of great importance for economic and social development, which would be promoted by an improvement in the quality of life. In that undertaking, UNEP should play a central role, in the light of the priorities established in its programme of work.

54. The modern world was becoming increasingly concerned about the protection of the environment. The 1972 Stockholm Conference and the preparatory meetings that had preceded it at the international and regional levels had made many countries aware of the obvious or hidden dangers that threatened the social and economic well-being and the health of human beings. Since the Stockholm Conference, more was known about the environment as a result of the activities of UNEP and other specialized agencies, and of international scientific associations and governmental and non-governmental organizations and research carried out by experts from various countries. The resulting studies had scientifically demonstrated the dangers threatening human survival on the planet, the shortage of the natural resources needed to satisfy basic human needs and the harmful consequences of environmental pollution - especially from remnants of war which, as a result of scientific progress, had become more damaging to the environment because they were capable of bringing about profound climatic changes.

55. Hundreds of millions of people living in developing countries did not have enough drinking water or waste removal facilities. They had to have access to those essential services, especially in view of the current pressure of population growth. Many economists considered that that unacceptable situation was symptomatic of the imbalance in the present international economic order.

56. There were a number of ecological problems that had still not been solved because no in-depth studies had been made, and were constantly worsening, especially in the developing countries. For example vehicular traffic was often a major source of atmospheric pollution which could be countered by increasing the number of roads and parking lots - although such measures required considerable financial resources - or even by improving preliminary planning, increasing public transport and arranging for the judicious use of land. Increased construction work also threatened the environment and necessitated the establishment of criteria and careful planning to avoid certain side-effects: to achieve that, it would be necessary to employ new methods, control the size and spacing of buildings and provide adequate public health services.

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(Mr. Al-Ghilany, Oman)

57. The Sultanate of Oman was aware of the need for rational development without either short- or long-term negative effects on the environment. It had therefore introduced several laws and regulations on environmental protection and pollution control and for the development of Oman's land and sea resources. Since Oman also wished to protect its cultural and historical heritage, in December 1979 it had established a Council for Protection of the Environment and Pollution Control, presided over by the Sultan himself and of which seven ministers, competent in environment-related areas, were members. The Council had accomplished more in a short time than many other States had done over much longer periods. Unlike many countries, Oman had for several years already had a Ministry of the Environment with powers equivalent to those of other ministries. Among other things, the Ministry of the Environment made studies on sources of pollution and sought ways of eliminating them and combating their effects. It also studied the development of energy resources and had enacted a complete set of laws establishing the general framework for the national strategy for the protection of Oman's environment, for the development of energy resources and the protection of living and non-living resources of land and sea for the benefit of the Omani people, of neighbouring peoples and of all peoples of the world. It had also established wild-life reservations, particularly for gazelles. Oman was especially concerned over pollution of the shores of the Gulf of Oman and of the Arabian Gulf, caused by the daily passage of hundreds of tankers in Omani territorial waters, particularly in the Strait of Hormuz. Oman had always made efforts to save as many human lives as possible when ships were wrecked or damaged by sending its patrol boats, which had only recently proved to be particularly effective when a Panamanian tanker had been damaged.

58. He associated himself with the remarks made by the representative of Bahrain in recalling that the Arabian Gulf region had faced a serious situation the previous year when an oil slick from Iranian oil wells had spread, threatening marine life with extinction. Had the countries of the Gulf Co-operation Council not reacted promptly at the regional level, it would have been impossible for them to check the pollution or clean up their coastlines.

59. As a developing country, Oman was particularly interested in development activities in the environmental field as well as in all development and international economic co-operation activities carried out by the United Nations and the specialized agencies, in which it participated in so far as it was able, thereby demonstrating the importance it attached to those organizations. It had sent a high-level delegation to the Nairobi Conference held in 1982 to mark the tenth anniversary of the Stockholm Conference. Governments should be made more aware that environmental protection not only reduced pollution but also formed part of the rational exploitation of natural resources on the interests of sustained development. Oman believed that the problems of poverty and backwardness had not yet received all the attention they deserved and hoped that international and regional organizations within the United Nations system would take the necessary measures to combat those ills, as well as environmental problems, which threatened to grow worse over the coming decade.

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(Mr. Al-Ghilany, Oman)

60. His delegation had been very interested to hear the statements made by the representatives of FAO in the Committee and on the occasion of World Food Day, which Oman observed each year with the other peoples of the world. His Government devoted considerable attention to developing its food resources, carried out agricultural development projects and projects to increase the amount of cultivable land and helped farmers to improve the quality and quantity of what they produced. An agriculture and fisheries bank had been established which also made it possible to give fishermen the means to modernize their equipment and increase their catches. Lastly in the area of livestock production, there were several projects to combat livestock diseases and improve animal production.

61. Despite all the efforts made to offer mankind a better future, much remained to be done. If the desired far-reaching economic development was to be achieved, there would have to be better understanding and more effective co-operation among all countries, developed and developing. International organizations, above all UNEP, would have to strive to make progress in that direction and overcome the obstacles to the attainment of their objectives before it was too late. Oman urged the international community to promote economic co-operation for development through a more equitable sharing of trade and technical advances and by raising the standard of living of the populations of developing countries and creating a world climate which was conducive to development. In conclusion, his delegation would spare no effort to ensure that the Committee's work was successful.

62. Mr. NISHIMURA (Japan) said that, although the outcome of UNIDO's Fourth General Conference had not been entirely conclusive, his delegation was pleased that the Conference had reached agreement on a number of important resolutions in such areas as human resources, science and technology, energy, the processing of raw materials, and rural development and that participants had made a genuine effort to find ways and means of achieving a steady process of industrialization. It expected that those achievements of the Conference would serve to clarify the future direction of industrialization.

63. The development of human resources was a key area to which his Government attached great importance. Japan had assisted the developing countries' efforts in that regard by sending experts and receiving trainees on a bilateral as well as a multilateral basis, and its contribution to the United Nations Industrial Development Fund had centred on industrial manpower training.

64. On the issue of industrial restructuring and redeployment, he wished to emphasize the role that structural adjustment could play in the economic revitalization of developing countries and in expanding their export capacities. It was important to build up a flexible industrial structure through the smooth functioning of market mechanisms which ensured an efficient allocation of resources.

65. The objective of eradicating hunger and malnutrition, set by the World Food Council in 1974, had not been achieved. Given the existence of food-surplus and food-deficit countries, it was clear that facilitating trade between those countries was one way of addressing the global food problem over the short and medium term. His delegation felt, however, that such measures would have only a temporary effect and that, in the absence of an assured minimum supply, they could

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(Mr. Nishimura, Japan)

never provide long-term or permanent solutions for food-deficit developing countries. The only permanent solution being food self-sufficiency, Japan had, in various forums, advocated the planning of national food strategies, and had given all possible assistance to the efforts of developing countries to increase their food production.

66. Japan gave high priority to agricultural and rural development and had increased its bilateral and multilateral official development assistance in that area. It had, for instance contributed \$60.21 million towards the first replenishment of the International Fund for Agricultural Development, that contribution being the second largest in category I. It had also pledged \$21 million to the regular resources of the World Food Programme for fiscal years 1985 and 1986, a figure which represented a 35.5 per cent increase over its contribution for the two preceding fiscal years. Japan's bilateral food and agricultural aid had increased five-fold over the past 10 years, totalling \$520 million in 1982.

67. The situation in Africa was particularly serious. It was extremely important that each African country adopt and put into practice a national food strategy based on a comprehensive range of targets and policies. The world community must support those countries' efforts to boost their production and achieve self-sufficiency. Japan had recently increased its food-related assistance to African countries, which had amounted to more than \$100 million in 1984. In addition, it was the leading contributor to the African Development Fund, of which it had been a member since the Fund's establishment in 1973. His delegation hoped that such assistance, coupled with the efforts of African countries, would help to alleviate the continent's present hardships.

68. With regard to the environment, his Government was pleased that the World Commission on Environment and Development had been established for a period of two years and had begun its work. Environmental questions must be considered from a long-term perspective and the Commission should therefore identify ways of resisting the deterioration of the environment and creating a better environment for future generations. His Government had contributed \$750,000 to the Commission and hoped that more Governments would follow its example. The Commission's secretariat, for its part, should make the most effective use of its funds and keep its expenditures as close as possible to the original budget.

69. His delegation was deeply concerned at the problem of desertification. Since it was more difficult to recover land once it had become desert than to prevent land from becoming desert in the first place, the excessive use of land as pasture and of forest resources as fuel should be kept to a minimum. More must be done to encourage such a policy at the international level. Increased awareness among the peoples of the world of the threat of desertification might prompt action which was more supportive of those countries which were attempting to deal with the problem. Moreover, the likelihood of international aid in that area might increase if recipient countries accorded higher priority to anti-desertification measures. UNEP should work therefore to promote such an awareness and to convince recipient countries to re-order their priorities.

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(Mr. Nishimura, Japan)

70. His delegation shared fully the concern expressed by the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements at the serious threats posed to the developing countries by such problems as building deterioration and poor management of water supplies, sanitation and solid-waste collection systems, as well as overpopulation in urban areas. In some instances, such developments could have an impact that was felt beyond the borders of the countries in which they took place. That was why his Government had actively extended co-operation in that field through bilateral and multilateral channels and had recently decided to contribute \$500,000 to Habitat.

71. The development of alternative sources of energy, including new and renewable sources, played an important role in removing elements of instability and uncertainty from the international energy situation. In that connection, his delegation endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of the report of the Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy (A/39/44) and believed that there was an urgent need to implement the Nairobi Programme of Action. In order to do so, it was imperative that the activities undertaken by various United Nations agencies be well co-ordinated, that resources be used as effectively as possible and that close co-ordination be maintained with non-United Nations organizations such as the International Energy Agency.

72. It was gratifying that two regional consultative meetings had been convened which had laid a solid foundation for mobilizing additional financial resources, and that there were plans to convene a global consultative meeting early in 1985. His Government, for its part, had extended financial co-operation to a seminar on energy assessment and planning conducted early in 1984 by UNDP, the World Bank, the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development and the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, and had also supported preparations for the regional consultative meeting held by ESCAP.

73. Although it was commonly recognized that the energy demands of the developing countries would increase considerably as their economic development, urbanization and industrialization proceeded, the establishment of a sufficiently stable structure of energy demand and supply was a task that had yet to be accomplished in the majority of those countries and they were becoming increasingly dependent on imports of energy. He hoped therefore that the Committee would discuss those problems thoroughly, on the basis of the Secretary-General's report on the subject (A/39/420).

74. In conclusion, his delegation was pleased to see that preparations for the symposium on financial requirements and methods of financing petroleum exploration and development in developing countries, which the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs was organizing in 1985 in response to General Assembly resolution 38/151, were making steady progress. It hoped that the seminar would achieve its objectives.

75. Mr. SAFI (Afghanistan) said that, with regard to industrialization, his country stressed the need for a restructuring of world industrial capacities so that the industrial development of the developing countries might be promoted. The obstacles currently hindering that development were a matter of serious concern to his delegation.

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(Mr. Safi, Afghanistan)

76. The industrialization process currently required the use of modern technology as an important element for achieving rapid growth rates, high levels of productivity and good-quality products. Other factors which needed attention were the strengthening of the linkage between agriculture and industry and between large-scale and small-scale industries, the dispersal of industries and increased production to meet basic needs. There could be no substantial progress in the industrialization of the developing and least developed countries, however, without the reorganization of international economic relations on a just and democratic basis.

77. In that connection, he hoped that the results of the Fourth General Conference of UNIDO held at Vienna in August 1984 would accelerate the process of industrialization in those countries which had the greatest need of it.

78. That was in fact the major objective of UNIDO, and the latter should do more to support the just demands of the developing and least developed countries in that sphere. His delegation hoped that the conversion of UNIDO into a specialized agency would be completed by 1985 and that UNIDO would then be able to provide greater assistance to those countries.

79. Afghanistan attached great importance to the food problems faced by the developing and least developed countries. Although some progress had been made towards world food security during the past decade, the situation remained dangerously precarious. The increased interdependence of the modern world meant that all countries must help to solve food problems and eradicate poverty from the world. High priority should therefore be given to the food and agriculture resources of the developing and least developed countries and a global food programme must be implemented without delay if the scourge of hunger was not to grow worse.

80. Since solving food problems was closely linked with agricultural development in the least developed countries, the latter must be helped to improve their agricultural and training plans, programmes and projects. As the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 had urged at their eighth annual meeting in New York, priority should be given to the early eradication of hunger and malnutrition and to the attainment of food self-sufficiency in developing countries. The international community, especially donor countries and multilateral financial institutions, should increase their assistance in order to enable the developing countries to achieve the targets for the food and agriculture sectors set out in the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade.

81. In Afghanistan, agriculture was the backbone of the national economy and employed most of the population. Since the April 1978 revolution, the Government had been supporting firmly the development of agricultural production in order to provide sufficient and diversified food for the population. It attached great importance to World Food Day and each year celebrated it with further successes in the field of land reform, which was responsible for increased productivity. As a land-locked and least developed country, Afghanistan needed foreign assistance in order to develop its agriculture. It therefore appreciated highly the assistance

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received from other countries, especially the Soviet Union, and from organizations such as FAO and UNDP which had taken an active part in its agricultural development. However, it regretted that the World Food Programme had cut its food aid to Afghanistan, an action which it considered to be discriminatory and contrary to United Nations resolutions and the decisions of the Paris Conference. It hoped that the action would soon be reversed.

82. Co-operation among developing countries had been recognized as an important instrument for achieving the objectives of the International Development Strategy for the 1980s. His delegation believed that it was a good means of promoting rational and efficient use of the human, material, financial and technological resources of developing countries. The experiences of the Group of 77 and the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries in that regard were extremely important. Efforts had been made to implement the provisions of the 1981 Caracas Programme of Action more effectively, taking into consideration the worsening of the international economic situation. His delegation therefore supported the idea of harmonizing the Action Programme of the Non-Aligned Countries with the Caracas Programme of Action and noted with interest the progress that had recently been made in that regard. It believed, moreover, that co-operation among developing countries in the financial field was becoming more relevant because of the poor response to current needs of the industrialized capitalist countries and their subservient institutions. The current capitalist economic crisis had negatively affected both the financial flows of official development assistance and the target of 0.7 per cent of the GNP of the developed countries. Afghanistan had always supported the efforts of the developing countries to strengthen economic and technical co-operation among themselves and it welcomed the various action programmes adopted to that end, in particular those of Caracas and of the non-aligned countries.

83. Energy played an important role in the economic development of developing and least developed countries and the appropriate use of energy resources could accelerate the pace of their socio-economic development. His delegation therefore hailed the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, held at Nairobi in 1981, and the Programme of Action adopted at that Conference, which could contribute to the accelerated economic development of the developing countries. The development and utilization of new and renewable sources of energy should be a common objective for all countries, which implied wide multilateral action as well as efforts by the international community at the national, subregional, regional and international levels. In that context, the United Nations system had a vital role to play in assisting in the implementation of the Nairobi Programme. Afghanistan appreciated the positive decisions of the Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy. The developing and least developed countries had acquired their own experience in those various fields and efforts should be made to promote the co-ordination of their activities through ECDC and TCDC. Emphasis should be placed on new and renewable sources of energy which could improve the quality of life and increase the productivity of the least developed countries. It was particularly important to adopt special measures for the development of the energy resources of the least developed countries. Since financial assistance was essential for that

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purpose, Afghanistan hoped that the developed countries, multilateral financial institutions and United Nations specialized agencies would take the necessary steps to help them.

84. His delegation was gratified that immediate measures in favour of developing countries had been called for in General Assembly resolution 38/200 and that matters vital to the development of those countries were being discussed. The current world-wide recession and international crisis had had a major adverse impact on the food and agriculture sector of the developing countries. Immediate measures should be taken to solve the problems in that field. In the area of money and finance and that of trade and raw materials, the form of international trade must be restructured so that the developing countries could develop their international trade and readjust their balances of payments while at the same time continuing their development in the context of the establishment of a new international economic order. In connection with the development of the energy resources of the developing countries, his delegation stressed the need for the immediate implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action. It also attached great importance to the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries.

85. Mr. KOIRALA (Nepal), turning first to the question of food, said that agriculture had high priority in his country's development plans but that without assistance it was unable to overcome the pressing problems resulting mainly from primitive farming practices and high dependence on uncertain monsoons. Nepal, therefore, had looked forward with hope to the tenth session of the World Food Council. Unfortunately, the results of the session had fallen far short of the goals established 10 years previously by the World Food Conference. His delegation supported the revised concept of world food security which reaffirmed the need for financial resources and technical assistance in support of national efforts. It also supported the recommendations of the World Food Council for co-ordinating the operations of the agencies concerned with food problems.

86. Industrialization, which had ties with food and agriculture, was one of the most important factors in the social and economic development of developing countries. Nepal attached great importance to the role played by UNIDO in its socio-economic development, and was happy to state that UNIDO had played a positive role in stimulating the industrialization of the country. It was unfortunate, however, that the outcome of the Fourth General Conference had not met the expectations of the developing countries, particularly in respect of finance and redeployment.

87. Turning to the question of new and renewable sources of energy, he emphasized the importance of such sources to a country like Nepal and hoped that the consideration of the sub-item would help to promote the adoption of measures for the development of that type of energy. Nepal had abundant water resources and looked forward to help from the international community in developing them. Those resources not only could further national development but could also benefit other countries in the region. The recommendations and conclusions of the recent session of the Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy (A/39/44) had shown the need for an early and effective implementation of

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the Nairobi Programme. The Committee had expressed its concern at the financial constraints and had proposed two schemes for promoting the mobilization of financial resources in order to implement the Programme. His delegation fully supported the Committee's conclusion, referred to also by the Secretary-General in his report (A/39/398), that additional financing was needed to meet the growing requirements of the developing countries in connection with the development of new and renewable sources of energy. Nepal wished to take advantage of the occasion to express its appreciation to the various donor countries and multilateral financial institutions which had co-operated with it in that regard. The increasing need to protect the environment was linked to new and renewable sources of energy. It was widely recognized, moreover, that in an increasingly interdependent world, environmental degradation could no longer be regarded as a purely national concern but must be dealt with as a global issue. His delegation was grateful to UNEP for its efforts to enhance public awareness of the importance of the environment and its impact on various aspects of life. The World Commission on Environment and Development, recently established, was beginning to assist UNEP in its task, and close ties should be established between the Commission and the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee set up by the Governing Council at its last session.

88. Turning to the critical environmental deterioration in the foothills of the Himalayas, he said that the Himalayas constituted a major ecological system supporting hundreds of millions of lives. That ecological system was threatened and although national efforts to remedy the situation were under way in the countries of the region, including Nepal, a task of that magnitude could not be accomplished without the support of the international community. Some work had been done at the inter-agency level under the auspices of UNEP, and his delegation hoped that the matter would be further pursued and the recommendations of the agencies concerned implemented.

89. In conclusion, he referred to the activities of the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, an international organization established in Nepal in 1981 under an agreement with UNESCO. He noted that the Centre, the first of its kind, was intended to permit an integrated approach to the promotion of economic and environmental development in the Himalayas. Provided it received the support of the international community and co-operation from many countries and international institutions, there was no doubt that it would be able to carry out its role effectively.

90. Mr. MAYIRA (Rwanda) said that, during its Fourth General Conference, UNIDO had unfortunately not been able to reach agreement on the mobilization of financial resources or on industrial redeployment. It had therefore once again lost an opportunity to strengthen the North-South dialogue and multilateral co-operation in the field of industrialization.

91. The Conference had not provided any grounds for optimism with respect to Africa. For lack of appropriate technologies, Africa was the least industrialized and least developed continent. Progress in the implementation of the Industrial Development Decade for Africa had been hardly perceptible and, for lack of sufficient resources, the short-, medium- and long-term industrial development objectives established in the Lagos Plan of Action were far from attained.

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(Mr. Mayira, Rwanda)

Industrialization was linked to the development of energy and the current work of UNIDO to elaborate an energy programme for Africa would be of considerable assistance to the region in developing its huge energy resources.

92. Rwanda had already signed and ratified the Constitution of UNIDO and therefore hoped to see the organization become a specialized agency without further delay, so that it would be in a better position to respond to the needs of the developing countries.

93. The solidarity meeting of the Ministers of Industry of 10 developing countries, held at Kigali from 5 to 8 July 1984 under the auspices of UNIDO had produced very encouraging results. The principal goal of the meeting had been to define mechanisms for co-operation through which the most advanced developing countries could provide technical and financial assistance and participate in the development of industrial projects in the least developed countries.

94. Food had become a problem of the highest priority for the entire international community and particularly for the developing countries. The problem was especially serious in Africa where, as the report of the World Food Council (A/39/19) indicated, food needs had outpaced production and the largest number of starving people existed. The African Ministers of Agriculture, in the Harare Declaration on the food crisis, had recognized that reform of the entire agricultural system and the creation of strategic food stocks was essential; they had also felt it necessary to issue an appeal for a greater international effort, which would be essential to combat drought and desertification. In that connection, his delegation welcomed the decision of the World Food Council to give priority to Africa in its future work. Furthermore, it was encouraging to observe that ways and means of meeting critical situations had been improved and that the FAO Global Information and Early Warning System was now in a position to report on production shortfalls and potential food crises. The personal interest which the Secretary-General of the United Nations had shown in the situation of the African countries and the measures which he had taken to remedy it should be supported.

95. The food crisis in Africa and elsewhere was due to the combined effect of a number of negative factors which contributed to the world recession. It was for that reason that the question of food should be considered in the global context of the general economic crisis.

96. It hardly needed to be said that adequate resources were necessary to overcome the obstacles. In that connection, his delegation gave its firm support to the proposal for the provision of aid to the agricultural and food sectors in an amount of \$1 billion annually for a 5-year period, over and above existing commitments.

97. In June 1984, the Government of Rwanda had been obliged to request the international community for urgent food aid in order to meet a shortage caused by a prolonged drought. Rwanda's food deficit had been estimated at more than 60 per cent of its agricultural production. The situation was especially serious for a country where the population was growing faster than agricultural production and where cultivable land was scarce and of low productivity.

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(Mr. Mayira, Rwanda)

98. In close collaboration with the representatives of third world countries and international organizations, the Government of Rwanda had established machinery for the prompt distribution of food aid free of charge. A number of countries and agencies had responded positively to Rwanda's appeal; nevertheless the assistance received to date was still inadequate to meet the food deficit.

99. In conclusion, his delegation fully supported the World Food Council's recommendation to the Economic and Social Council for the convening of a special session of the General Assembly on Africa. The convening of such a session was fully justified in the light of the serious economic situation in the continent.

100. Mr. PAPADATOS (Greece), speaking on the development of the energy resources of developing countries, said that the Secretary-General's report (A/39/420) had brought to light a number of new elements which contributed to a better understanding of the implications of energy development and exploration for the benefit of developing countries. Close examination of the figures in the report showed that the investment requirements of the developing countries for the period between 1982 and the year 2000 would amount to almost \$1,749 billion. About 80 per cent of that amount would probably have to be spent by the domestic energy enterprises of developing countries and the rest might come from direct foreign investment. The heaviest demands would be in the oil and natural gas sector, where approximately \$892 billion must be spent; direct foreign investment could make its greatest contribution in that sector.

101. The financing deficits of the domestic energy enterprises of developing countries could be eliminated through a combination of national and international measures. National action should be directed towards reducing the energy requirements of those enterprises by making them more efficient and by increasing the flow of capital to them. Economic co-operation among developing countries had an important role to play. Bilateral and multilateral technical and financial support of the developing countries in the energy sector must be accelerated. Agreement on the desirability of further institutional innovation at the international level should be sought. Clearly, the success of such measures would depend to a large degree on a stable recovery of the world economy, which would stimulate the expansion of bilateral assistance programmes and their ODA components. It had been argued that the average cost of exploration and development of oil resources in the developing countries continued to be far below the current price of oil. Investment in that sector thus continued to present attractive profit margins and could assist the developing countries in meeting their financial needs for development and possibly the needs of other sectors of their economies, such as their external debt service.

102. On 19 December 1983 the General Assembly had adopted resolution 38/151 on the development of the energy resources of the developing countries. That resolution represented the most recent step taken by the United Nations in that field. Upon the adoption of the resolution, Greece had expressed its interest in organizing and hosting a United Nations symposium on financing petroleum exploration and development in developing countries. Thanks to the co-operation of the Japanese Government and the United Nations Secretariat, the symposium would take place in Athens in April 1985. The symposium would have an international character and

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experts from the private and public sectors of developed and developing countries and from appropriate organizations would be invited. The Greek people had always participated actively in the development efforts of the developing countries. Greece was keenly aware of the inadequacy of exploration efforts in the developing countries and believed that petroleum would continue to play a prime role in the energy requirements of the developing world; Greece accordingly stood ready to support all efforts to assist the developing countries and considered that the symposium would represent a significant contribution to the overall economic and social development of the developing countries.

The meeting rose at 6.30 p.m.