



SECOND COMMITTEE  
52nd meeting  
held on  
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at 3 p.m.  
New York

DEC 26 1984

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 52nd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. HARLAND (New Zealand)

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

AGENDA ITEM 81: OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT (continued) (A/39/3 (Part II), A/39/118, 131 and Corr.1, 133, 236, 590 and Corr.1)

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1. Mr. NDOUMBA ELOUNGOU (Cameroon) said that the tendency towards stagnation and, in some cases, a decline in contributions for operational activities gave cause for serious concern. Indeed, overall contributions received by the organizations participating in operational activities had fallen slightly, from \$US 2,515 million in 1982 to \$US 2,465 million in 1983. It was regrettable to note that, at the same time, arms expenditure on armaments had maintained, if not doubled, its rate of increase over the same period, endangering hopes for collective well-being and security. His delegation felt, however, that the international community should be able to make a firm commitment to efforts to overcome underdevelopment and promote social and collective advancement and to implement that commitment through regular financing of the operational activities of the United Nations system.

2. The famine currently devastating Africa and the constant encroachment of the desert constituted a real challenge for the international community. His delegation welcomed the fact that the proportion of resources allocated to the development of Africa had risen from 30 per cent in 1982 to 37 per cent in 1983, as such a commitment could only help to promote the efforts made in the context of national and regional African development programmes.

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(Mr. Ndoumba Eloungou, Cameroon)

3. Stressing the importance and the role of evaluation in improving the quality and results of programmes, he said that his delegation felt that it would be necessary for the United Nations system as a whole to contribute further to strengthening the evaluation capabilities of Governments, particularly through sustained support of national evaluation activities; to encourage co-operation among operational bodies in order to improve the capacity for the evaluation of programmes and results; and, lastly, to promote the exchange of information concerning experience and co-operation in the field of evaluation. His delegation welcomed the steps taken by the heads of United Nations agencies to encourage that new form of co-operation, which was far more helpful to all the beneficiaries of operational activities for development.

4. With regard to co-ordination, the efforts of the organizations and agencies of the operational system should essentially be aimed at ensuring the complementarity and consistency of measures taken at the national level. To that end, an ongoing dialogue must be initiated between the various sources of assistance and the beneficiary Governments. Indeed, dialogue and co-ordination appeared to be the only means of ensuring that recipient Governments improved their capacity for planning, programming and executing national and sectoral projects.

5. With regard to co-operation among multilateral assistance agencies, UNDP, as the cornerstone of the multilateral co-operation process should be able to continue to carry out its mandate in co-ordination with all the other existing agencies. He noted, in that regard, the complementarity of the technical co-operation granted by UNDP and the financial assistance provided by the World Bank; their joint efforts were of considerable help in the planning, programming and execution of projects at the national level. His delegation again observed with satisfaction that the loans granted by multilateral development banks in the context of technical co-operation had considerably increased over the past 10 years. That trend showed the enormous possibilities for co-operation within the operational system, despite the diversity of the aims and mandates of each agency.

6. It was generally admitted that all development activities should be directed towards people. Since any real development prospects depended on the ability of human beings to effect changes and to change themselves, it was becoming more necessary than ever to strengthen support for human resources development programmes, to which the Second Committee should give due consideration.

7. Mr. PESHKOV (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that, as one of the forms of technical co-operation, United Nations operational activities for development were closely linked to the determination to eliminate the state of economic backwardness in which the developing countries had been placed, first by colonialism and then by the transfer of financial and other resources from the developing countries to the advantage of private capital and transnational corporations.

8. By their policy of confrontation and their attempts to ensure their own military superiority, to interfere in the internal affairs of States, to encroach on the national independence and sovereignty of States, to delimit "vital interest regions" and "spheres of influence", and, in general, to resort to a policy of

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(Mr. Peshkov, Byelorussian SSR)

pressure, embargo and diktat, aggressive imperialist circles were exerting a negative influence on operational activities for development, particularly on those of UNDP, as evidenced by the refusal to adopt the programme of assistance for Afghanistan, a decision which had set a dangerous precedent that could be invoked in the case of any developing country. That decision was also damaging to the prestige of UNDP and threatened its very existence as an international agency of a universal character. Its instigators would bear the responsibility for that flagrant violation of UNDP principles, and particularly of the 1970 Consensus and the principle set forth in General Assembly resolution 200 (III), to the effect that technical assistance furnished by the United Nations should not be a means of foreign economic and political interference in the internal affairs of the country concerned. That principle had been developed and confirmed, moreover, in article 17 of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States.

9. In addition, private foreign capital was using UNDP to establish itself in the developing countries on the pretext of offering the advantages of the market economy and the free play of market forces. The activities of UNDP were becoming interwoven with those of the World Bank and other financial institutions dominated by the monopolistic capital of the Western Powers. UNDP's tendency to consider the interests of private capital and transnational corporations enabled the latter to penetrate the developing countries and control the economy of those countries. The quest for maximum profit had already caused enormous damage to a great many countries. That negative trend was contrary to the principle of sovereign equality, to the right of States receiving assistance to set their own social and economic development objectives and to the purposes of the United Nations with regard to the development of international economic co-operation based on equal rights. The Governing Council of UNDP must therefore exercise strict control over all resources received by the Programme in order to broaden its financial base so that private capital could not use the United Nations to serve its own interests. Moreover, in accordance with the resolutions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, UNDP should promote technical co-operation projects designed to strengthen the role of the public sector and to improve the performance of State enterprises - activities whose effectiveness had been demonstrated by the economic, scientific and technical co-operation between the developing countries and the States members of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance in the public sector.

10. Furthermore, in view of the financial difficulties of UNDP, it was important to ensure the complete and effective use of all the financial resources available to that body, including voluntary contributions in national currencies.

11. His delegation considered it useless to establish a Committee of the Whole for programming which, if it had only a temporary mandate, would be unable to take account of the long-term interests of UNDP member countries or to draw up agreed principles for the execution of technical assistance projects. His delegation wished to recall that the sovereign rights of recipient countries must be scrupulously respected at all stages of the elaboration, execution and evaluation of technical assistance projects and programmes. In that connection, it was useless to strengthen the role of UNDP resident representatives or to give them functions for the co-ordination of the development of developing countries, which

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would lead them to intervene in the internal affairs of States and in their economic relations with other countries. It was also necessary to respect the principles on which UNDP activities were based, namely, the voluntary nature of contributions and the universal character of assistance, and to oppose any measure aimed at altering the current procedure for pledging contributions.

12. In order to improve the world economic situation, UNDP must strive to implement the provisions of General Assembly resolution 38/188 J, wherein the Assembly had invited the specialized agencies and other organizations and programmes of the United Nations system to broaden further their contribution, within their areas of competence, to studying the link between disarmament and development, since the economic and social progress of developing countries and increased development assistance, in particular within UNDP, were indissolubly linked to the elimination of the threat of nuclear war to the strengthening of international peace and security and the implementation of effective measures to halt the arms race and initiate the disarmament process.

13. Mr. MEYER (German Democratic Republic) said that operational activities must be responsive to the interests of recipient countries and geared to the priorities determined by the developing countries in accordance with their needs. That assessment had also been confirmed by the results of the thirty-first session of the UNDP Governing Council. Like the large majority of members of the UNDP Governing Council, the German Democratic Republic believed that it was necessary to adopt, in a constructive atmosphere, decisions regarding the continuation of the Programme's activities on the basis of its democratic principles. However, certain donor countries had been making open attempts to misuse UNDP for a policy of pressure, boycott, blackmail and confrontation. Such attempts were incompatible with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and did not serve to promote multilateral economic co-operation on the basis of equal rights and non-discrimination. The refusal by some Western Powers to approve the country programme for Afghanistan for what were clearly political motives, even though that country met all the criteria for UNDP aid and was, moreover, a land-locked developing country, constituted a dangerous precedent and a violation of the 1970 Consensus and other accepted principles underlying the work of UNDP. In future, UNDP activities should be in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and UNDP's mandate. That would serve the interests of all parties.

14. The mid-term review of the results of the third programming cycle showed that UNDP activities were most effective when they followed the fundamental principles of UNDP, in particular the principle of the sovereign right of recipient countries to decide themselves on all matters relating to the preparation, implementation and evaluation of projects, and when they were properly incorporated into national development plans. However, increasing efforts were being made to involve private capital and transnational corporations in UNDP activities and other operational activities of the United Nations. His country was against such manipulations as they endangered the multilateral and universal character of UNDP and, in the end, jeopardized its very existence. Such an important technical assistance programme could not and must not be subordinated to the interests of one particular country or group of countries.

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(Mr. Meyer, German Democratic Republic)

15. Concerning co-ordination of the operational activities of the United Nations system, he said that, while its aims must certainly be to avoid duplication or overlapping of efforts, it was essential, above all, that operational activities should be better adapted to and incorporated into the development plans of recipient countries. Logically, it was the Governments of recipient countries that should ensure the co-ordination of those efforts at the national level. If such co-ordination was used simply to influence the execution of projects in the interests of certain donor countries and not of recipient countries, it would not only contravene the fundamental principles of UNDP but would also call in question the objectives of United Nations technical assistance.

16. Some delegations and the UNDP administration had called for automatic contribution increases for a higher degree of obligation with regard to contribution payments and for the introduction of so-called burden-sharing, based on the economic potential of States. However, the percentage breakdown of participation by States in the financing of UNDP and other voluntary assistance programmes of the United Nations was scarcely a valid indicator of their actual economic assistance to developing countries. Any attempt to turn UNDP into a compulsory programme for which contributions would be calculated on the basis of the United Nations scale of assessments would be unrealistic. His country would certainly not object if certain States with a colonialist past or which were currently engaged in neo-colonialist exploitation were to increase their contributions to UNDP, since that would constitute a form of compensation. For its own part, the German Democratic Republic had always played a constructive part in UNDP. Unfortunately, its voluntary contributions continued to be used insufficiently, despite the existence of various possibilities and even though several United Nations bodies had proposed various solutions to UNDP to ensure effective use of the funds made available in marks. In the light of that situation, demands for higher contributions scarcely seemed justified. Given the concrete nature of technical assistance (procurement of supplies, provision of services or training of personnel), the currency in which voluntary contributions were made available was of only secondary importance. Allegations that contributions in national currencies were difficult to use were therefore bound to cause astonishment. They had nothing to do with reality, since bodies such as UNICEF, UNIDO, UNEP and IAEA always used contributions paid by the German Democratic Republic in marks to the full.

17. UNDP had hitherto allocated contracts to only a few countries. The report of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation (A/39/417, table C-1) indicated that in 1983, 56.9 per cent of the value of the equipment supplied and 72.2 per cent of the sub-contracts were allocated only to seven capitalist countries. Whether it was pure chance that those seven States were identical with the participants in the so-called Western Economic Summit held each year remained an open question. The self-praise of those States regarding the level of their contributions to UNDP was scarcely appropriate, because their percentage of the funds contributed to UNDP in 1983 (58.8 per cent) had to be seen against the percentage of the funds which they recovered. In fact, the contributions of those States to UNDP were more or less in the nature of export credits. In the light of that situation, the absurdity of the comments made by certain Western Powers on the subject of the contributions of the socialist

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countries was obvious. His own country's contribution to UNDP for 1985 was the same as in 1984, namely, 1 million marks, and it had not been cut by \$US 53,485 as indicated by UNDP statistics. The difference could be explained by variations in the exchange rate between the dollar and the mark, but had nothing to do with the real value of the contribution because the German Democratic Republic maintained price stability and the value of the currency there was constant.

18. His country had always attached great importance to assistance in the area of basic and advanced training. Since 1970, more than 60,000 nationals from developing countries had received occupational training in the German Democratic Republic. Over the past 20 years, his country's Youth Organization had, through its friendship brigades, provided vocational training for more than 6,000 nationals of Asian, African and Latin American countries, and established 12 training centres. His country therefore favoured the proposal to convene a United Nations conference on human resources development. Such a conference could be organized within the framework of the United Nations with universal participation and should deal with all problems of human resources development encountered in the technical assistance activities of the entire United Nations system. Such a conference could also draw on studies and activities already existing, especially those envisaged in General Assembly resolutions on the role of qualified national personnel in the social and economic development of developing countries. The United Nations Secretariat and the UNDP administration had not yet fulfilled their obligations under General Assembly resolution 37/228. The progress report envisaged in paragraph 7 of the resolution had not yet been submitted. That resolution should be followed up. The planned conference should take comprehensive measures to curb and regulate the brain drain.

19. His country highly appreciated the work of UNICEF for the welfare of children especially in African, Asian and Latin American countries through its child survival and development revolution. In 1985 his Government would provide UNICEF with 1 million marks which originally had been earmarked for UNDP. His country also contributed to the additional activities of UNICEF and in 1984 would donate more than 1 million marks to support UNICEF activities in Afghanistan, Angola, Kampuchea and Laos.

20. Mr. FOLDEAK (Hungary) said that the most important requirement for operational activities for development within the United Nations system was to promote the national development programmes of recipient countries. That required co-ordination, which needed not only flexibility and pragmatism, but also a willingness to respond to the real needs of recipient countries. Those elements should prevail in all spheres of development activities. Close co-operation among the units of the United Nations system was essential for efficiency, and it was worth considering the possibility of extending to other bodies the "co-ordinated programming" adopted by UNDP, the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), UNICEF and the World Food Programme (WFP), which allow them to work closely together from the earliest stages, thus avoiding duplication.

21. Responsibility and powers of decision in the co-ordination of external development aid should be reserved for the aid recipients; UNDP should assist them

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(Mr. Foldeak, Hungary)

only upon their express request. The gathering of assistance-related information and the monitoring, evaluation and follow-up of aid programmes were governmental functions. Assumption of them by any outside body would be tantamount to external management of operational development activities.

22. The system of country programming had stood the test of time and needed no major changes. Under that system, whose flexibility was ensured by the consensus of 1970 and by General Assembly resolution 3405 (XXX) on new dimensions in technical co-operation, there was no question about the right and responsibility of recipient countries to select the purposes for which UNDP resources were to be used.

23. In the context of preparations for the fourth programming cycle, the principle of universality should be fully respected in the provision of technical co-operation. No cut-off point should be established in deciding eligibility since a higher level of economic development, far from eliminating the need for technical co-operation, required more sophisticated and more complex programmes. The distribution of country IPFs should be made on the basis of the same principles as for the third programming cycle, in accordance with the provisions of UNDP Governing Council resolution 80/30. The fourth programming cycle should cover a five-year period. His country did not support the tendency to shift the emphasis of technical co-operation to small-scale projects; the latter might sometimes be appropriate, but in some cases countries might also have need of larger scale projects. The UNDP country programming exercise should be maintained as a flexible instrument for meeting the priorities of technical co-operation set by the recipients themselves. Finally, past pledging trends should be taken into account in the calculation of overall resources that might be available for the fourth programming cycle. It could be agreed to keep the real value of general resources at least at the level of the third programming cycle.

24. States Members had demonstrated their positive assessment of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities by announcing for 1985 contributions which would ensure it stable financing and reinforce its role.

25. The impressive achievements of UNICEF strengthened confidence that it would be able to eliminate such shortcomings as the underutilization of some of its financial resources or imperfections in recruitment. Special credit was due to UNICEF for its African emergency appeal, for its speedy mobilization of additional resources and for having strengthened its administrative structure in Africa. The "child survival and development revolution" was a programme that would become more and more central to UNICEF activities. That programme, by the concentrated application of widely known, simple methods could help to mobilize countries to adopt social and health measures to improve the situation of children. Finally, the tragic consequences of local armed conflicts for the situation of children in combat zones should not be forgotten. Such a situation could only be remedied by creating the conditions for life in peace.

26. Mr. ONOBU (Nigeria) said that the operational activities of the United Nations system accounted for a sizeable share of the development financing of many developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, which, because of

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(Mr. Onobu, Nigeria)

their limited access to international credit, were increasingly dependent on the concessional resources of the United Nations system for development; the more so as, though overall technical and financial assistance from the United Nations system averaged 12 per cent of official development assistance, in some cases it exceeded 30 per cent. It was therefore vital to maintain substantial levels of resources for the programmes and funds of the United Nations system if the financial requirements of the developing countries were to be met.

27. In his report (A/39/417), the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation had stated, that although as yet there had been no return to growth in resource mobilization, the decline experienced in recent years had been halted. The Administrator of UNDP had noted that contributions from major donors to the Programme for 1985 at the recent United Nations Pledging Conference for Operational Activities reflected an aggregate increase of 7 per cent. It was also noteworthy that developing countries continued to give strong support to UNDP; over 20 developing countries had increased their pledges by 10 per cent or more at the same Conference. He hoped that those developments would give a new impetus to multilateral co-operation, since stagnation in the overall level of resources caused by declining voluntary contributions had led to extreme difficulties in maintaining existing levels of programme delivery in real terms. He considered that action should be taken to ensure that UNDP continued to be the focal point for operational activities within the United Nations system.

28. However, the apparent inability to muster the supplementary financing for the seventh replenishment for the International Development Association (IDA) and the difficulties experienced in negotiations for the second replenishment for the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) were of great concern. He called for an early completion of the negotiations to support the resource requirements of those two important sources of concessional resources at appropriate levels.

29. On the question of co-ordination of operational activities at country level, he noted that effective co-ordination among all donors, and between them and recipient countries was essential to minimize duplication and ensure that programmes were complementary. If it was to make a contribution to development, external assistance must be integrated into the overall development plan of the recipient country. Hence, the vital role played by national co-ordinating mechanisms in harmonizing the requirements of a country with the assistance rendered by bilateral and multilateral donors and non-governmental organizations. The recent experience of many African countries had demonstrated the importance of the role of resident co-ordinators in co-ordinating the various forms of United Nations assistance in their countries of assignment. However, important as co-ordination was for the effectiveness of external assistance, it should not become a pretext for interference in the domestic policies and priorities of recipient countries.

30. The practice of making contributions with certain conditions attached undermined the principle of the neutrality of multilateral technical assistance provided by the United Nations system. Nevertheless, he took note of the decision of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme to continue to

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(Mr. Onobu, Nigeria)

accept until April 1986, tied contributions to three funds, namely, the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office, the United Nations Capital Development Fund and the United Nations Financing System for Science and Technology for Development, since the financial situation of those three funds would not permit them to fulfil their respective mandates without such resources.

31. With regard to the relationship between programme delivery and administrative costs, the Director-General stated in paragraph 94 of his report that, in the aggregate, organizations had spent the equivalent of 17.6 per cent of their total technical co-operation project expenditures on support costs in the biennium 1982-1983. There were, however, significant variations from one agency to another, the ratio ranging between 8 and 34 per cent. It was particularly important and urgent to reduce that ratio since the amount of available resources had not increased and the continuation of such a situation could adversely affect programme delivery.

32. With regard to the liquidation of the United Nations Emergency Operation Trust Fund and allocation of the remaining balance, it was important that the 12 per cent of the balance earmarked for economic and technical co-operation among developing countries should be effectively utilized. The Group of 77 had already identified a number of interregional projects which could benefit from that Fund. He hoped that the early implementation of those projects would not be affected by unnecessary controversy about the use of the Fund. The Group of 77 was the best judge of what activities were of priority to developing countries and of how the Trust Fund for Economic and Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries should be used.

33. Mr. TETTAMANTI (Argentina) said that it was essential to analyse the central role played by the United Nations Development Programme leaving aside political considerations which distorted its basic objective. The results of the most recent United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities held out the hope of a solution to the crisis of UNDP. The trend towards a drop in resources in real terms seemed to have been halted, thanks to the efforts of the principal donor countries, many of which had achieved the 14 per cent annual growth target and, in certain cases, had even exceeded it. The efforts made by developing countries also deserved to be underscored; many of them had increased their contribution by 14 per cent annually in United States dollars, which represented much more than that figure in their national currencies. In addition, their contributions to cost-sharing were often substantial.

34. The recovery of UNDP was all the more encouraging since it would soon be necessary to make decisions relating to its fourth programming cycle. The special meeting to be devoted to that question should not lose sight of certain principles. The objective of operational activities for development was to assist developing countries to make better use of their own resources in accordance with their national objectives. The special meeting would serve to indicate the extent to which the international community was capable of attaining that objective and what efforts it could make in that direction over the next five years.

35. The Governing Council, at its thirty-first session, had stressed that international co-operation must be adapted to the real needs of developing

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(Mr. Tettamanti, Argentina)

countries, which continued to rely on it. Those needs could not be defined in terms of per capita income; it was necessary to seek out the institutional characteristics in each country which would enable it to achieve genuine self-reliance and to achieve the economic and social objectives for which UNDP co-operation was necessary.

36. Preparations for the fourth programming cycle must be based on the experience acquired during the third cycle. The crisis of UNDP was due mainly to the international economic crisis and not to the fact that the targets set lacked realism. The economic recovery in certain donor countries had been reflected in their contribution to the Programme. The consensus which had made the preparation of the third cycle possible must also be the basis of the agreement on the fourth. The length of the cycle and the distribution of resources (80 per cent for the least developed countries and 20 per cent for the others) were the best possible and should not be modified. But while the establishment of new categories and the introduction of the idea of a ceiling were not justified, a floor must be maintained to guarantee the universal character of the Programme and to provide a minimal programming indicator for recipient countries.

37. In the light of its own experience, Argentina considered it very useful for Governments to execute programmes themselves, with UNDP assistance, since in that way, recipient countries could better adapt their programmes and projects to national priorities. It was also very useful to draw on the human resources of the countries concerned. The World Bank must also adapt its activities to the priorities and plans of recipient countries in order to develop their economic and technical capabilities. There was, therefore, a need for more effective co-ordination of the activities of the World Bank and those of UNDP. Moreover, all initiatives which UNDP could undertake to assist in the promotion of technical co-operation among developing countries would be welcome.

38. With regard to the liquidation of the United Nations Emergency Operation Trust Fund and allocation of the remaining balance, some progress had been achieved in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 38/201. As had been provided for in paragraph 1 (c), the developing countries were engaged in identifying the economic and technical co-operation activities which were of critical importance to them.

39. Special mention should be made of the importance of the work which had been done by UNICEF despite its limited resources, and particularly its assistance to disadvantaged mothers and children.

40. Mr. STARACE-JANFOLLA (Italy) said that against the backdrop of the economic crisis and the difficulties hindering the North-South dialogue, the operational activities for development of the United Nations system constituted, as the Secretary-General had pointed out, a field in which achievements had been numerous and encouraging. In some of the least developed countries, the United Nations was known almost exclusively through its operational activities. Those activities were vital in emergencies and, in times of crisis such as the present, they were an essential complement to development efforts. That was what had prompted Italy, despite its economic and financial difficulties, steadily to increase its financial and technical support to the main funds and programmes of the United Nations,

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(Mr. Starace-Janfolla, Italy)

particularly at the recent United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities. For example, Italy had increased its contribution to UNDP by more than 25 per cent and to UNICEF by more than 40 per cent. It also provided supplementary financial resources to trust funds and cost-sharing and would shortly be doing so through recourse to management contracts. It had underscored its priority commitment to the least developed countries, particularly the Sahelian countries, by increasing by 40 per cent and 20 per cent respectively its contributions to the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office and the United Nations Capital Development Fund. Moreover, its contribution to the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control demonstrated the importance which it attached to the fight against one of the worst contemporary scourges and its economic, social and moral consequences.

41. His delegation was pleased to note that not only had a number of traditional donors decided to increase their contributions, but also that an increasing number of developing countries had done the same, which clearly showed that the latter recognized the usefulness of the system of operational activities and that they had faith in its capacity to respond to their needs. However, the trend towards increased levels of resources could be maintained only if the system demonstrated its capacity to adapt to changing circumstances and increased its rate of programme delivery while, at the same time, reducing its costs. In that respect, while welcoming the efforts being made to reduce administrative costs, his delegation noted with some concern that, as the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation stated in his report (A/39/417), there seemed to be no reliable basis on which to define the relationship between programme delivery and administrative costs. While acknowledging the conceptual and methodological difficulties which must be faced, his delegation wished to encourage the Director-General and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to continue their in-depth examination of ways of harmonizing procedures and of enhancing their transparency so as to provide the international community with data to guide its actions.

42. It was particularly fortunate that the thirty-first session of the Governing Council of UNDP had carried out an in-depth analysis of measures to be taken to meet the changing requirements of developing countries in the field of technical co-operation, in view of the structural adjustments that many developing countries were undergoing in their effort to make progress once again towards sustained development.

43. UNDP also had to provide resources to finance the more sophisticated forms of technical co-operation required by the more advanced of the developing countries, and to take the necessary measures to that end in anticipation of the fourth cycle of activity, which should provide an opportunity to improve the mechanisms of programming in all its phases.

44. The entire operational activities system currently had to face one of the worst emergencies of the last few years, namely, the critical food situation of many sub-Saharan African countries. In view of the need for the international community to respond promptly, generously and in a co-ordinated manner, Italy was mobilizing substantial resources, as could be seen from the joint emergency operations with UNICEF in several countries of the Sahel as well as in Ethiopia.

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(Mr. Starace-Janfolla, Italy)

His country was also examining very carefully several proposals made recently by UNDP in relation to the African emergency situation. He was pleased to note that UNICEF and UNDP in particular, had taken administrative and organizational steps to cope more effectively with that situation. He was also pleased to note measures taken by UNDP to gradually improve the system of Round Tables, and to intensify co-operation between UNDP and the World Bank so as to strengthen co-ordination and make the best possible use of inputs which they were called upon to provide in the field of technical co-operation. The initiatives announced on 26 November 1984 by the Secretary-General to cope with the African emergency situation would also strengthen the action and co-ordination of the multilateral system.

45. At the country level, but also in an emergency, UNDP should be able to play its central role in organizing rehabilitation and development activities. Resident Co-ordinators should be responsible for ensuring co-ordination of all external aid. Italy would support in every possible way the role of the Resident Co-ordinator, including bilateral aid programmes, in African countries affected by the crisis. Co-ordination could also be improved by channelling multi-bilateral co-operation through the system. It had been very sensible to decide to examine the question of the co-ordination of external technical co-operation at the country level during the high-level general debate to take place at the 32nd meeting of UNDP's Governing Council.

46. Italy would continue to support UNFPA, whose Executive Director had played an invaluable role in the organization of the 1984 International Conference on Population, and which would be assigned even more important tasks in the field of assistance in matters of population. Italy further intended to take part in the activities aimed at ensuring implementation of the Plan of Action adopted in Mexico City.

47. The strengthening of the structures of developing countries ultimately depended on the assistance that could be given them within the framework of operational activities to build up their human resources, which were a matter of priority in the development process. He was pleased to note that the Administrator of UNDP had decided to establish a human resources task force.

48. Mr. JACOBSON (Indonesia) said that his country had always attached great importance to United Nations operational activities for development. Not only were they the most tangible expression of co-operation for development, but they also assisted developing countries in reaching their goals of self-reliant development and in making the best possible use of their human, financial and natural resources. Indonesia supported calls for strengthening those activities.

49. The trend towards stabilization of resources to finance operational activities was gratifying, but did not yet signal a renewed growth of those resources. Countries whose level of voluntary assistance was below their capacity were urged to increase their contributions. At the country level, co-ordination should reflect the policies of developing countries, and external aid should be integrated into their overall development. Resident Co-ordinators could certainly play a positive role in helping recipient countries to ensure co-operation at the country level.

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(Mr. Jacobson, Indonesia)

50. With regard to the relationship between administrative costs and programme delivery, a question of great importance, Indonesia looked forward to the results of the discussions of the Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination.

51. It was hardly necessary to stress the crucial role of UNDP in multilateral technical co-operation. Even though the financial situation of the programme had improved, contributions had again declined slightly in real terms. An increase in resources was therefore necessary to enable UNDP effectively to carry out its mandate. His delegation was following the preparations for UNDP's fourth programming cycle with great interest. It agreed with the Governing Council's decision to apply basically the same guidelines and criteria of the third cycle to the fourth cycle, but certain adjustments should be made to take into account the changing situation, especially inflation. His delegation was gratified to note that the Administrator had highlighted the urgent issue of human resources development and had established a human resources task force in UNDP.

52. His country attached great importance to the work of UNFPA and shared the satisfaction of its Executive Director with the encouraging results it had obtained at the recent Pledging Conference. It also welcomed the success of the recent International Conference on Population and supported in particular the recommendation to strengthen UNFPA. As the country with the fifth highest population in the world, Indonesia recognized the close link between population problems and development and felt strongly that UNFPA should be given the necessary resources to address urgent problems in that area.

53. In conclusion, his country supported UNICEF activities for the survival and development of children. The recent world economic recession and the adjustment policies adopted to handle it had had serious effects on children, the most vulnerable segment of society. It was appalling to learn that more than half of the 40,000 children who died each day could be saved if only the international community had the modest amount of will required.

54. Mr. KOLEV (Bulgaria) recalled that operational activities for development had grown in importance as a result of the difficult economic situation of most developing countries, and UNDP had a central role to play. His delegation viewed with satisfaction the development of UNDP in certain areas, in particular the adoption of new measures for the mobilization of the resources of developing countries, more effective resource utilization at the country level, the increasing effectiveness of operational activities for promoting technical co-operation among developing countries and the continuation of the policy of providing additional assistance to the least developed countries. In the course of 1984, the system of contacts between recipient countries, donor countries and other interested parties had continued to improve with a view to mobilizing increased resources and ensuring co-operation in the financing of UNDP-assisted projects and programmes. The efforts to adjust services and assistance to the needs of least developed countries, to improve co-ordination in the practical areas of technical co-operation, and to make full use of the potential of non-governmental organizations were also to be commended.

(Mr. Kolev, Bulgaria)

55. However, there were still some shortcomings which impeded the implementation of UNDP goals. In the view of his delegation, more attention should be paid to practical issues at the implementation stage, thus ensuring better resource utilization and increased programme effectiveness. In particular, the work of the regional bodies of UNDP should be improved, and procedures to reduce administrative expenses should be streamlined. The cost of services provided by international experts and consultants was too high and was of concern to countries participating in operational activities.

56. His delegation shared the view of most delegations on the need for further co-ordination among the organs and organizations of the United Nations dealing with development and international economic co-operation. The opportunities provided by the adoption of a multi-sectoral approach should be emphasized. More importance should also be given to the need to eliminate procedural differences in the programming process, and to improve the evaluation and control system in view of the large number of organizations and agencies whose activities were affiliated with those of UNDP.

57. Those shortcomings were not new. They were due, inter alia, to the attempts of certain countries to violate two of the principles set forth in the consensus of 1970, namely the universality and voluntary nature of contributions to UNDP. Certain countries, for example, were attempting to use UNDP to interfere in the internal affairs of sovereign States, as they had recently done in refusing to approve the continuation of the assistance programme for Afghanistan. Such practices were inadmissible in the United Nations and must be firmly condemned by the international community. The recent attempts to use UNDP in order to promote the role of the private sector in the development of developing countries were also incompatible with the objectives and the mandate of UNDP.

58. His delegation expressed satisfaction at the role of UNDP in promoting technical co-operation among developing countries. Bulgaria had participated to the best of its ability in efforts to promote technical co-operation with those countries in order to develop their industrial, agricultural and human resources, solve their food problems and improve their export capacity. His country shared the views of most delegations concerning the growing role of human resources in development and attached particular importance to the activities carried out in that field by United Nations bodies, including UNDP and UNFPA.

59. His delegation valued highly the humanitarian role of UNICEF and noted with satisfaction the increase in assistance activities for the benefit of children in developing countries. Nevertheless, the deplorable situation of children in many countries beset by natural disasters, particularly in Africa, made it necessary to intensify the activities of UNICEF in those areas and enhance their effectiveness. In that connection, it would be useful to take into consideration the experience of those countries which had undergone profound socio-economic transformations in their process of development. His country attached particular importance to United Nations activities concerning children, as was demonstrated by the periodic convening of the International Children's Assembly in Sofia.

60. There was a close relationship between development, including the enhanced

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(Mr. Kolev, Bulgaria)

role of operational activities for development, and the problems of peace and disarmament. There was no doubt whatsoever that, in view of the deterioration of the international situation, it was especially urgent to adopt practical measures to reduce military expenditures and thus release additional resources for development. The need for such measures was also dictated by the serious economic situation of most developing countries.

61. Mr. RAHMAN (Bangladesh) said that his delegation was convinced that the operational activities of the United Nations system played an essential role in promoting socio-economic progress in developing countries and strengthening co-operation for development. As many delegations had stated, the work of the United Nations system in that field was the most concrete manifestation of the ideals and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and was a prerequisite for peace and an investment in the future.

62. It was therefore regrettable that the contributions made to operational activities for development had not been as large as one might have expected in view of the statements made in support of those activities. The dollar value of those contributions had declined or had not increased in the case of most funds and programmes involved in operational activities. Even the contributions to refugee programmes, humanitarian and economic assistance programmes and disaster relief programmes had been reduced by approximately 14 per cent in 1983 in comparison with 1982. The contributions to the World Bank Group and the International Fund for Agricultural Development had decreased by 26 per cent during the same period. It was urgently necessary to remedy that situation particularly at a time when there were net transfers of capital from developing to developed countries. His delegation noted with satisfaction that at the last Pledging Conference a number of countries, including 21 developing countries, had been able to announce an increase in their contributions; nevertheless, that, unfortunately, would not be enough to significantly change the trend.

63. The central role of UNDP in the field of technical assistance and the valuable support which it provided at the local level through its vast network could not be overemphasized. The results which it had achieved thus far did not prevent it from continuing to evaluate the growing needs of developing countries in order to respond to them as pragmatically and effectively as possible. Nevertheless, it would not be possible to enhance the effectiveness of UNDP, as the Governing Council had decided at its thirty-first session, unless it had adequate resources. It was hoped that all Member States, particularly the developed countries, would contribute generously to the Programme and that the developed countries which were not members of the Development Assistance Committee would contribute more than they had done thus far.

64. In view of the critical importance of human resources in the development process and the growing danger posed by the lack of skilled manpower in the developing countries, it was regrettable that those countries had been forced to reduce their expenditures on education in order to meet more urgent needs. As a developing country with very limited resources, Bangladesh was aware of the seriousness of the situation and had proposed at the meeting of the Ministers of Labour of the Non-Aligned Countries, held at Managua in May 1984, to convene a

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(Mr. Rahman, Bangladesh)

United Nations conference for the purpose of developing an international, comprehensive action programme to remedy the situation. In the same spirit, his delegation welcomed the decision of the Administrator of UNDP to convene a task force to explore all the aspects of human resources development. The need for co-ordination with the other United Nations agencies concerned, particularly ILO, UNIDO and UNESCO, should also be stressed.

65. His delegation also appreciated the important role of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, which was the operational arm of the United Nations in the field of technical co-operation and established linkages between the various development sectors. Bangladesh had benefited from the Department's experience in a number of fields (the development of institutional capabilities, remote sensing and water supply development ...) and noted with satisfaction that the Department, in its activities, had stressed the needs of the least developed countries.

66. In his statement before the Committee, the Executive Director of the World Food Programme (WFP) had emphasized the multiple role of food aid in emergency situations and in meeting the development needs of developing countries with regard to the food deficit. His delegation noted with satisfaction that WFP was increasingly stressing the long-term prospects for food aid. The complexity of the question should not be underestimated because needs varied according to country and circumstances. It was extremely important to integrate food aid into the development process, which WFP had been doing for several years in Bangladesh. The international community should give greater attention to that approach. The measures taken by WFP to respond to the emergency situation in Africa had been appropriate in view of the seriousness of the circumstances and it was hoped that they would be followed by efforts to promote the development of the countries affected. In recognition of the effectiveness of WFP, the international community, at the Pledging Conference held in March 1984, had announced record contributions.

67. His delegation had noted with satisfaction that the resources of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) would increase by approximately 8 per cent in 1985. The international community had also showed that it appreciated the role of that agency and that it supported the results of the International Conference on Population held in Mexico in August 1984. It was hoped that the international community would continue to support UNFPA because demographic policies could be successfully implemented only through a long-term approach. His delegation wished to stress the need to strengthen UNFPA in order to enable it to fulfil its functions more effectively, taking into account in particular the recommendations of the Mexico Conference. It therefore looked forward to the measures which the Secretary-General would take on those recommendations.

68. His delegation noted with regret that the contributions to the general resources of UNICEF had suffered a decline of about 5 per cent in 1983. It had not been possible to reverse that decline at the Pledging Conference held in November 1984. UNICEF would therefore face difficulties in the implementation of its medium-term plan, which projected a 3 per cent annual increase of resources in real terms, a modest increase considering the deterioration of the economic and

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(Mr. Rahman, Bangladesh)

social situation in the developing countries, which had compelled them to effect drastic budgetary cutbacks in the fields of health, education and social services. The situation in Africa dramatized the vulnerability of children and mothers in the developing countries, particularly the poorest among them. UNICEF's appeal for \$67 million in special assistance for Africa had not yet evoked an adequate response. In view of the gravity of the situation, it was imperative that UNICEF should be provided with increased resources to offset the adverse consequences of the retrenchment of services that many developing countries had been forced to undertake. A setback in the child survival and development revolution started by UNICEF would, in future years, have tragic consequences for millions of children in developing countries. As the Executive Director of UNICEF had stated, the child survival revolution could not be accomplished by UNICEF alone and required the collaboration of all.

69. His delegation was deeply concerned about the uncertainty regarding the second replenishment of International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) resources when the commitments undertaken for the first replenishment had still not been fully met. As for the International Development Association (IDA), the amount of contributions pledged during the seventh replenishment had declined in real terms by 40 per cent, even though its membership had increased. In view of the critical importance of funding from IDA and IFAD to the poorest countries, whose access to other sources of financing were virtually non-existent, the donor countries should come to an early agreement to increase the resources of those two bodies.

70. Referring to the report of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation (A/39/417), he noted with satisfaction that by far the greater share of operational activities, had gone directly to the developing countries in support of national development programmes (about 93 per cent), and that the balance (about 7 per cent) had been directed towards operational activities carried out on a regional, interregional and global basis. That general trend should be more widely followed by the organizations and programmes in the United Nations system. It was also encouraging to note that there had been some increase in expenditure for the least developed countries in the period 1979 to 1983.

71. The distribution of procurement activities among the countries (A/39/417, para. 31) showed that the operational activities involved a mutuality of interest and that the share of the developing countries in those activities should be increased. His delegation would like the Director-General to continue to provide data of that kind in his reports, if possible in greater detail, in order to permit objective comparisons of the benefits accruing to various groups of countries.

72. Finally, his delegation noted that increasing emphasis was being given to the co-ordination of technical assistance at the country level. In that connection, the organization of the review meetings at the national level on the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries had proved to be an effective tool in promoting greater co-ordination.

73. Mrs. RODRIGUES (Mozambique) said that under article 55 of the United Nations Charter, the States Members of the United Nations were pledged to act jointly to improve the standard of living of all peoples and that the operational activities

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(Mrs. Rodrigues, Mozambique)

for development undertaken by the United Nations system constituted important machinery for that purpose.

74. The reports submitted to the Second Committee by the representatives of UNDP, UNICEF, UNFP and WFP, were evidence of ever greater involvement by the United Nations in development activities as well as the progress which had been achieved in that particular area of multilateral co-operation. Despite the scarcity of resources, the United Nations system played a valuable role in the process of development of the developing countries at a time when the latter were suffering from the effects of the deterioration of the international economic situation (decline in commodity prices, increased interest rates and heavier debt burden). That was why appreciation should be expressed to the countries which had demonstrated their support for the system by maintaining, or even increasing their contributions to the specialized agencies and to the various United Nations funds. Referring to section III of the report of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation (A/39/417), she said she wished to emphasize the importance of co-ordinating aid between the recipient Governments and the donors in order for external assistance to contribute to development in a sustained manner. In its dual capacity as resident co-ordinator of the operational activities of the United Nations system and as representative of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, the UNDP office in Mozambique had played a constructive role in co-ordinating the efforts of the United Nations system and in working closely with the Government during the provision of relief assistance following the natural calamities the country had experienced in the past three years. She therefore welcomed the decision of the UNDP Governing Council to consider at its 1985 session the question of the co-ordination of external technical co-operation at the country level during its high-level general debate.

75. Turning to section IV on follow-up to the comprehensive policy review of operational activities, she said her delegation was convinced that acceptance of the principle of tied procurement posed a threat to the unique quality which had distinguished multilateral co-operation from bilateral aid. That was why it was looking forward to the results of the consultations being undertaken by the Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions to assess the implications of tied procurement contributions for multilateral development co-operation before elaborating in detail its position on that sensitive question. It was also important to continue to study the question of the relationship between programme delivery and the administrative costs of operational activities, which was extremely disturbing. Nevertheless, it was encouraging to note in table 9 of the Director-General's report that certain bodies, particularly UNDP, WHO and FAO, had reduced their administrative overheads to a reasonable level. With respect to evaluation, she commended UNDP for the positive steps it had taken to strengthen Mozambique's evaluation capabilities, in line with General Assembly resolution 38/171.

76. In response to the Secretary-General's initiative and in accordance with decision 84/18 of the UNDP Governing Council, the Programme had to co-ordinate external assistance for the 15 African countries most severely affected by the drought. Her delegation thanked the Economic and Social Council for its decision to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion of the member countries of the

(Mrs. Rodrigues, Mozambique)

Southern Africa Development Co-ordination Conference in the list of countries which received assistance through the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office.

77. Although Mozambique had not participated in the recent United Nations Pledging Conference for Operational Activities, it would maintain the level of its contribution for 1983.

78. Finally, although Mozambique accepted the prime responsibility for its own development, it was aware that, like other developing countries, it did not have the means to achieve that goal by itself. The international community therefore had a collective responsibility to ensure the economic and social progress of those countries by providing them with financial assistance and adopting economic and trade policies which were more favourable to them.

79. Mr. BARNETT (Jamaica) said that developing countries such as his own were deeply interested in the operational activities of the United Nations system because they addressed not only short-term needs but also had considerable potential for facilitating necessary structural adjustments, promoting institutional development and strengthening their economies over the long-term. Since sufficient funds were needed to carry out those activities, it was essential to increase in real terms the financial resources provided for them, but, as document A/39/417 indicated, total contributions to United Nations operational activities in 1983 had declined slightly in nominal terms as compared to 1982, when, in that period of crisis, the needs of the developing countries continued to grow. Also, the results of the recent annual Pledging Conference had not been very encouraging. Thus, the dollar contributions pledged to UNDP had sometimes been less than those for the previous year, although the developing countries, including Jamaica, had made a considerable effort to increase the level of their contributions. He hoped that those efforts would provide an impetus to major donors and to other industrialized countries to do likewise in future. His delegation looked forward to participating in the meeting which the Governing Council would be holding in February to discuss issues which pertained to the fourth programming cycle, particularly the question of resources.

80. Jamaica had participated actively in the proceedings of the Governing Council of UNDP at its thirty-first session. It shared the view that UNDP should take, and indeed was taking, vigorous steps to improve its effectiveness and usefulness, broaden its services and address changing development needs. In that respect, the development of indigenous human resources as well as the provision of specialized skills not available in developing countries should be a high priority of technical co-operation. The Jamaican Government would therefore work with UNDP, interested Governments and other bodies to assist the Administrator in following up the proposal for the establishment of a human resources facility in accordance with Governing Council decision 84/4.

81. Jamaica considered UNDP a vital and dynamic organization which should be given the means, financial and otherwise, to assist developing countries to meet the challenge of development. Moreover, it was also important to reaffirm the fundamental principles contained in the 1970 consensus which governed UNDP and its technical co-operation activities, in particular its central funding and

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(Mr. Barnett, Jamaica)

co-ordinating role, the process of country programming and the universality of the Programme. It was also advisable to maintain the principle which set a minimum indicative planning figure, also known as the "floor" principle, for the fourth programming cycle.

82. While much was being done to meet the technical co-operation requirements of developing countries, as evidenced for example, by the work of UNICEF and UNFPA in Jamaica, it was also clear that an increase in resources and intensified efforts on the part of donors, recipients and United Nations agencies themselves were warranted to co-ordinate and streamline the execution of projects and programmes in order to realize fully the potential which operational activities had for developing countries.

83. Mr. PRADO RODRIGUEZ (Cuba) said that the world economic crisis assumed specific characteristics in the developing countries. Statistics revealed the tragic nature of the situation in those countries, which were suffering from starvation and exploitation and whose populations lived in poverty and complete destitution. Those statistics reflected not only the gulf which separated the developed countries from the developing countries but also the profound inequalities which existed in the overwhelming majority of third world countries. The international community should therefore make concerted efforts to remedy that situation and ensure that the technical co-operation of the United Nations agencies became part of the economic and social development process, in accordance with the national priorities established by each recipient country. The principle of respect for the national priorities of the recipient countries was closely linked with the need to maintain the multilateral character of assistance and to avoid the growing tendency towards bilateral tied aid.

84. Cuba supported the idea of country programming which had been adopted by UNDP, since that provided the appropriate framework for supporting countries' development efforts through external financing. Likewise, he considered the current system of allocating 80 per cent of UNDP's resources to the least developed countries satisfactory. Moreover, Cuba reaffirmed the principles of the universality of the Programme and of the voluntary character of contributions, and strongly encouraged the donor countries to increase their annual contribution by 14 per cent.

85. The resources pledged to UNDP operational activities had been less than expected. The indicative planning figures had reached only 55 per cent of the total which had initially been considered necessary. In that respect, while it was desirable to increase the number of regional programmes, that increase should not be made at the expense of the indicative planning figures allocated to various countries.

86. The fact that 147 countries had participated in the International Conference on Population, held at Mexico City, demonstrated Governments' interest in population and development issues, and made it possible to reaffirm the link between population questions, development, resources and the environment. The important declaration adopted on that occasion summarized the main aspects of the problem and should be fully supported.

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(Mr. Prado Rodriguez, Cuba)

87. His delegation welcomed the praiseworthy efforts of UNICEF for the benefit of children, particularly in Africa. Indeed, it was extremely important to promote programmes on maternal and infant health care, on fighting communicable diseases, on vaccination, on sanitation and on water and food supply. The United Nations agencies should also co-ordinate their efforts in order to develop health services, to train technical personnel and to provide essential medical supplies.

88. Finally, Cuba was doing its best to enhance the prestige and strengthen the role of the United Nations and of its specialized bodies and agencies, and endorsed the efforts being made to guarantee peace and security to all peoples, to establish an equitable international order and to resolve the tragic problem of underdevelopment.

89. Mr. SILWAL (Nepal) said that his country attached great importance to the operational activities of the United Nations agencies which dealt with development, since they helped the developing countries to consolidate their basic infrastructure and thus promote their socio-economic development. That was why the stagnation in resource mobilization and the overall decline in programme expenditures were cause for concern. However, in the 1984 report of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation (A/39/417), there was a trend towards stabilization of contributions to United Nations organizations. The recent pledging conference had confirmed that positive trend. That would seem to mark the end of the decline in multilateralism in international development co-operation. Moreover, in preparing his report, the Director-General had taken account of the requests contained in General Assembly resolution 38/171. Paragraph 74 of the report dealt with the collaboration of the four main funding organizations for operational activities within the Joint Consultative Group on Policy, which his delegation welcomed since that was the best way of avoiding duplication of projects.

90. As the central funding agency in the field of operational activities, UNDP had contributed greatly to the economic and social development of many developing countries. It also effectively fulfilled its task as the lead agency for donor conferences for the least developed countries. He welcomed the fact that UNDP was exploring ways of strengthening the round table and consultative groups through joint technical co-operation assessment missions. UNDP's increasing co-operation with the World Bank Group and the regional development banks was a most welcome process. At its thirty-first session, the Governing Council had decided on certain measures to meet changing technical co-operation requirements, to enlarge UNDP's assistance to low-income and the least developed countries and to open new opportunities for grassroots approaches to development. His delegation lent its full support to those measures, which would enable UNDP to assist developing countries in a more tangible manner. The Administrator was correct in his emphasis on a need for increased human resources, and Nepal welcomed the recent establishment of a Human Resource Task Force. In that respect, he referred to resolution 1984/4 of the Governing Council of UNDP. The idea of holding an international conference on human resource development was a good one.

91. The United Nations Capital Development Fund, which worked at the grassroots level in close co-operation with UNDP, had become more effective in channelling

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(Mr. Silwal, Nepal)

concessional assistance. The assistance which it provided in the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action was widely appreciated, and the Fund was increasing its response to the crucial needs of the least developed countries in the fields of health, education, transport, communication and sources of energy. Finally, the Fund constituted a significant chain in bridging the gap between UNDP pre-investment activities and large-scale capital assistance projects funded by the World Bank and other development institutions.

92. It was regrettable that the United Nations Special Fund for land-locked developing countries had not been able to function even at a minimal level. The international community must comprehend the seriousness of the problems of those countries and contribute to the Fund.

93. The United Nations Fund for Population Activities played an important role, and it was gratifying to see increases in the recently announced voluntary contributions. The Fund had participated in various population-related projects in his country. The International Conference on Population (November 1984, Mexico City) had been a major event because it had drawn attention to the interrelationship between population issues and development and because its recommendations would be useful in developing effective measures at the global and national levels which took into account the interrelationship between people, resources, environment and development.

94. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) was another organization whose activities were relevant to the day-to-day lives of millions of people around the world. Its worth was recognized by everyone, as its relatively comfortable financial position indicated. The National Committees for UNICEF deserved praise for their efforts to mobilize public support. In Nepal, UNICEF had become a household word. Basic health services and primary health care with an emphasis on community participation, were of great relevance to the developing world. UNICEF had been instrumental in evolving simple yet effective measures and had rendered an invaluable service by articulating the objectives of a child survival revolution.

95. The United Nations Volunteers Programme had proved very useful, and was well accepted by the recipient countries. It was a matter of satisfaction that it had continued to assist the least developed countries by providing middle-level expertise in an effective and timely manner. It had made important contributions to technical co-operation activities relating to use and development services. It was greatly to be hoped that further resources would be made available to that programme.

96. The World Food Programme was very significant because of its relevance to development. In his country, it had been involved in many basic components of development, such as agriculture, irrigation, roads, etc. His delegation strongly felt that the Programme should be strengthened through the provisions of increased support.

97. Mrs. GLYNN (Honduras) said that at the recent Pledging Conference some industrialized countries and a large number of developing countries had reached or exceeded the minimum 14 per cent target set for an increase in contributions to operational activities. Her own country had made considerable efforts to increase

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(Mrs. Glynn, Honduras)

its own contributions. However, some countries could contribute more. For operational activities were to be made more effective, contributions must increase in real terms and must be more regular.

98. The stagnation in contributions to the main programme of UNDP was a matter of concern in view of its importance to the developing countries. In Honduras for example, UNDP assistance had made it possible to gain access to other international sources of financing. Her country attached great importance to the participation of national experts and technicians in project execution, and it was to be hoped that that type of assistance would continue to receive support. In general, the developing countries should step up their support of UNDP.

99. Contributions to UNDP-administered trust funds had increased in 1983 as a result of the liquidation of the United Nations Emergency Operation Trust Fund. Honduras was grateful for the assistance it had received in that context, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 38/217. Her delegation had seen that resolution as a pledge of international assistance which would be reflected in commodities, a resumption of grain production and implementation of infrastructural projects, in particular with regard to irrigation and roads. However, her country had received assistance for only two projects, and the consequences of the situation described in resolution 38/217 continued to be felt. The Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator must therefore implement rapidly the co-operation activities provided for in the resolution, and also those mentioned by the Co-ordinator in his statement to the Committee on 5 November. The reduction in contributions for activities to assist refugees was also a matter of concern. The current presence of almost 50,000 refugees in Honduras was a heavy burden which the country could not bear without international assistance.

100. Neither had there been an increase in the 1983 contributions to the United Nations Fund for Population Activities. Nevertheless, the Fund's activities, which were varied and significant, had had a positive impact in Latin America. An exchange of experience on those development-oriented activities should therefore be promoted.

101. Contributions to UNICEF general resources had decreased by about 5 per cent in 1983, as had contributions to its supplementary funds. Her country took note with satisfaction of the report of the Executive Board of UNICEF to the Economic and Social Council (E/1984/19). It welcomed in particular the flexibility of UNICEF programming in response to the alarming situation in certain African countries. Honduras supported all activities which helped women to help children, in particular, the establishment of income-generating activities enabling women to enhance the well-being of their families.

102. The reduction in 1983 in contributions to the International Development Association and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), as well as in capital subscription payments to the World Bank and the International Finance Corporation, gave cause for concern. The case of IFAD was particularly disturbing, since it supported rural development projects designed primarily to help small farmers.

103. With regard to the World Food Programme, the unprecedented level of

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(Mrs. Glynn, Honduras)

contributions for the period 1983-1984 was to be commended, as was the Executive Director's statement on the implementation of the Fund's programmes of assistance to the countries, especially those in Africa, affected by food shortages. It was also commendable that the Programme sought lasting and comprehensive substantive solutions to the problems.

104. With regard to expenditures, the costs of the main UNDP programme for operational activities had as a whole declined in 1983, but those of the World Food Programme had increased by 15 per cent and those of UNICEF had also increased, although to a lesser extent. The science and technology sector accounted for barely 3 per cent of total costs, which was an insignificant amount considering the importance of that area for developing countries.

105. Where technical co-operation activities (DP/1984/42) were concerned, it was very important to maintain a sound cost/effectiveness ratio. In view of the current financial crisis, optimal use must be made of available resources by increasing programme effectiveness and reducing administrative costs.

106. Her delegation welcomed the efforts being made to improve co-ordination between the different organizations engaged in technical co-operation in order to provide coherent assistance to the developing countries, while respecting their sovereign right to determine their priorities and means of action.

107. With regard to contributions tied to the recipient country's procurement of goods and services in the donor country, her delegation was looking forward to the results of the study undertaken by the Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination.

108. Mr. RAKOTONAIVO (Madagascar) said that his delegation had always considered that there should be a link between the general orientation of operational activities and the resources allocated to programmes. The conceptual framework of those activities remained the same: universality, multilateralism, and conformity with the recipient countries' priority objectives. The difficulties facing the developing countries were making the need for multilateral technical and financial assistance increasingly apparent. The capacity of organizations working in that area, in particular UNDP, which was the central body to finance and co-ordinate the technical co-operation activities of the United Nations system, must therefore be strengthened.

109. In the past few years, there had been an erosion of multilateral co-operation in favour of selective and conditional bilateralism, exemplified by a general falling off of contributions: stagnation for the fourth consecutive year in contributions to UNDP and the United Nations Fund for Population Activities; a limitation of UNDP programming to 55 per cent of the illustrative indicative planning figures; a decline in the 1983 UNICEF resources; an 8 per cent loss in value of UNDP contributions in 1983 as a result of the stronger United States dollar; the decrease in the seventh IDA replenishment by 25 per cent in nominal terms, and 40 per cent in real terms, compared with the sixth replenishment; and lack of agreement in IFAD on the issue of burden-sharing. A considerable increase in resources in real terms, a strengthening of assistance granted on concessional

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(Mr. Rakotonaivo, Madagascar)

terms and a supplementary funding agreement were therefore called for. His delegation endorsed the measures along those lines proposed in the various organizations of the United Nations system to assist the African countries.

110. With regard to practical measures for a more effective mobilization of resources, he recalled that the following proposals had been made: a prior evaluation of all programme objectives should be made, to enable the agencies concerned to plan more effectively with regard to their resources, to enable donor countries to spread out their contributions more effectively and to enable recipient countries to incorporate external resources in national planning cycles; provision should be made for recovery measures to offset possible slack periods; meetings should be held to heighten awareness of the seriousness of problems and the need to share responsibilities, and the practice of missions of consultation should be continued. Lastly, the measures recommended for increasing the cost-effectiveness of operational activities all constituted means of improving the financial situation of the agencies concerned. In that connection, he welcomed the efforts made to ensure co-ordination, particularly with regard to Africa.

111. It was fitting that UNDP should strengthen its collaboration with the World Bank; nevertheless, the Programme should avoid becoming subordinate to the international financial system in any way.

112. The best way to support co-operation activities was to increase contributions to programmes rather than to seek mechanisms for the sole purpose of managing the meagre resources available. All wealthy countries must participate substantially in development efforts: that was a joint responsibility of all States, according to the Charter and the commitments assumed under the International Development Strategy. It was to be hoped that all countries would take a positive attitude during the preparation of the fourth UNDP programming cycle and the negotiations on the financial arrangements for it.

113. The development of human resources was very important in the economic and social development process, and it was appropriate that that question should be accorded priority in the operational activities of the United Nations system. The services provided by the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development were considerable, particularly in so far as the execution of pre-investment projects and projects for the development of the natural resources of developing countries were concerned. His delegation noted with satisfaction that bilateral and multilateral donors were drawing increasingly on the Department's technical expertise, and that the Department was co-operating more closely with the World Bank and other international and regional financial institutions. It was to be hoped that the Department would have sufficient financial resources to meet the growing needs of the developing countries. His Government supported the other programmes of operational activities, particularly UNFPA and UNICEF, and thanked those concerned for the efforts made on behalf of Madagascar.

114. Mr. HUSSAIN (Afghanistan), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, reminded the representative of the United States that the third country programme for Afghanistan had been prepared with the help of UNDP before being submitted to the Governing Council at its thirty-first session. Since the beginning of the

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(Mr. Hussain, Afghanistan)

April revolution in Afghanistan, the United States had been trying to impose economic sanctions and hinder economic development and progress in that country. The reasons which the representative of the United States had given to justify that illegal and unlawful action were devoid of substance. The fact of the matter was that, before the beginning of the thirty-first session, the United States and its allies had put pressure on UNDP by threatening to decrease their contributions to the Programme if the third country programme for Afghanistan was approved.

115. His delegation hoped that the General Assembly would vigorously condemn any use of financial assistance to UNDP as a means of bringing political pressure to bear on the Programme; likewise, UNDP assistance should not be allowed to be used by Western donor countries as a tool for exerting pressure on recipient countries.

116. Mr. CHEKAY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, observed that the representative of the United States had sought to justify the actions of his country, which had organized a crude provocation in opposing the programme of economic assistance for Afghanistan at the thirty-first session of the UNDP Governing Council. Instead of pretending to speak on behalf of all States Members of the United Nations, the representative of the United States would have done better to heed what those States had said in various United Nations resolutions and decisions concerning, in particular, an equitable restructuring of international economic relations, the establishment of a new international economic order, the launching of global negotiations and the development of equitable international economic co-operation. But, of course, the United States had been overtly sabotaging all those resolutions for a long time.

117. In recent years, the representatives of the United States in various United Nations bodies dealing with economic questions had made a point of not discussing substantive issues, but preaching and lecturing to the representatives of other Member States, whom they undoubtedly took for ignorant schoolchildren. If a limited contingent of Soviet soldiers was in Afghanistan, it was at the request of the lawful Government of that country. That had not been the case in Grenada, where the United States had landed pirates against the wishes of the population of the island.

118. What had happened at the thirty-first session of the UNDP Governing Council was the result of a deliberately organized campaign, waged before that session by the United States and certain other imperialist States to exert blatant pressure on the members of the UNDP Governing Council, as the representative of Afghanistan had recalled. It was not simply a matter of a political dispute over an abstract question, but a concrete attempt to deprive a developing country of its right to obtain United Nations assistance, and on purely political grounds. The very existence of UNDP as an agency serving all Member States, whatever their economic and social structure, was threatened. Allowing one State to dictate to others could have the most serious consequences. The attention of all delegations must be drawn to that danger, and the use of pressure and blackmail in all organs of the United Nations system must be rejected.

119. Mr. FLEMING (United States of America), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, stressed that the operational agencies of the United Nations system would

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(Mr. Fleming, United States)

continue to lose credibility if they compromise themselves by legitimizing non-representational régimes of the kind in Afghanistan. Some agencies became reluctantly involved in the legitimizing process, but others appeared eager to participate in it. A distinction should be made between providing humanitarian assistance to persons affected by military occupation and legitimizing a non-representational régime. The large number of Afghan refugees in camps in Pakistan and elsewhere could testify to the illegality of the occupying forces which bombed their villages and burnt their lands. Representatives of those refugees must be allowed to speak in the Committee.

120. The measures adopted by the Governing Council at its thirty-first session reflected the concern of most of its members over possible UNDP complicity in Afghanistan and at the security situation throughout the world. The fact that the United States was unstinting in providing humanitarian assistance to régimes such as the one in Ethiopia proved his point.

121. Mr. CHEKAY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), exercising his right of reply, said that the motives behind the humanitarian assistance invoked by the representative of the United States needed to be unmasked and he quoted from the statements of several United States Government officials on that point. During the consideration of humanitarian assistance projects, the Secretary of State, Mr. Shultz, had told Congress that United States military and economic assistance programmes were important instruments of United States foreign policy and were closely linked to the country's security and economic interests. However, it was well known that the United States considered that its national security interests extended to all corners of the globe. The Director of the Agency for International Development, Mr. McPherson, had stated that assistance served the political, economic and military interests of the United States. Such statements, of which many more could be quoted, led one to wonder what was the real humanitarian motive of which the representative of the United States had spoken and to what extent it corresponded to reality.

122. Mr. FLEMING (United States of America), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, noted that, in a country like the United States, where debate was open and accessible to all taxpayers who supported foreign aid efforts, national security interests were discussed openly, as were humanitarian concerns. He reminded the representative of the Soviet Union how the United States had encouraged his country to join with it in offering humanitarian assistance to Ethiopia, which was a close ally of the Soviet Union.

123. The CHAIRMAN announced that the following countries had become sponsors of the draft resolutions listed below: A/C.2/39/L.39 to 41, L.45 and L.46: Afghanistan; A/C.2/39/L.49: Afghanistan and the Dominican Republic; A/C.2/39/L.51: Afghanistan; A/C.2/39/L.52: Afghanistan, the Dominican Republic and Romania; A/C.2/39/L.56: Afghanistan and Bangladesh; A/C.2/39/L.57: Bangladesh; A/C.2/39/L.58: the Dominican Republic; A/C.2/39/L.59: Afghanistan and Bangladesh; A/C.2/39/L.60: Bangladesh and the Dominican Republic; A/C.2/39/L.61 and A/C.2/39/L.62: the Dominican Republic; A/C.2/39/L.63: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, the Dominican Republic and Romania; A/C.2/39/L.64: Afghanistan; A/C.2/39/L.69: Afghanistan and Romania; A/C.2/39/L.72: Romania; and A/C.2/39/L.73: Afghanistan.

The meeting rose at 7.10 p.m.