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THIRD COMMITTEE
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at 3 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 16th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. MADAR (Somalia)

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ORGANIZATION OF WORK

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The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 85: INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR: PARTICIPATION, DEVELOPMENT, PEACE: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/39/185; A/39/262; A/C.3/39/L.6)

AGENDA ITEM 89: POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES RELATING TO YOUTH: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/39/262)

AGENDA ITEM 90: QUESTION OF AGING: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/39/147)

AGENDA ITEM 91: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORLD PROGRAMME OF ACTION CONCERNING DISABLED PERSONS: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/39/191)

1. Mrs. SHAHANI (Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) said that, in contrast to the economic situation in many of the industrialized States, most developing countries were still suffering from the worst effects of the global recession. For one thing, GDP in those countries, as also the prices of their raw materials, remained stagnant; for another, ever-increasing protectionism on the part of the developed countries was preventing them from offsetting that decline in revenue by means of exports. High rates of inflation were undermining the capacity to save, which in turn tended to reduce or dry up sources of investment capital. The resulting decline in real income, unemployment and under-employment were affecting both the urban and the rural population. Opportunities for emigrating to developed or capital-rich countries, which had served as an economic and social safety valve, were fast disappearing because of the increasing restrictions on immigration imposed by those countries. Those deteriorating economic conditions had obliged many Governments to reduce or eliminate important programmes in family planning, education and health, among others, which had been built up with painstaking care. The main victims of those measures had been the poor and marginalized elements of the population, particularly women, youth, the aging and the disabled. The deep frustration caused by that economic deterioration had extremely negative social consequences which, in turn, led to political instability. In that connection too it was the developing countries which were the most severely affected.

2. Moreover, the international debt crisis was aggravating the difficult economic situation still further. The developing countries were being forced into the anomalous position of generating large and sustained trading surpluses in order to be able to service their external debt. Consequently, the poor countries were becoming net exporters of capital. As a condition for receiving additional credits and rescheduling existing loans, many countries were having to withhold an ever-increasing portion of their national revenue by phasing out subsidies and raising taxes, which cut further into the income of the people.

3. Repayment of external debt by the developing countries, which was imperative if the world banking and trade system was not to collapse, should, however, be effected in ways that did not hinder economic growth and progress in development. To that end, it was essential to restore the balance between public purpose and private finance which had been at the heart of the monetary arrangements adopted after the Second World War, setting the stage for a long period of sustained growth

(Mrs. Shahani)

in development and trade. Moreover, it must be asked whether it would not be possible to adopt new approaches, such as using the inescapable debt crisis to help developing countries improve their situation in other areas through the granting of credits or discounts to countries that pursued family planning, environmental and social welfare programmes.

4. Turning to items 85 and 89, she said that since the proclamation in 1979 of International Youth Year: Participation, Development, Peace, great strides had been made in preparing for that event. The Programme of Measures and Activities for International Youth Year in document A/36/215 had provided the model for action at the international, regional and national levels. There had been a growing awareness of the situation of youth which had led to numerous proposals for action programmes. The Secretary-General had reported annually on that progress to the General Assembly.

5. In its report on the current year (A/39/262) the Advisory Committee for the International Youth Year had brought several important questions to the attention of the General Assembly. Firstly, it had requested the General Assembly to approve, within existing resources, the convening of a fourth session of the Advisory Committee in 1985 with a view to recommending to the Assembly at its fortieth session guidelines for further planning and suitable follow-up in the field of youth. Secondly, in a resolution calling for action by the General Assembly, the Advisory Committee recommended that the Assembly consider, as an integral part of the observance of International Youth Year, devoting an appropriate number of its plenary meetings in 1985 to policies and programmes relating to youth and suggested that, provided it was consistent with General Assembly procedures and practices, those meetings be designated as the United Nations World Conference for the International Youth Year. In another resolution the Advisory Committee called on the Assembly to invite all Governments and other parties concerned to continue to participate actively in the preparation for and observance of the International Youth Year. In line with the request made by the General Assembly at its most recent session, the report of the Advisory Committee also contained a review of the discussion on channels of communication between the United Nations and youth and youth organizations, and a draft resolution on the subject. Lastly, the Advisory Committee had decided to postpone making any recommendations on the draft declaration on the rights and responsibilities of youth.

6. International Youth Year must be seen as a point of departure for encouraging renewed efforts to improve the situation of the world's young people. In keeping with the initial concept, primary emphasis had been given to specific long-term plans and programmes at the national level, for it was at that level that young people could be effectively involved in the planning and implementing of activities. In more than 125 countries national committees or other co-ordination mechanisms had been established for that purpose. Their task would be to elaborate far-reaching and imaginative programmes with the participation of government ministries, youth organizations and concerned professionals. In view of the importance of those committees for promoting the goals of the Year, she urged Member States which had not yet done so to establish a national co-ordinating committee before January 1985.

(Mrs. Shahani)

7. At the regional level, the United Nations regional commissions had devoted enormous efforts, given their resource limitations, to the observance of the Year, as demonstrated by the adoption of regional plans of action for International Youth Year by the commissions' governing bodies. The Secretariat invited Member States to consider supporting the regional commissions in their endeavours to implement those plans of action.

8. At the international level, the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, which had been designated as the lead entity for co-ordinating activities for the Year, had initiated and organized, with the invaluable help of non-governmental youth organizations throughout the world, a variety of promotional events and activities, including competitions, exhibitions and festivals designed to demonstrate the talents and creativity of youth while increasing awareness of the Year. The Centre had attempted to improve channels of communication with youth and youth organizations. To that end, the International Youth Year secretariat had organized a meeting of experts at Vienna in January of the current year the results of which had been very positive. A publication on that issue, combining the report of the Expert Meeting with a historical perspective and a conceptual framework for channels of communication, was now being prepared. Strong links with the national co-ordinating committees, youth groups and the media had also been established through meetings, circular letters, press releases and publications, including the monthly newsletter Channels. There had been a strong response to those efforts at the national and international levels.

9. In the coming weeks the Centre would complete two major studies, prepared in accordance with relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, concerning the situation of youth in the 1980s and prospects for the year 2000, as also the guidelines for the Global Plan of Action for Youth. The United Nations system had provided strong support at the international level. She wished in particular to mention the help the Division of Narcotic Drugs had given by organizing workshops and seminars and by dedicating special issues of its Bulletin to the effects of narcotic drugs and youth.

10. The International Youth Year secretariat, within the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, had meagre resources, including an insufficient budget for informational and promotional activities and limited travel funds. It was therefore unable to respond to all the requests from Governments and youth organizations for information and technical co-operation. Despite those very real constraints, which limited what could be achieved, additional resources for the International Youth Year secretariat would not be requested because of the current budgetary situation. Those limitations, however, could in large measure be overcome by strengthening the International Youth Year Trust Fund, which had the potential to develop innovative programmes in support of youth, especially young women and rural and disadvantaged young people. Since the Trust Fund had not received adequate support, she urged Member States to demonstrate their commitment to youth by contributing to the Fund.

11. Turning to agenda item 90 on the question of aging, she recalled that at its last session, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee had urged the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to ensure effective implementation of and follow-up action to the Vienna International Plan of Action

(Mrs. Shahani)

on Aging. Specifically, it had requested him to continue his information exchange activities, to continue to promote the Trust Fund for Aging so as to assist countries in formulating and implementing policies and programmes for the aging, and to ensure that the question of aging would be considered under the appropriate agenda items of the International Conference on Population, by the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women, and during the International Youth Year.

12. In line with those recommendations, the work of the Centre included the collection and dissemination of information on aging, substantive support for technical co-operation activities, research and training, and co-ordination and liaison with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. Document A/39/147, entitled "Question of aging", provided detailed information in that connection.

13. Efforts to implement the Vienna International Plan of Action on Aging had been very successful. In particular they had provided a better understanding of the economic, social, humanitarian and cultural implications of the process of the aging of the population as it related to development. That interrelationship had most recently been articulated in the recommendations for further implementation of the World Population Plan of Action, adopted at the 1984 International Conference on Population.

14. Other organizations of the United Nations system, including the specialized agencies and regional commissions, and the intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned had included the question of aging in their programmes of work. At the national level, many Governments had sought technical assistance from the Trust Fund for Aging. It was striking that the developing countries, despite their substantial proportion of young people, shared the interest of the developed countries in the aging of populations.

15. While definite progress had clearly been made, much remained to be done. It was essential that Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations should work together to mitigate the possible negative effects of changes in population structure by assuring social and economic security for the elderly and seeing to it that the potential resources of the elderly were fully utilized in the service of development.

16. In connection with agenda item 91, the report of the Secretary-General (A/39/191), prepared in response to General Assembly resolution 38/28, discussed activities carried out at the national, regional and international levels under the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons. In most countries the national committees established during the International Year of Disabled Persons had been continued and strengthened. At the international level, United Nations organizations and agencies had done much within their respective fields of specialization. Specialized agencies as well, such as the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the International Labour Organisation, and the World Health Organization had played an active role in the prevention and treatment of disability.

(Mrs. Shahani)

17. In connection with the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons, priority areas for action had been identified, such as support for the national committees, the review of existing legislation to eliminate discriminatory provisions and the facilitating of access by the disabled to buildings and services, including those at United Nations Headquarters, the Vienna International Centre and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees at Geneva. The Trust Fund created pursuant to General Assembly resolution 32/133 had supported a wide range of useful activities and programmes; in particular, it had aided organizations of disabled persons, human resources development and the exchange of information. The Trust Fund would thenceforth be used to meet requests from developing countries and organizations of disabled persons and to further the implementation of the World Programme of Action. Its chief purpose would be to support projects of an innovative and catalytic nature, especially in new areas. The poorest countries would benefit most from the limited resources of the Fund. Given the far-reaching nature of the Fund's activities and its added responsibilities, consideration ought to be given to changing its name and terms of reference so that they reflected the letter and spirit of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons.

18. It was readily apparent that the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, which had been designated as the focal point for co-ordinating the implementation of the World Programme of Action, had to have more staff if it was to fulfil that responsibility. She drew to the Committee's attention a number of points made in the Secretary-General's report aimed at facilitating the implementation of the World Programme of Action, namely, the identification of the resources needed by the Centre, the continuation of the Trust Fund under the proposed name of United Nations Fund for Disability, the identification of priority areas for action, and the policy statement on the employment of disabled persons. In conclusion, mention should be made of the preparations for the Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, which would be held at Milan from 26 August to 6 September 1985.

19. Mr. CEAUSESCU (Romania) said, with reference to agenda item 85, that the International Youth Year, given the generous objectives and humanistic goals it was proposing to achieve, represented the interests, ideals and aspirations of contemporary young people. The young were and would always be active participants in history. It was therefore natural for them to want to make their opinions clear on the main problems currently confronting mankind. At a time when mankind was undergoing a new period of tension, young people were concerned, and not only in an abstract way, about the termination of the arms race, about disarmament, especially nuclear disarmament, and about defending the right of peoples to life and to peace. The young were also affected by underdevelopment and the effects of the world economic crisis.

20. A common denominator emerged from the debates during the preparations for the International Youth Year: the recognition of the relationship between the problems that were of concern to young people and the major problems currently affecting mankind, whether political, economic, social or cultural. At the same time, there was a distinct need to elaborate policies and programmes relating to youth that would draw on their immense creative potential, that dynamic factor for social renewal.

(Mr. Ceausescu, Romania)

21. The report of the Advisory Committee for the International Youth Year (document A/39/262, annex) contained a series of recommendations for implementing the Specific Programme of Measures and Activities, which included the promotion of policies and programmes relating to youth as an integral part of social and economic development. The Advisory Committee had decided by consensus to recommend that the General Assembly should consider devoting an appropriate number of its plenary meetings in 1985 to policies and programmes relating to youth and had suggested that those meetings be designated as the United Nations World Conference for the International Youth Year (resolution I (III)). Another recommendation concerned the convening of the fourth session of the Advisory Committee during 1985 with a view to recommending guidelines to the General Assembly for further planning in the field of youth. It was to be hoped that the General Assembly would adopt the recommendations of the Advisory Committee.
22. Mr. BOLSIUS (Netherlands) said that in every society young and old should work together. However, in general the participation by the young in political, economic and cultural activities was negligible. Young people did not play a significant part in decision-making, in spite of the fact that the decisions taken often concerned them. The General Assembly had invited Governments to include a representative of youth in their delegations. He considered that youth had to be given the chance to be involved in the organization not only of national societies, but also of the international community, since the international society could achieve positive results only through the mutual co-operation of all countries. That that co-operation was still necessary was proved by the food situation in the world, and especially in Africa. He therefore applauded the activities of the United Nations Volunteers Programme in the field of youth and national development services.
23. International Youth Year had played and would continue to play an important catalytic role in the United Nations Volunteers Programme. A number of countries were already in the final stage of preparations for celebrating the Year. Youth organizations in the Netherlands had adopted a plan of action around the major themes: participation, development and peace. The proposals under each theme included the construction of youth facilities by unemployed young people, an anti-discrimination project and a visit to schools and youth organizations in the Netherlands by young people from the third world. For its part, the Government had earmarked a substantial amount of money for the implementation of that plan of action. It had presented a memorandum to Parliament on youth policy in such areas of immediate relevance as the education of young people, housing, employment and welfare, and special attention was being paid to groups of vulnerable young people, such as the unemployed, the deprived, minorities and drug addicts.
24. A major international problem was the abuse of alcohol and narcotics. A solution to those problems seemed hard to find. The proposals of the Netherlands Government widened the scope of welfare work to improve the physical and social circumstances of addicts. Those proposals would not in themselves solve the problem, but were intended to help find a solution. All those plans and proposals were aimed at improving the situation and the participation of youth in society. His Government considered that it would be a mistake to allow International Youth

(Mr. Bolsius, Netherlands)

Year to be a mere succession of festivals and international happenings. The theme of young people and their problems, concerns and interests, should be kept on the agenda beyond the end of International Youth Year.

25. International Youth Year should not be a pretext for organizing token events or creating structures for the sake of structures; it should be an opportunity to use the structures that already existed to strengthen their role and importance in the field of youth and to integrate youth questions into the work of the Organization. A few such questions should be singled out and specific projects drawn up around which to organize project groups. The Secretariat, other United Nations bodies and the specialized agencies would co-operate with youth organizations under the auspices of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council and, if possible, the Commission for Social Development. A thematical and project-oriented approach was the best guarantee that follow-up work would be effective, since the need for the participation of youth and youth organizations was obvious.

26. The Netherlands attached great importance to the results of the Expert Group Meeting on Channels of Communication, held at Vienna in January 1984. The main channel of communication at the international level, the meeting of non-governmental youth organizations, was developing into a broad platform for youth organizations, with a structure that could more flexibly respond to the demands of a thematical and project-oriented co-operation. His delegation hoped that in 1985 more than four youth representatives would be present, to contribute their way of thinking and to collaborate in tackling common problems.

27. Mr. RODRIGUEZ MEDINA (Colombia) said that activities should be developed that would be of direct benefit to the disabled 10 per cent of the world's population. As a consequence of the wars from which they have suffered, the developed countries had drawn up legislation for the rehabilitation of the disabled. But the non-developed countries lagged far behind with regard to rehabilitation and services for the disabled. The United Nations must support both the organizations working in that field and country programmes such as the Abilympics which Colombia was scheduling for 1985.

28. The financial and administrative basis of programmes for the handicapped should be broadened. In Colombia campaigns were under way to eliminate architectural obstacles. Work opportunities in the private sector for the disabled were being promoted at the national level. An international event known as the Abilympics was under preparation; its object was to involve the disabled in social and sporting life. However all of that was being done on a private basis and with limited resources. The United Nations should request Governments to give their full support to bodies working in that field. In addition, funds must be raised and support given to the national bodies co-operating with the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs.

29. Mr. RAHIM (Bangladesh) said that a quarter of the population of Bangladesh belonged to the 15 to 25 year age group. It was therefore not surprising that mobilization of that population was considered the key element of national policy. Bangladesh had been a co-sponsor of General Assembly resolution 34/151 which had designated 1985 as International Youth Year. One of the serious consequences of

(Mr. Rahim, Bangladesh)

the current economic crisis had been the increase in youth unemployment. That, in turn, had given rise to various social problems, creating a crucial situation for youth in both the developed and the developing countries. International Year would provide an opportunity for clear understanding of the current situation and the future prospects of youth and for co-ordinating implementation of appropriate programmes for the improvement of the condition of youth, which would ensure their full participation in the process of development and peace.

30. The Advisory Committee for the International Youth Year had submitted a report with practical proposals on specific ways for observing International Youth Year (A/39/262). In its resolution 36/28, the General Assembly had endorsed the Specific Programme of Measures and Activities to be undertaken prior to and during International Youth Year. His delegation hoped that that Programme would be implemented during International Youth Year at the national and regional levels.

31. Member States had taken International Youth Year seriously and national co-ordinating committees for its observance had been set up in many countries. In Bangladesh a high-level co-ordinating committee concerned with youth matters had been formed. High priority was being accorded to careful planning of the activities that would help young people to learn skills, acquire capital and equipment and engage in income-generating activities, including self-employment. With that end in view, the Government had started a youth service project. Under that project, small groups of 20 to 50 boys and girls would undertake programmes in such areas as education, recreation, vocational training and income-generating activities.

32. At the regional level, concrete plans had been adopted for International Youth Year. The region of Asia and the Pacific, to which Bangladesh belonged, had held its preparatory meetings at Bangkok from 26 to 30 February 1983 and had adopted a plan of action for the region. His Government fully supported that plan. The Advisory Committee and the secretariat of the International Youth Year should assist the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and its member countries in implementing the regional plan.

33. Bangladesh was pleased that, in spite of serious resource constraints, various United Nations bodies had assisted the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs in its efforts to ensure the success of International Youth Year. The important role of the Department of Public Information as a channel for the exchange of information should also be underlined.

34. Many non-governmental organizations engaged in youth related activities had formulated special projects in connection with International Youth Year. Implementation of those projects would further the objectives of the Year. One of those projects was the tree-planting campaign established in 1983 by a group of non-governmental organizations. That project consisted of activities involving youth groups in various countries and tree-related education programmes. It should be recalled that the General Assembly, in designating 1984 International Youth Year, had recommended that the Year should serve as a focus for increasing the involvement of youth in activities for the protection and enhancement of the environment.

(Mr. Rahim, Bangladesh)

35. The Advisory Committee, in its decision 1 (III), had requested the General Assembly to approve the convening during 1985 of the fourth session with a view to recommending to the Assembly guidelines for further planning and suitable follow-up in the field of youth. His delegation believed that that session would help to continue activities in the field of youth beyond the International Youth Year. It had also recommended that, as part of the activities to observe the Year, Member States should include youth representatives in their delegations to the fortieth session of the General Assembly, which would be held during the International Youth Year. Bangladesh believed that that idea deserved serious consideration.

36. Since many conferences would be held during 1985, another world conference on youth would probably be one too many. Considering the situation, the Advisory Committee had proposed that the General Assembly should devote an appropriate number of its plenary meetings in 1985 to policies and programmes relating to youth and had suggested that those meetings should be designated as the United Nations World Conference for the International Youth Year. His delegation supported that proposal.

37. The successful observance of the International Youth Year should result in a review of the existing policies concerning youth, the enactment of relevant national legislation, the establishment of appropriate structures for the observance of the Year and the formulation and implementation of national youth policies and programmes as a basis for action for youth. It should also focus on efforts to encourage youth participation at all levels. If that happened, then the enthusiasm generated during the Year would not be totally lost when the Year ended.

38. The Committee had before it document A/39/147 on the question of aging. Since the life expectancy in Bangladesh was currently only 47 years, the number of people above age 45 constituted only 16 per cent of the total population. Moreover, the younger people of the family traditionally took care of the elderly. Thus, the problem of aging in Bangladesh had not yet become a social problem of the same dimension as in the developed countries. Nevertheless, his Government was already involved in the welfare of the aged: it provided financial and professional assistance to various organizations dealing with the care of the elderly. It was necessary to profit from the experience gained in that field by countries which were tackling the social problem of aging. In that context, a great deal of importance was attached to the exchange of information and experience and, consequently, so the international network of existing information, to research and training centres and to the publication of a bulletin on aging.

39. The United Nations Trust Fund for the World Assembly on Aging had made a significant contribution to the promotion and strengthening of international co-operation in the field of aging. Bangladesh felt that the Fund should continue to assist various countries in the formulation of national policies on aging and in the implementation of programmes. Bangladesh therefore supported the continued existence of the Trust Fund. In the context of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, it was necessary to increase the flow of resources to the developing countries in the fields of disability prevention, rehabilitation of disabled persons and equalization of opportunities. The United Nations Trust Fund for the International Year of Disabled Persons could be an important source for such a flow of resources. His delegation therefore felt that the Fund should be strengthened.

40. Mrs. MARKUS (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that the proclamation of the International Year of Disabled Persons had been very beneficial, because it had made the world aware of the problems and the rights of those persons. Moreover, the fact that the period from 1983 to 1992 had been proclaimed the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons reflected the international community's interest in that subject. Her country, which was moving towards socialism and social justice, had started in 1970 to become interested in that problem, which was considered to be under State jurisdiction. In 1974, the national committee responsible for preparations for the International Year had been established and, since that time, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya had participated in many programmes and activities. In 1981, a very progressive act on care for the disabled had been proclaimed with a view to ensuring them shelter, household services, education, training and rehabilitation in specialized institutions, two of which had already been opened. In her country, the disabled enjoyed several kinds of privileges, for example, on transport services both within and outside the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.
41. She stressed that her Government was seeking to rehabilitate disabled persons in the vocational and social context and to help them to become productive citizens, in accordance with her country's social development plan.
42. There were so many disabled persons in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya because of the mines planted there during the Second World War. Although her country had not been responsible for the war, the Libyan people had suffered a great deal and, for that reason, she was requesting the co-operation of the international community.
43. She expressed appreciation for the efforts of the Secretary-General and of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat. Her country had co-operated in technical administration activities since the visiting mission had come to her country and had reported on the situation of the disabled. Her delegation supported the contents of the Secretary-General's report (A/39/191), particularly with regard to technical co-operation in the developing countries in connection with the disabled, and she stressed the importance of promoting an exchange of technology between the developed and the developing countries in the field of rehabilitation. She expressed the hope that concerted efforts would be made and that all States would co-operate in the task of ensuring a more prosperous life for the disabled.
44. Sister Janet RICHARDSON (Observer for the Holy See) said that the Catholic Church and the Holy See had consistently reaffirmed their confidence in young people, who were the hope of society and who were aware of its contradictions and inequalities and even of the possibility that the whole of humanity might destroy itself. Quite often, they had little confidence in political leaders, who seemed to be conditioned by nationalistic or bloc interests and to be incapable of building a system of national and international life that would ensure respect for human rights, justice and peace. In some places, young people did not even enjoy respect for their right of association for pursuing activities of a cultural or religious nature. They were isolated from other generations and from social structures and suffered the most from unemployment. Frequently, they chose solutions that were alienating: in many nations, suicide among the young and death through the effects of drug abuse constituted an alarming phenomenon. Many regional meetings had duly stressed the inability of educational systems to ensure the full development of the true personality of young people.

(Sister Janet Richardson, Observer, Holy See)

45. In her opinion, the family played a central role: in a situation of instability stemming from rapid social change and from the shallowness of the artificial world proposed by consumerism or by ideologies, the love, support and sense of solidarity which a stable family offered was irreplaceable for the growth of young people. Social policies which weakened the family institution deprived young people of the most important natural community in which they could find their personal, cultural and religious identity.

46. No less grave was the responsibility of the modern State in another sector of its specific competence: work. Work provided a necessary structure for life. Work was essential for the continual advance of science and technology and for raising the cultural and moral level of society. The workplace, particularly for young people, must also be a place where they could feel socially, economically and culturally integrated.

47. The cultural environment had also neglected youth. Research centres should study humanity, in general, and youth, in particular, through interdisciplinary approaches, international comparative studies and a confrontation between science, on the one hand, and intuition and meditation, on the other.

48. She observed that peace and youth were the subject of the eighteenth World Day of Peace, to be held on 1 January 1985, for which Pope John Paul II had chosen the slogan "Peace and youth go forward together". In that context, the demonstrations carried out by young people in Rome during the 1983-1984 Holy Year and the proclamation of the International Youth Year for 1985, with its reference to the theme of peace, were particularly relevant. In conclusion, she drew attention to the words of Pope John Paul II, addressing young people, when he had advocated rejection of the "culture of death", which began with the suppression of the unborn, developed with the violence of wars, arrived at the exclusion of the disabled and the aged and culminated in the final solution of euthanasia. She expressed the hope that family, work and culture would find their role in forming the person, and not the person uprooted from the community.

49. Mrs. CAMARGO-VILLAREAL (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) said that the twenty-second General Conference of UNESCO, held in Paris from 25 October to 26 November 1983, had emphasized the special importance assigned to the question of youth in UNESCO's programme and had defined the objectives and strategy of UNESCO's work in that field, both of which had complemented the related United Nations programmes. That complementary relationship and the many and diverse approaches which it had developed formed a nucleus of valuable experience and a channel for communicating and disseminating such experience throughout the whole United Nations system, including the specialized agencies, Member States, non-governmental organizations and, particularly, the young community.

50. Pursuant to its resolution 220/22, adopted at the 1983 General Conference, UNESCO would continue to co-operate in the preparations for International Youth Year with the United Nations, particularly the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs in Vienna. In line with the same resolution, UNESCO looked

(Mrs. Camargo-Villareal, UNESCO)

forward to the World Congress on Youth, a meeting of experts scheduled from 8 to 15 July 1985 in Barcelona: its theme "Participation, Development, Peace", was further evidence of UNESCO's continuing activities in the field of youth since 1964, when the First International Conference on Youth had been held, and of the series of co-operative activities at the regional level which UNESCO had organized or implemented jointly with the United Nations. Moreover, the organization and preparation of the World Congress were the result of an in-depth examination of UNESCO's activities in that field and reflected the strengthening of the co-operative and reciprocal links with the United Nations system as a whole. During the Congress relevant questions, such as the relationship between youth, education and work; youth and cultural values; and youth, international understanding and co-operation, would be reviewed on a world-wide basis.

51. UNESCO's member States were holding broad consultations. The Director-General had sent a circular and a questionnaire to the States members and associated members of UNESCO to inform them about the organization of the Congress and to consult them on the role and situation of youth in the different national settings with respect to work, education and culture. The replies to those questionnaires would be helpful for preparing the world-wide surveys.

52. UNESCO had invited its national committees, non-governmental organizations, the United Nations specialized agencies and the Vienna Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs to participate; the Director of the Centre, Mr. Gonzalo Martner, had already sent an encouraging reply. Mention should also be made of UNESCO's annual consultations with non-governmental youth organizations and its publications on issues relating to youth which had served as a basis for the work of the regional committees in that field.

53. Finally, she expressed the hope that, as on previous occasions, the Committee would reaffirm, in the draft resolution to be submitted to the plenary Assembly on the subject, the desirability of improving reciprocity and co-operation between UNESCO and the United Nations.

54. Mrs. CARR HARRIS (United Nations Development Programme), speaking on item 89, said that the Administrator of UNDP, in response to the General Assembly's resolution declaring 1985 to be International Youth Year, had provided assistance for the preparation of a feasibility study on initiatives taken by non-governmental organizations in tree-planting and small-scale afforestation. UNDP's interest in the feasibility of the tree project was twofold: first, to promote the themes of participation, development and peace; and, second, to offer an opportunity for a more local response to conservation and community development and to facilitate communication between intergovernmental, governmental and non-governmental groups. Many of the national co-ordinating committees for International Youth Year were encouraging tree-planting campaigns, as paragraph 63 of the Secretary-General's report (A/39/262) had made clear.

55. UNDP had been supporting a tree project programme in at least two developing country regions for the purpose of encouraging local group involvement in the design and monitoring of tree-planting projects. UNDP had also been represented at the Interministerial Conference in Dakar, Senegal, which had discussed

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desertification and had requested an analysis of the contribution made by non-governmental organizations to small-scale afforestation activities. Subsequently UNDP had made a field investigation of non-governmental groups in Senegal and had reached the conclusion that local youth organizations had the potential to have an impact at the community level through their production and conservation activities. UNDP emphasized grass-roots approaches for development and increasingly tapped the potential of non-governmental organizations within the context of country programming.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

56. The CHAIRMAN remarked that it was the Committee's custom to invite the Rapporteurs of the Commission on Human Rights to participate in the Committee's consideration of their reports. During the current session the Committee would consider the reports on the question of human rights in Chile, El Salvador and Guatemala. The Secretariat had reported that the financial implications of the visit to New York would be as follows: for the Special Rapporteur on Chile, \$5,100; for the Special Representative on El Salvador, \$2,700; and for the Special Rapporteur on Guatemala, \$2,900, and had stated that those amounts would be absorbed in the regular budget.

57. Mr. MORAGA (Chile), referring to the invitation to the Special Rapporteur on human rights in Chile, reiterated the view of his delegation that the appointment of a Special Rapporteur and the renewal of his mandate constituted selective and discriminatory treatment which violated the universally applicable norms for reviewing the implementation of human rights in the world. Chile was prepared to collaborate with the competent permanent organs on the issue, in accordance with established practice, and would do so as a State party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. The same desire to co-operate had been expressed in ILO and UNESCO, but Chile could not accept either the establishment or the prolongation of an ad hoc entity which would give rise to a procedure which his Government rejected.

58. The CHAIRMAN said that, if there were no objections, he would take it that the Committee had decided to invite the Special Rapporteurs and the Special Representative to introduce their respective reports and to participate in the Committee's discussion.

59. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 5.50 p.m.