



SECOND COMMITTEE  
50th meeting  
held on  
Monday, 26 November 1984  
at 3.00 p.m.  
New York

DEC 19 1984

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 50th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. HARLAND (New Zealand)

CONTENTS

TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF HIS EXCELLENCY MR. ALEKSEY FEDOSSEEVICH VATCHENKO, HEAD OF STATE AND PRESIDENT OF THE PRESIDUM OF THE SUPREME SOVIET OF THE UKRAINIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

AGENDA ITEM 81: OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT (continued)

- (a) OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)
- (b) UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)
- (c) UNITED NATIONS CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT FUND (continued)
- (d) UNITED NATIONS FUND FOR POPULATION ACTIVITIES (continued)
- (e) UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTEERS PROGRAMME (continued)
- (f) UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL FUND FOR LAND-LOCKED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (continued)
- (g) UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND (continued)
- (h) WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME (continued)
- (i) TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)
- (j) LIQUIDATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS EMERGENCY OPERATION TRUST FUND AND ALLOCATION OF THE REMAINING BALANCE: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)

/...

\*This record is subject to correction. Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned *within one week of the date of publication* to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate fascicle for each Committee.

/...

CONTENTS (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 83: SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE (continued)

(b) SPECIAL PROGRAMMES OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE: REPORTS OF THE  
SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)

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

(i) ENVIRONMENT (continued)

The meeting was called to order at 3.35 p.m.

TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF HIS EXCELLENCY MR. ALEKSEY FEDOSSEEVICH VATCHENKO, HEAD OF STATE AND PRESIDENT OF THE PRESIDUM OF THE SUPREME SOVIET OF THE UKRAINIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

1. The CHAIRMAN, Mr. KANEKO (Japan), speaking on behalf of the Asian States, Mr. ELHASSAN (Sudan), speaking on behalf of the African States, Mr. GEZER (Turkey), speaking on behalf of the western European and other States, and Mr. JURASZ (Poland), speaking on behalf of the Eastern European States, paid successive tributes to the memory of His Excellency Mr. Aleksey Fedosseevich Vatchenko, Head of State and President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Vice-President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR and member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Ukrainian SSR, and expressed their condolences to the family of the late Mr. Vatchenko, to the members of the Permanent Mission of the Ukrainian SSR to the United Nations, and to the Government and people of that country.

2. Mr. RESHETNYAK (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) thanked the Chairman and the representatives of Member States for their expressions of sympathy. Throughout his entire life, Mr. Vatchenko had laboured unceasingly to strengthen peace and security, to eliminate the risk of nuclear conflict and to develop friendly relations among peoples.

3. On the proposal of the Chairman, the members of the Committee observed a minute of silence in tribute to the memory of Mr. Aleksey Fedosseevich Vatchenko.

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

- (a) OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/39/417)
- (b) UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/39/80 and Add.1, A/39/308; E/1984/20)
- (c) UNITED NATIONS CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT FUND (continued) (E/1984/20)
- (d) UNITED NATIONS FUND FOR POPULATION ACTIVITIES (continued) (A/39/537; E/1984/20)
- (e) UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTEERS PROGRAMME (continued) (E/1984/20)
- (f) UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL FUND FOR LAND-LOCKED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (continued)
- (g) UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND (continued) (A/39/292; E/1984/19)
- (h) WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME (continued)

/...

- (i) TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL  
(continued) (DP/1984/42 and Add.1-3; E/1984/20)
- (j) LIQUIDATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS EMERGENCY OPERATION TRUST FUND AND  
ALLOCATION OF THE REMAINING BALANCE: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL  
(continued) (A/39/284 and Add.1)

4. Mr. HASSEN (Democratic Yemen) said that operational activities for development were one of the positive aspects of the United Nations system's activities and of multilateral co-operation, which was suffering setbacks in many areas. However, even developments with regard to operational activities were no longer responsive to the needs of the developing countries. For some of those countries, stopgap measures would no longer be enough, as had been brought out by the crisis in the Sudano-Sahelian region which was affecting some 30 countries. The Administrator of UNDP himself had stated before the Second Committee that the international community was witnessing a worsening of the crisis in Africa without mobilizing sufficient resources to deal with it. The decline in real terms of resources available for development activities coincided with a reduction in official development assistance, at a time when needs for both were growing. In its 1984 report, the World Bank had highlighted that contradiction and emphasized the necessity of a readjustment in order to prevent a further worsening of the situation, especially in the low-income developing countries. Additional resources must be made available for development, and they must be used as part of a global strategy, which was the only way to avert the catastrophe to which all signs increasingly pointed.

5. Like the Administrator of UNDP, his country was convinced that human resources played a crucial role in development. Priority must be given to basic training and skills development programmes, and full advantage must be taken of experience gained in the developing countries themselves. UNDP should endeavour to increase the self-reliance of developing countries in that sphere.

6. His country noted with satisfaction the activities carried out by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), UNICEF and the World Food Programme (WFP). It was gratifying that WFP was giving increased emphasis to development-oriented activities. The important role UNICEF was playing in an integrated approach to development was particularly noteworthy. Lastly, with regard to population activities, it should be mentioned that his country had carried out, with assistance from UNFPA, a programme for the settlement of nomadic populations, which had produced very satisfactory results.

7. Mr. CHIRAPANT (Thailand) said that his country fully supported the activities of UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, WFP, IFAD and other funds, programmes and related bodies within the United Nations system. Although the operational activities of all the organizations had expanded greatly in recent years, there had been two negative developments. The first was the decline in multilateralism. That development, which was not due solely to economic constraints, was having a disturbing impact on operational activities. A case in point was the reduction by 45 per cent of the UNDP indicative planning figures for the third programming cycle. There was,

(Mr. Chirapant, Thailand)

therefore, an urgent need to mobilize resources on a more continuous, predictable and assured basis; a primary objective was to ensure that the various funds and operational programmes could maintain their activities at least at their current level in real terms. Ways and means should also be sought to achieve a more equitable sharing of the costs of financing UNDP.

8. The second disturbing factor was the growing tendency to tie contributions to the procurement of goods and services in donor countries, whereas operational activities should be aimed first and foremost at meeting the urgent needs of recipient countries. In general, to improve the quality and effectiveness of operational activities, ways must be sought to make rational use of available resources. Such ways might include, apart from reducing administrative and support costs, greater use of national expertise and an increase in local procurement. The United Nations system must be geared to the particular needs and changing requirements of the developing countries, and it must adapt its assistance to the different levels of development among them. There should also be greater coherence in activities at the national level, particularly in the form of increased co-ordination of projects and programmes. His delegation attached high priority to South-South co-operation in the field of operational activities and viewed the maintenance of support for the United Nations system, whose activities were crucial, to be indispensable.

9. UNDP was the central funding agency and co-ordinator in the field of technical co-operation. It had truly been a catalyst for development in Thailand. Resources for his country's third cycle country programme had been allocated primarily for the priorities identified in the Fifth National Economic and Social Development Plan (1982-1986), and the projects carried out with UNDP assistance had generally been successful. His delegation was, nevertheless, very concerned at UNDP's financial difficulties, which had resulted in the reduction of resources available for country programming for the third cycle. That would eventually have serious repercussions on the implementation of his country's development projects, particularly those involving rural development and poverty alleviation. Many of those projects were part of a long-term effort, and it would therefore be very unfortunate if they had to be curtailed owing to a lack of resources. UNDP could lessen its financial difficulties by giving greater priority to operational costs. For its part, his Government had been trying to reduce the use of long-term experts and to rely more on short-term consultants. It urged donor countries to contribute more generously to UNDP.

10. UNICEF, too, rendered his country substantial aid. Its second assistance programme to Thailand, covering the period 1982-1986, was of particular importance, in that, taking a new approach to accelerated rural development, it aimed at promoting basic services for the benefit of mothers and children, with emphasis on village-level participation. In general terms, to increase the effectiveness of UNICEF a strategy needed to be devised which focused on the overall development of children, not just their survival; that meant integrating in a long-term perspective, when preparing projects and allocating resources, all aspects of that

/...

(Mr. Chirapant, Thailand)

overall development (including nutrition, education and family planning). In addition, closer consultations between UNICEF regional offices and governments should be conducted in order to avoid duplication, and also to ensure that, in the event of political upheaval or armed conflict, assistance reached its destination. In sum, the success of UNICEF co-operation programmes depended very largely on active international and community support, not only in financial terms but also in respect of mobilizing public and private support for its objectives.

11. Family planning had been given one of the highest priorities in Thailand's economic and social development plans. The current programme, covering the period 1983-1986, had received considerable financial support from the United Nations Fund for Population Activities and covered family planning and related activities in the field of communication, education and information. Thailand had succeeded in reducing its population growth rate from 3 per cent to 2.1 per cent, but to reach its goal of obtaining a rate of between 1 and 1.5 per cent by the end of the decade, it would need external assistance. As a general rule for the selection of country population programmes for priority, consideration should be given to the success of earlier programmes in the countries concerned, increasing absorption of costs by those countries, their participation in the activities of the Fund and the benefits other countries in the region might derive from the proposed programme.

12. Mr. SCHMID (Austria) said that the volume of operational activities for development was concrete evidence of the extent to which the international community meant to go beyond the stage of talking about development and progress. Thus those activities were not only of economic significance to the recipient countries, but also served a political function by demonstrating the viability of multilateralism. As the outcome of the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities showed, the international community continued to support those activities, but as a result of the after-effects of the international recession and the appreciation of the dollar, the level of contributions seemed to have reached a plateau. Moreover, many speakers had been heard calling for greater effectiveness, regular and standardized evaluation and improved transparency.

13. His delegation was aware that the effectiveness of operational activities was difficult to measure and that comparisons between different agencies were problematic. However, the sizeable variation between the different agencies of the system in terms of the ratio of administrative to operational costs showed that in some cases administrative streamlining was required. There could be no lasting, long-term efficiency without constant evaluation. More than ever before, expensive mistakes needed to be avoided, since it was not certain that resources would increase, whereas overall needs would certainly grow. As to transparency, it was not only essential as a matter of fairness to the Governments financing operational activities, but useful from the organizations' point of view, since it encouraged donor Governments to maintain and increase their support. Transparency might perhaps be increased by more frequent contacts between agency heads or high-level staff and delegations. Some movement in that direction had taken place during the past year, first in the review and appraisal of the International Development

/...

(Mr. Schmid, Austria)

Strategy and then in the Economic and Social Council and UNDP. Delegations should also take fuller advantage of the opportunity to put questions in the Second Committee.

14. Where co-ordination among the various agencies of the United Nations was concerned, the Secretary-General indicated in his report (A/39/417) that some of them were slower than others to take advantage of the opportunities available. His delegation wished to recall that UNDP had a focal role to play in co-ordination. In its view, the contribution resident co-ordinators could make in that respect was essential; they might be empowered to convene meetings of representatives of the different agencies executing projects in the region they served.

15. His Government welcomed the recent strengthening of co-operation between the World Bank and the other multilateral development banks, on the one hand, and the other United Nations agencies on the other. Given the complexity, indeed the elusiveness, of development, each agency should no longer fulfil its mandate on an ad hoc basis, but should give thought to the effect of its activities on the System as a whole and seek ways of integrating its action with that of other parts of the system. And while that integration was the responsibility of the host Government, that did not mean that the United Nations system should not strengthen co-ordination and draw up a carefully planned strategy.

16. That was particularly true in respect of food aid, which, as the Executive Director of WFP had stated, should be regarded as a component of overall development and a valuable resource that should not, except in emergency situations, just be given away. Account should also be taken of the ultimate effects of food aid on agriculture and prices - which need not lead to giving less aid, but rather to making it more intelligent and constructive.

17. In any situation where scarce resources were available to meet unlimited needs, definition of priorities was vital. But that should not be the exclusive province of donor Governments supporting the agency of their choice, or of the developing countries in their national development plans. The agencies of the system, too, had to set priorities of their own to guide their activities, since effective programme delivery depended on it. The assignment of priorities required, of course, highly qualified staff within those agencies. Moreover, since one of the main goals of the United Nations system should be to help the developing countries develop the human resources they needed, the establishment of a task force on human resource development under UNDP auspices was welcome.

18. Regarding the fourth programming cycle of the United Nations Development Programme, while there was room for hope that a substantial revival of contributions would take place once the recession had been forgotten, common sense should be exercised for the time being with regard to the planning of operational activities. After all, realistic planning figures would not lead donor Governments to do any less than they would if more ambitious targets were proposed.

/...

(Mr. Schmid, Austria)

19. His Government remained committed to the concept of multilateral operational activities, which had many advantages over bilateral activities, particularly for a small country like Austria with limited ability to plan and execute large-scale projects. Those advantages outweighed the relatively lower control of individual member countries over programme implementation.

20. Mr. GORITA (Romania) said his delegation welcomed the support expressed by many delegations for multilateral technical assistance. It hoped the General Assembly would contribute at its current session to the strengthening of UNDP and its role and capacity, since many developing countries still faced severe economic difficulties, aggravated in many cases by natural disasters. Were the Programme, the weakening of which had, as was shown by the report of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation (A/39/417), become apparent in recent years, to continue the slowing down of its activities, the economic development efforts of the developing countries would once again be jeopardized.

21. It was therefore encouraging that at the most recent United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities there had been some increase in voluntary contributions. The credit for that was due particularly to the Administrator of UNDP, who had taken steps to ensure that available resources were utilized as effectively as possible. However, an even more sustained increase in the financial resources of UNDP was required to ensure that the volume of assistance it provided matched as closely as possible the indicative planning figures approved by the Governing Council for the ongoing programming cycle. Moreover, the universality of UNDP activities, a principle laid down in the Consensus adopted by the Governing Council in 1970 and frequently reaffirmed since, should be retained.

22. As a developing country, Romania received technical assistance from the United Nations. It was gratified by the smooth progress of co-operation with UNDP and other technical assistance programmes and funds. It would continue, to the extent it could, to support the technical assistance activities of the United Nations, especially those of UNDP. It was in that spirit that it had announced, some years ago, contributions extending over a number of years.

23. Mr. STEBELSKI (Poland) said that the operational activities of the United Nations system played an increasingly important part in international co-operation in the economic, social and scientific fields, among others. They had a direct positive impact on socio-economic development and also promoted multilateral co-operation among all countries and contributed to the consolidation of peace and international security, which were an indispensable condition for development. Poland shared fully the view that such operational activities must adapt themselves to the changing needs of the international community as a whole and of individual countries, but at the same time remain universal and voluntary in nature and respect the sovereignty of countries receiving assistance. The General Assembly should therefore spare no effort to give guidance and renewed impetus to United Nations programmes and funds engaged in operational activities, to ensure that they were more coherent and better adapted to the overall objectives of the United Nations.

/...



(Mr. Stebelski, Poland)

24. The principles of the 1970 consensus must be maintained so that UNDP could continue to play its role as the central funding and co-ordinating body for technical co-operation within the United Nations system. Accordingly, those who were attached to the principle of universality not only within the Programme but also within the United Nations system as a whole should do everything possible to persuade the UNDP Governing Council to reconsider the unjust decision it had taken, under pressure from the United States and a number of its allies, with regard to the country programme for Afghanistan. If the basic principles embodied in the 1970 consensus were encroached on further, that might result in serious political disturbances and even the disintegration of UNDP.

25. His delegation appreciated the efforts made by the Administrator to move UNDP in new directions, notwithstanding the constraints of what continued to be a difficult world economic situation despite signs of recovery in a few countries. It was consoling to see that UNDP's financial situation had improved somewhat, and his delegation hoped that it would be possible to overcome the constraints felt by those recipient countries whose IPFs had been reduced in the course of the programming cycle, in particular countries like Poland whose IPFs had been calculated using grossly overestimated per capita GNP.

26. Poland continued to attach great importance to the implementation of intercountry programmes and was participating in several regional projects. In 1983, it had offered to host in Warsaw a United Nations Interregional Training Centre on Remote Sensing for nationals of developing countries and hoped that its offer would be favourably received by UNDP. Preparations for the fourth programming cycle offered a good opportunity for making that project operational.

27. Poland supported the Administrator's recommendation that the approach taken for the third programming cycle with regard to access to IPFs should also be taken for the fourth cycle. It subscribed to the general view that the fourth cycle should cover a five-year period. Whatever solution was chosen with regard to financial contributions to UNDP, the voluntary nature of the Programme must remain the basic principle. Moreover, as a result of budgetary practices in many countries, a multi-year system of pledges would not be universally acceptable. As for the allocation of resources between country and intercountry IPFs, the best option would be to maintain the ratios from the third cycle, taking account in particular of the arguments advanced by the developing countries against an increase in the share of intercountry IPFs. His country also favoured retaining the "floor" principle. With regard to the calculation of country IPFs, the Governing Council should check the statistical data on which calculations were based more thoroughly in every case where their reliability was questioned by interested parties.

28. Poland had for many years attached importance to the activities of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities. It looked forward to UNFPA's assistance in solving some of its population problems and was ready to share its experience in areas within UNFPA's sphere of competence. It supported the activities carried out by UNFPA and had increased its voluntary contribution to the Fund for 1985 by 100 per cent.

/...

(Mr. Stebelski, Poland)

29. Poland, which had been among the countries which had initiated the foundation of UNICEF, had always been concerned with the lot of children. The most recent proof of its concern was its promotion of the idea of a Convention on the Rights of the Child. It sincerely appreciated UNICEF's achievements and the directions proposed for its future activity. It had been contributing to the Fund's activities for many years and also receiving valuable assistance from it. Poland especially commended the concrete support rendered by UNICEF to the promotion of the concept of a child survival revolution. No effort must be spared to make that revolution a reality and everyone must fulfil his responsibilities towards future generations.

30. With regard to the United Nations Volunteers, in 1984 Poland had joined a programme to meet the needs of developing countries through United Nations personnel assistance and hoped to continue its co-operation with that programme.

31. Mr. KAABACHI (Tunisia) recalled that the basic aim of operational activities was to provide developing countries with the assistance they needed to promote self-reliance and development, principally through the transfer of technical and managerial know-how. The universality of those activities must therefore be preserved and they must be accessible to any developing country that wanted them, even if such countries belonged to the group of so-called middle-income countries. The multilateral nature of those activities must also be preserved, and the trend towards conditionality and the granting of aid "tied" to the purchase of goods and services in donor countries, which impeded the development of local skills, must be resisted.

32. Operational activities must also be carried out in accordance with the plans, priorities and national objectives of recipient countries, in conformity with the principles of the 1970 UNDP consensus. Technical co-operation among developing countries should also be strengthened and better use made of their human and material resource capacities.

33. With regard to the funding of operational activities, his delegation noted with satisfaction that the trend towards a decline in resources had been reversed and that there had been a slow but steady increase in available financing over the past two years. The recent 1984 Pledging Conference for Development Activities had confirmed that trend. It should be noted that 21 developing countries had increased their contributions, in line with the 14 per cent growth target set by UNDP. Those countries included Tunisia, which had increased its contribution by 10 per cent in 1984 despite economic difficulties at home. It was also interesting to note, as indicated in the Secretary-General's report (A/39/417), that a number of donors, including petroleum exporting developing countries, had a better record than some of the major donors in the area of multilateral assistance.

34. The recent improvement in the financial resources available for operational activities would not be assured, however, until donor countries undertook to add to those resources as the economic recovery took hold. In that connection, his

/...

(Mr. Kaabachi, Tunisia)

delegation regretted that the negotiations on the second replenishment of the resources of the International Fund for Agricultural Development had been unsuccessful, a situation which threatened IFAD's operations. On the other hand, it welcomed the support received by UNICEF from Governments and the public at large.

35. His delegation subscribed to the view of the UNDP Administrator that human resources development played an important part in any integrated development process. Ambitious programmes of education, training and integration with development policies must be devised but, in order to implement them, the developing countries would have to call on the international community for assistance. His country hoped that, at its current session, the General Assembly would be able to define the approach that should be taken to the question of human resources development.

36. Mr. GAJENTAAN (Netherlands) said that at a time when there was a growing recognition that multilateral organizations had a vital role to play in the formulation of development and adjustment policies, there was a disturbing tendency towards bilateralism, caused by both political factors and national economic interests. Part of the responsibility for that trend was attributable to the organizations themselves and, if their efficiency was increased, the situation could be improved. As indicated in the report of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation (A/39/417, paras. 30 to 32), the system's procurement activities were not equitably distributed among the donor countries, which influenced the support given by donors to the multilateral organizations.

37. With regard to chapter III of the report (entitled "Co-ordination at the country level"), determined efforts must be made to make more productive use of the available resources and to use them to meet the most pressing needs. That could be done by establishing a closer relationship between operational activities and those in the private, commercial and non-commercial sectors, which would result in more comprehensive development activities. Development assistance was only a relatively small, albeit crucial, factor in economic development. His delegation would like the next report of the Director-General to contain information on ways to establish such a relationship with the private sector, means of using the available machinery and measures to be adopted in that regard. It was important to establish a dialogue between donor countries, on the one hand, and recipient countries, on the other, which would lead to concrete commitments on both sides. His delegation would like to know if the existing co-ordination mechanisms were adequate for the rationalization of inter-agency relations. His country attached great importance to improving the co-ordination process, whether through UNDP round tables or consultative groups of the World Bank. In that connection, it was important to clarify the job description of the resident co-ordinators.

38. As to the strengthening of evaluation capabilities in developing countries (chap. IV, sect. D), it would be worth while to undertake a study on ways to improve the application of evaluation findings. That type of study, which had

/...

(Mr. Gajentaan, Netherlands)

proved to be beneficial for both the policy makers and the developing countries themselves in his country's bilateral development programmes, should also help to increase the quality of the operational activities of the United Nations system. It had been very interesting to learn that a number of developing countries had strengthened their evaluation capacity, a factor which was increasingly recognized as important by developed and developing countries alike.

39. Mr. PAGAC (Czechoslovakia) said that the operational activities for development of the United Nations system should help to mobilize material and human resources in the recipient countries in order to develop those countries and strengthen their major sectors of activity on the basis of such principles as respect for national sovereignty, non-interference in the internal affairs of States, equal rights and universality. Such activities were in particular incompatible with economic concepts based on the pursuit of the greatest profit, which were not responsive to the needs of the recipient developing countries as defined in their national development plans.

40. His delegation rejected the neo-colonialist practices of the Western countries, which sought to divert the technical assistance given to the developing countries through the United Nations to serve the long-term needs of international private capital. More than ever before, it was necessary for recipient and donor countries alike to adhere scrupulously to the 1970 consensus, which served as the basis for UNDP's operational activities.

41. Czechoslovakia, which was interested in the financial soundness of UNDP, recognized that that goal was not always easy to achieve when reactionary forces, headed by the United States of America, pursued a militaristic policy which disrupted the world economy. Imperialist circles, which were engaged in an all-out arms race, cared little about strengthening the operational activities for development of the United Nations system. It would thus be illusory to try to solve UNDP's resource problem by turning to private capital.

42. UNDP must therefore continue to strive to reduce administrative costs pertaining to operational activities for development, to make such activities more efficient and to upgrade the qualifications of its staff. Finally, it was important to remove bureaucratic obstacles to the rational use of resources in national currencies accumulated by UNDP.

43. The delegations of several imperialist Powers attempted, in as many economic resolutions as possible, to remove all references to the relationship between development and disarmament and to the need to establish a lasting peace in order to ensure the stable economic development of all countries without exception. That attitude, the political motives of which were obvious, could have a harmful impact on the execution of the United Nations system's operational activities. For example, a small fraction of the astronomical amounts spent each year for weapons would be sufficient to finance all the programmes planned under operational activities. The socialist countries and some non-aligned countries underscored the

/...

(Mr. Pagac, Czechoslovakia)

importance of the resolutions in which the United Nations requested Governments to take effective measures in the field of real disarmament which would increase the possibilities of allocation of resources currently being used for military purposes to economic and social development.

44. With regard to UNDP's recruitment policy he noted that some countries were subject to discrimination, which could not be entirely explained by the moratorium on the recruitment of experts. The principle of non-discrimination and universality should also apply to UNDP staff. The principle of non-discrimination and universality should also apply to UNDP staff.

45. His country was prepared to expand its co-operation with UNDP, in particular by sending highly skilled experts to the developing countries. UNDP envisaged the possibility of holding a greater number of seminars for participants from developing countries, in particular in Czechoslovakia. But the problem of the underutilization of his country's contributions to UNDP had not yet been solved. That situation was all the more paradoxical since the UNDP administration had consistently expressed regret at the lack of available funds for the implementation of certain activities and since the co-operation existing between his country and a number of United Nations bodies showed that it was fully possible to make effective use of Czechoslovakia's contributions to the operational activities for development. For example, it would be possible to allocate resources to the execution of projects forming part of those operational activities for development of the specialized agencies in respect of which administrative and financial matters were handled by UNDP.

46. In 1984, his country had stepped up its involvement in UNFPA and had participated in preparations for seminars to be attended by specialists from developing countries. His delegation expected that those meetings would be funded from Czechoslovakia's contributions to UNDP and from UNFPA resources.

47. With regard to co-operation between his country and UNICEF, he recalled that, every year, Czechoslovakia contributed 1 million koruny to UNICEF in the form of goods and services for the developing countries in the context of UNICEF-administered projects. During 1984, sales of UNICEF souvenirs in his country had made it possible to increase its contribution to UNICEF by more than 2 million koruny. In April 1984, the Czechoslovak Committee for Co-operation with UNICEF had taken the initiative to hold meetings in Prague of the national committees for UNICEF of the socialist countries, at which an appeal had been made to the UNICEF office in Geneva and the UNICEF headquarters in New York. In that appeal, the socialist countries had recalled that it was incumbent upon UNICEF to take a stand with regard to the maintenance of peace. UNICEF's original mandate had, of course, been to attend to the needs of children in the aftermath of the Second world war, but the Fund should not be involved only in humanitarian activities. UNICEF should now work for the implementation of a series of social, economic and political measures. That was how his country conceived of the child survival and development revolution launched by UNICEF. For the time being, the

/...

(Mr. Pagac, Czechoslovakia)

revolution did not cover certain social problems characteristic of the situation of children in a number of countries, in particular the developed capitalist countries, for example, the exploitation of young children, the employment of young people, juvenile delinquency and prostitution. It should, however, be recognized that that revolution had already helped to reduce the mortality rates of children and young people in the developing countries.

48. Mr. LICHILANA (Zambia) said that the international community, especially the United Nations system, was giving sustained attention to the serious economic problems faced by many African countries, particularly those south of the Sahara. The action of the international community should go a long way towards alleviating hunger, disease and misery on that continent. It was true that desertification and drought had contributed to that crisis, but its underlying cause was the continuing underdevelopment of the African countries. On achieving independence, the priority of the African countries had been accelerated development, especially in the agricultural sector, but they had not been able to implement their development plans fully because, in order to acquire external financial, human and material resources, they had had to embrace the political ideologies of potential donor countries, and because the donor countries had insisted that their pattern of economic development should not only conform but also be complementary to that obtaining in the donor countries and had maintained that developing countries should concentrate on the production of primary commodities for export to the developed countries.

49. With respect to co-ordination within the United Nations system on operational activities, his delegation did not fully share the views expressed by the Joint Inspection Unit (A/39/80). The friction between the UNDP resident representatives, who were at the same time resident co-ordinators for operational activities at the country level, and the representatives of other organizations and specialized agencies was not necessarily due to technical or legal considerations, but had more to do with human relations, since some found it difficult to accept that it was the UNDP resident representative who had been designated co-ordinator. It also happened that the head of the Ministry of Health in a given country might prefer to co-ordinate directly and solely with the local representative of WHO, without involving the Ministry of Economic Planning. UNDP field officers also needed to be more accommodating. At the time when what subsequently had become the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres (MULPOC) were established, some UNDP field officers had considered that they simply duplicated their work. But the Centres had greatly enhanced the operational activities of the United Nations system at the subregional level because of the direct collective involvement of the Ministers responsible for economic planning. Without a MULPOC for the subregion, the Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern Africa would not have been established. In order to ensure the harmonization and co-ordination of development activities, one person had to bear the central responsibility: at the national level it had to be the person in charge of economic planning, while at the multilateral level there was none more suited than the UNDP resident representative, because he represented the major source of funding for operational activities. Civil servants, whether national or international, should not be

/...

(Mr. Lichilana, Zambia)

allowed to establish and control their own petty kingdoms. What was needed was closer liaison through constant consultations, preferably on a collective basis, to reflect a multi-sectoral approach. His delegation therefore supported the Secretary-General's proposal that the Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions should consider the possibility of extending the procedures of the Office for Projects Execution to other organizations.

50. Zambia, whose annual contributions to the United Nations Special Fund for Land-locked Developing Countries had always been in the region of 50 per cent of the total, was concerned that the Fund was fading away. It had not been convinced by the reasons advanced by the major donor countries to explain why they did not contribute to the Fund. On the contrary, it reaffirmed the need to keep the Fund afloat and appealed to the developed countries and all others in a position to do so to contribute generously to it. The transport problems of the land-locked developing countries were unique and could not easily be accommodated under the existing funds and programmes without compromising other development projects.

51. Mr. GRANIER (Bolivia) noted with satisfaction that the declining trend in total voluntary contributions to operational activities for development had slowed down, according to the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation (A/39/417), even if it had not yet reversed itself. His Government, which remained a strong supporter of the Latin American Group's regional consensus on the subject, believed that the main point was to preserve the principle of the universality of the system, whereby each Member State should be able to benefit from co-operation whether or not it made a contribution thereto. The voluntary nature of UNDP should likewise be preserved and donor countries should continue to give their support, because UNDP's activities had proved extremely effective for many developing countries.

52. International co-operation had played and was continuing to play a major role in Bolivia which, for five years, had been suffering from an economic crisis aggravated by natural disasters. So far as his country was concerned, the volume of assistance determined by the indicative planning figures would have to be maintained during UNDP's fourth planning cycle, since any modification of the figures might harm the Latin American countries. On the other hand, the freedom to determine its own programming should remain within the sovereign jurisdiction of each country. The existing machinery for exchanges and communication between Governments, UNDP authorities and the UNDP Governing Council should therefore be retained.

53. In the 1950s and 1960s, the United Nations had made itself the standard-bearer in the struggle for development. In the 1970s, it had changed its structures in order to play a more active part in the development of third-world countries, but his delegation noted with regret that, in the 1980s, the recently created institutional organs had not adopted new approaches that were consonant with the needs of Member States which had placed so much hope in the Third Development Decade. A theoretical or bureaucratic approach was no longer enough; the Organization had to show imagination and really espouse the cause of the developing

/...

(Mr. Granier, Bolivia)

countries. Moreover, if the approach adopted to development was still too narrow, it was doubtless in part because important social sectors had been physically and philosophically excised, and the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs could therefore no longer tackle development problems as a whole.

54. It was therefore a welcome sign that the Administrator of UNDP had decided to establish a task force to reinforce the human resources and social development sector. That initiative would at last make it possible to compensate somewhat for the mistake that the United Nations system had been making for 10 years, under the influence of some industrialized countries, in deliberately sidestepping the social aspect of development. Moreover, UNDP was continuing to do very fruitful work not only in Bolivia itself but also at the regional level, as was evidenced by the regional programme of its Regional Bureau for Latin America.

55. His delegation also welcomed the programmes of co-operation being implemented by UNICEF and UNFPA. The record of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development was likewise positive. The Department must have the services of high-level collaborators in order to fulfil its responsibilities vis-à-vis member countries properly. Programmes to reorganize and reduce the staff should be aimed at maintaining the highest level of professional competence.

56. Mr. KOBAYASHI (Japan) said that his Government made every effort to increase its contributions to the operational activities for development of the United Nations system. The annual report of the Secretary-General on those activities (A/39/417) stated that Japan's total contributions were the second largest in 1982-1983.

57. With respect to UNDP, his delegation welcomed the Administrator's initiative in highlighting the importance of developing human resources; the establishment by UNDP of a human resources task force might well enable the United Nations system to play a more effective role in that field. UNDP, as the central mechanism for promoting technical co-operation for development activities, had been playing a growing role and Japan had considerably increased its contributions, the total of which had grown from \$51.4 million to \$58.8 million during the third programming cycle, thus making it the second largest contributor to the programme.

58. His country had likewise increased its total contributions to UNICEF by 20 per cent in 1984 compared with 1983, thus reaffirming its support for the Child Health Revolution in particular. Japan was also contributing actively to UNFPA and supporting other funds such as the United Nations Capital Development Fund and the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration.

59. As for the mobilization of resources for operational activities for development, his delegation shared the cautious optimism of the Administrator of UNDP but wished to be realistic: in the period 1982-1983, only 10 countries, including Japan, provided over three quarters of the total contributions for all operational activities (A/39/417, para. 13). UNDP and other funds should spare no effort to reduce their current dependence on countries belonging to the Development

/...



(Mr. Kobayashi, Japan)

Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development. Other developed countries and certain developing countries should also be encouraged to increase considerably their contributions to those funds.

60. Concerning the allocation of resources for operational activities, his delegation had noted with satisfaction that four fifths of all country and regional activities were being carried out in least developed or low-income countries of Africa, Asia and the Pacific and that 40 per cent of those resources had been allocated to such fields as health, agriculture, population and natural resources exploration.

61. It was gratifying that the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation was working closely with the directors of the different funding organizations to improve co-ordination between the various United Nations development agencies. He had noted in particular that the four main funding organizations for operational activities had agreed to work together from the earliest stages of their programme and to project formulation cycles in order to determine possible areas of complementarity and avoid duplication. In the field, where inter-agency co-ordination was also of critical importance, it was essential to strengthen the role played by the resident co-ordinators.

62. Co-ordination activities were also important in evaluation and, in that connection, the meeting of the Committee of the Whole, which had been convened during the latest session of the UNDP Governing Council, had done useful work.

63. The report on operational activities for development had also provided useful information on the administrative services and programme support costs of the main funding organizations. The increasing share of total resources going to administrative expenditures and the rising unit cost of programme delivery were matters of concern. Attention should be paid to cost-effectiveness which could be achieved by monitoring administrative expenditures closely and increasing their transparency, in order to maximize the resources available for the programme needs of recipient developing countries. The active involvement of recipient countries in the evaluation process was also highly desirable and enhancing their capacity in that area was a key element in improving the overall evaluation of operational activities.

64. He had also noted with satisfaction that there had been a significant increase in co-operation between United Nations bodies and international financial institutions, particularly between UNDP, on the one hand and the World Bank and regional development banks on the other. Such efforts should be intensified.

65. Mr. BHINDER (Pakistan) said that the annual report for 1984 of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation (A/39/417) fell somewhat short of his delegation's expectations as it contained no comprehensive analysis of the impact of "tied assistance" on the ability of the United Nations system to provide technical assistance in the most cost-effective manner; nor did it examine the pattern of resource utilization so that it would be

/...

(Mr. Bhinder, Pakistan)

possible to determine how the contribution of major donor countries compared with the amounts utilized by the system and to establish indicators which would determine the extent to which contributions received could be utilized in one particular donor country. The report also failed to explore the possibilities of using expertise available in the developing countries. Finally, it had made no suggestions regarding the utilization of non-convertible funds.

66. The report was nevertheless useful as a basis for examining the operational activities of the United Nations system. The most important single factor on which the success or failure of those activities depended was the ability of the United Nations system to mobilize sufficient resources. In that connection, the situation was hardly favourable: the 14 per cent target for voluntary contributions to UNDP had not been met, with the result that programme delivery by UNDP had had to be drastically reduced. The current world economic recession had doubtless had an impact, but it was the gradual decline in multilateralism which was mainly responsible for the decline in the resources available to development institutions. Notwithstanding the efforts of some developed countries, it had to be admitted that the overall resources situation was inadequate and that some developed countries continued to rely on bilateral, as opposed to multilateral, channels in the provision of technical assistance to developing countries, in violation of United Nations decisions. His delegation appealed to all those countries, and to those in a position to do so, to participate in United Nations operational activities by making generous contributions in convertible currencies.

67. His delegation was concerned that the recent United Nations Pledging Conference had produced such poor results. It was also disappointed to see that no agreement had been reached during the recently concluded negotiations in Paris on the second International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) replenishment. He appealed once again to the major donor countries to reach early agreement on the supplementary funding for the seventh replenishment of the International Development Association (IDA) in the amount of \$3 billion at least. The United Nations system had shown that it was able to channel effective technical assistance to the developing countries, as had been demonstrated by the activities of UNICEF, UNFPA and the World Food Programme. The World Food Programme in particular had proved its ability to co-operate in the efforts of the Government of Pakistan to feed the three million Afghan refugees who had taken shelter in Pakistan.

AGENDA ITEM 83: SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE (continued)

(b) SPECIAL PROGRAMMES OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE: REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)

Draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.68/Rev.1

68. Mr. ONUBU (Nigeria), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.68/Rev.1 on assistance to the drought-stricken areas of Ethiopia on behalf of all its sponsors, said that Afghanistan and Romania had become co-sponsors. Notwithstanding the unprecedented scope of the catastrophe resulting from the drought in Ethiopia and

/...

(Mr. Onubu, Nigeria)

the famine which threatened millions of people in that country, the aid provided by the international community amounted to barely half Ethiopia's needs. It was therefore essential that the international community should concern itself with the medium-term and long-term recovery and rehabilitation of the country. It was his earnest hope that draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.68/Rev.1 would be adopted unanimously.

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

(i) ENVIRONMENT (continued)

Draft amendment A/C.2/39/L.55 to draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.24

69. Mr. DMITRIEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), introducing an amendment to draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.24 on international co-operation in the field of the environment, said that the purpose of the amendment was to insert, between the fourth and fifth preambular paragraphs a new paragraph to the effect that the continuing increase in the production, stockpiling and risk of use of weapons of mass destruction and the development of new types of weapons not only posed a major threat to the environment but also competed for limited resources that could be better used for constructive purposes, including development. The threat to the environment created by the arms race was of a very specific nature and it was high time for UNEP in particular to study means of countering it. The proposed amendment was founded on the view that there was a link between disarmament and the protection of the environment and its text was based on a paragraph of the preamble to resolution 38/165 which the General Assembly had adopted by consensus at the previous session. He therefore hoped that neither the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.24 nor other members of the Committee would object to the amendment.

The meeting rose at 6.15 p.m.