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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 25th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. AL-MASRI (Syrian Arab Republic)

later: Mr. VAHER (Canada)

Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and
Budgetary Questions: Mr. MSELLE

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The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 129: SCALE OF ASSESSMENTS FOR THE APPORTIONMENT OF THE EXPENSES OF THE UNITED NATIONS (continued) (A/44/11 and Add.1)

1. Mr. ALI (Chairman of the Committee on Contributions) said that notwithstanding the disappointment of some delegations over the lack of specific recommendations in the report of the Committee on Contributions, the work done by the Committee and its programme of work outlined for the following year had received a large measure of approval. He would bring the question of the possible modification of the ceiling and floor rates, raised by the Nordic countries and Colombia, to the Committee's attention. Replying to the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, he said that calculations of per capita national income were based on national income and population data provided by Member States, which were published in the United Nations Monthly Bulletin of Statistics. The Committee on Contributions utilized the figures from the latest issue available at the time a new machine scale was computed. The September 1989 issue of the Monthly Bulletin reflected the revised population figures provided by the Islamic Republic of Iran in June 1989, which, to the best of his knowledge, included Afghan refugees. The recalculation of the rate of assessment of the Islamic Republic of Iran referred to in paragraph 43 of the Committee's report had been based on revised 1986 population data. The 1987 and 1988 population figures would be incorporated in the calculations for the next scale of assessments.

2. Replying to a question by the representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, he explained that the reason why the Committee had decided not to give further consideration to two of the five alternative income concepts was that, in addition to some conceptual reservations, those concepts gave rise to complex problems of data availability connected with the concepts of sustainable and monetary income.

3. Replying to a question raised by the representative of India, he said that it was not known how many countries made deductions for net transfers abroad by migrant workers and holders of foreign currency accounts. Use of the concept of national disposable income, which required deduction of all transfers by migrants, would therefore yield more homogeneous and thus more comparable data. With regard to the debt relief deductions shown in annex IV to the Committee's report (A/44/11), he said that the 15 and 20 per cent ratios of debt service to total external debt served an illustrative purpose only and did not prejudge the outcome of the additional studies to be undertaken on that issue.

4. In reply to a question by the representative of Singapore, he explained that the least developed countries already received special consideration in that they were assessed at the floor level and were automatically excluded from any rate increases. With regard to the question raised by the Indonesian representative concerning the three-year time gap between the data considered in the calculation of the scale and the year in which Member States started making payments on the basis of that scale, he said that it was unfortunately not possible to reduce that gap owing to the constraints of data compilation at the national level, data

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collection and preparation by the Statistical Office and established scale preparation and adoption procedures.

5. The representatives of Iraq, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Brazil, Kuwait, Trinidad and Tobago and Oman, having expressed concern at the steady increase in assessment rates for developing countries and the decrease in those for developed countries, explained that rate increases and decreases were a function of absolute and relative change in national incomes and not of methodological idiosyncrasies or non-transparent ad hoc adjustments. Annex IA to the report showed that, with the exception of some Member States subject to floor and ceiling rates, the final rates in column 7 (Official scale) were substantially higher than those in column 1 (National income) for practically all developed countries and lower for the vast majority of developing countries. In any event, the Committee had prepared the current scale on the basis of explicit instructions from the General Assembly.

6. It should be added that the 10 largest contributors were continuing to pay over 75 per cent of the Organization's expenses, while the 100 smallest contributors paid less than 2 per cent. Over the last four scales, the combined rates of the Group of 77 countries, including the OPEC countries, had increased by 103 points; excluding the OPEC countries, the rates of that group had increased by 115 points. During the same period, the combined rates of the OECD countries had increased by 229 points and that of countries with centrally planned economies had decreased by 247 points; in the latter case, the decrease would have been significantly larger without the generous number of points that group had donated for the purpose of ad hoc adjustments. It should be stressed that the economic changes reflected in the scale were relative and not necessarily absolute. Increases and decreases in the national incomes of some countries sometimes affected the assessment rates of many others, including those whose national income levels were static.

7. The Committee on Contributions remained sensitive to the issue of ad hoc adjustments and the concerns to which it gave rise. The mitigation process would be curtailed in scope and would be covered in a transparent manner in reports on proposed future scales.

8. Mr. GARRIDO (Philippines) suggested that, in determining national income, the Committee should take into account the external debt/GNP ratio and the annual growth rate of GNP. That system, which was applied by the World Bank, would offer many advantages for heavily indebted countries like his own. The elements taken into account might appear in annex IA of the Committee's report.

9. Mr. KARBUCZKY (Hungary) asked whether the Committee on Contributions shared the views of his delegation regarding the serious distortions which the scheme to avoid excessive variations between successive scales caused in the rates of assessment of some Member States.

10. Mr. ALI (Chairman of the Committee on Contributions) assured the representative of the Philippines that the Committee on Contributions would consider the question of indebtedness as soon as it received the data to be submitted by the working group referred to in the report. The matter of concern to the Hungarian delegation was also in the forefront of the Committee's attention and would be discussed by it and then reported on in its next report.

AGENDA ITEMS 123 AND 124: PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1990-1991 AND PROGRAMME PLANNING (continued) (A/44/3, A/44/6/Rev.1, A/44/7 and Corr.1 and A/44/16 and Add.1)

First reading (continued)

Section 3. Political affairs, trusteeship and decolonization (continued)

11. Mr. BAUDOT (Director, Programme Planning and Budget Division), replying to questions raised by delegations at previous meetings, explained that, while the percentage post reduction indicated for section 3 in the introduction to the proposed programme budget might appear to be low, in fact, following the restructuring of the Secretariat, the two departments now amalgamated into the Department for Special Political Questions, Regional Co-operation, Decolonization and Trusteeship had given up 34 posts, i.e. 17.8 per cent, representing one of the sharpest reduction rates in the Secretariat. It was not, however, possible to specify which part of that reduction could be attributed to the transfer of certain functions to UNDP, because the staff retrenchment exercise was undertaken as a whole and could not be broken down by function.

12. When drawing up the proposed programme budget, the Secretary-General had felt that it would be difficult to allocate priorities among the programme elements of section 3. However, since he had been asked to do so by the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, he proposed to designate element 2.1 of the programme relating to special political questions and element 2.1 of the programme relating to decolonization, which accounted, respectively, for 12 per cent and 16 per cent of the resources, as priority elements. The Secretary-General was not in a position to designate non-priority programme elements. If the Committee were to adopt the relevant recommendation of CPC, it would thus approve the order of priority which had just been outlined. As for the budget proposals relating to the United Nations Council for Namibia, details had been given of the resources requested but not of the programmes of activity, the reason being that the Council's activities could undergo a radical change following Namibia's independence. The Council itself had not yet indicated the nature of its activities for 1990-1991, and its future status would have to be decided by the General Assembly. He hoped that additional information could be provided to the Committee before the end of the session.

13. Ms. GOICOCHEA ESTENOZ (Cuba) recalled that she had asked what activities were planned pursuant to the General Assembly's decision to declare an International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

14. Mr. DANKWA (Ghana) noted that the special allocation for special projects of the Special Committee Against Apartheid amounted to \$790,000 for the biennium, as compared with \$400,000 for 1989 alone, at a time when the volume of the Committee's work was increasing. In addition, the resources requested in respect of consultants for the Centre against Apartheid (\$75,600) reflected no growth, unlike its volume of work. His delegation could not help but think that the programmes of activity provided for under that heading might suffer as a result.

15. Mr. BAUDOT (Director, Programme Planning and Budget Division) said that the Secretary-General was to present his report on General Assembly resolution 43/47, concerning the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, at the end of November. If the General Assembly were then to adopt a plan of action including activities not provided for in the budget, the customary procedure of stating programme budget implications would be followed, if necessary. The points raised by the representative of Ghana had been discussed in CPC. In a proposed programme budget which reflected a negative rate of real growth of 0.4 per cent, the fact that certain items had not been subject to any reduction in resources meant that they had received relatively favourable treatment.

16. Mr. DUVAL (Programme Planning and Budget Division) explained that the slight decrease in the special allocation for special projects of the Special Committee against Apartheid was due to the fact that account was also taken, when estimating the resources required for "permanent" activities of that nature, of the extent to which resources had been utilized in preceding years. The appropriations requested in respect of consultants for section 3D amounted to \$80,800. The related explanations in paragraph 3.77 of the proposed programme budget were of a general nature and in no way constituted an assurance that those resources would correspond exactly to requirements throughout the biennium. As a general rule, the greatest possible room for manoeuvre was left in order to permit, in case of need, the necessary transfers of resources.

17. Mr. DANKWA (Ghana) said that the practice of systematically reallocating resources without firmly establishing real requirements must be ended. As a member of the Special Committee against Apartheid, his country happened to know why full use had not been made of the available resources. In any event, there appeared to have been a lack of co-ordination within the Secretariat at the time when the budget proposals were drawn up. It should have been known that the Special Committee would need at least \$430,000 each year in order to carry out its special projects. Unless the Secretariat could provide a satisfactory explanation, his delegation would press for an adjustment in the requested appropriations. With regard to the costs of consultants for the Centre against Apartheid, it was difficult to accept that the sum indicated reflected favourable treatment by comparison with that accorded to other sections of the programme budget. Stagnation in that area would probably have unfavourable repercussions on programmes and thus run counter to the principle which was supposed to govern resource or staff reductions. It would be useful for the Committee to hear a representative of the Centre against Apartheid, as he would certainly share the views of the Ghanaian delegation.

18. Mr. BAUDOT (Director, Programme Planning and Budget Division) recalled that the Secretary-General's budget proposals were the result of a long process. They were drawn up on the basis of extensive consultations with substantive units and were then submitted to the Programme Planning and Budgeting Board before being transmitted to CPC, the Advisory Committee and, finally, the General Assembly. It would be possible to consult the Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Centre against Apartheid but, as a general rule, the Secretariat endeavoured to reflect a common position. Furthermore, in the process of drawing up budget proposals, account was also taken of the criteria of quality and effectiveness. As the Centre had made substantial progress in that regard, the resources requested should be sufficient to cover the programme described in the budget.

19. Mr. DANKWA (Ghana) said that his delegation did not seek a direct intervention before the Committee by a representative of the Centre. It did, however, hope that interested delegations might be able to hold informal consultations on the subject and to submit proposals arising from such consultations for approval by the Committee.

20. Mr. KINCHEN (United Kingdom) said that his delegation had no fundamental reservations with respect to the activities provided for in section 3 but did wish to reaffirm its position of principle concerning the budget as a whole. In his introduction to the proposed programme budget, the Secretary-General stated that all mandated outputs were included. It was therefore a matter of reaching a consensus on both the overall level of resources requested and the manner in which they were distributed. In that regard, there were several general problems which could be the subject of informal consultations: the overall level of appropriations requested for travel, consultants, office equipment and support services, for example, all of which had already been extensively discussed in CPC.

21. The practice of budgeting on the basis of previous resource utilization was another delicate subject. The usefulness of the budget performance report had also been the subject of a long debate at the last session of CPC. The report often demonstrated that resources had been underused but, on the other hand, there were flaws in its methodology which tended to limit its impact. It would therefore appear desirable that informal consultations be held on those different points.

22. Mr. ETUKET (Uganda) said that the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination had found it difficult to give an opinion on section 3, owing to the fact that no priority designation had been made at the programme element level and that the definition of outputs had been somewhat unclear. The Advisory Committee had made recommendations concerning resources, but more precise information about programme content would be welcome. Moreover, the Secretary-General's representatives had told the Committee that the necessary steps would be taken to harmonize the new structure of the Department and the structure of programmes under that section. In any event, the fact that the activities were of a sensitive political nature did not justify the absence of priority designations, as the Advisory Committee seemed to imply in paragraph 3.6 of its report. Priorities had then been designated for section 3, but it was not clear how they would be reflected in the resources requested. The Advisory Committee also said in paragraph 3.11 that there were no extrabudgetary posts in that section. His delegation sought clarification on those points as well as on the exact contents of the CPC recommendations on the section.

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23. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should defer taking a decision on section 3, given the reservations expressed by several delegations.

Section 4. Policy-making organs (economic and social activities)

24. Mr. BAUDOT (Director, Programme Planning and Budget Division) said that the activities under section 4 had not been programmed. That was because the appropriations which had been requested related almost exclusively to travel and support for various organs. When the Secretariat had submitted its estimates to CPC and the Advisory Committee, it had indicated that that section would be abolished in future programme budgets and that the corresponding resources would be included under the appropriate sections. That had not been done in the case of the current budget proposal because the presentation of economic and social activities would depend on the overall restructuring of that sector. Priorities had not been designated for that section, nor had any provision been made for extrabudgetary funds.

25. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the Advisory Committee's report on section 4, said that the Advisory Committee was pleased that in connection with steps to improve the format of the budget, the Secretary-General was considering making some changes in section 4. He drew special attention to paragraph 4.7 of the report, which dealt with travel entitlements, and paragraphs 4.8 to 4.10, which related to the requirements for the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders.

26. Mr. ABRASZEWSKI (Vice-Chairman, Committee for Programme and Co-ordination) said that the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination had noted in paragraph 116 of its report that the Secretariat had planned to abolish section 4 and redeploy the resources among the relevant sections concerned. In paragraph 117, it had recommended that the programmatic content of section 4 should be improved and that the use of consultants and travel should be stringently managed in line with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 41/213 and be harmonized with other sections of the programme budget.

27. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it the Committee wished to approve the conclusions and recommendations of CPC regarding section 4 (A/44/16, para. 117).

28. It was so decided.

29. An appropriation of \$2,083,500 under section 4 for the biennium 1990-1991 was approved in first reading without objection.

Section 5A. Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation

30. Mr. BAUDOT (Director, Programme Planning and Budget Division) said that, given the nature of the Office's responsibilities, it had been impossible to programme all the activities under that section in detail. The proposed programme budget nevertheless contained a fairly detailed description of the tasks which the Office might be called upon to carry out in the formulation of the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade or in the preparations for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, for example, as well as other situations that required the involvement of the Director-General. No priorities had been designated, since no breakdown by programme or output was provided for the section. Table 5A.1 showed that extrabudgetary resources would amount to nearly \$1 million for the biennium 1990-1991, including \$135,300 for substantive activities and approximately \$740,000 for operational projects related to the implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action for the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy.

31. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the report of the Advisory Committee on section 5A, drew attention to paragraph 5A.3 of the report. The observations contained in that paragraph harkened back to the Advisory Committee's general comments concerning the need for more precise and transparent information on the use of extrabudgetary resources and, in particular, on posts financed from extrabudgetary resources. The Advisory Committee felt that the post equivalent to a D-2, which was not included in the staffing table, should in future appear in the extrabudgetary column. In paragraph 5A.5, the Advisory Committee indicated that it had no objection to conversion of two temporary posts to permanent posts.

32. Mr. ABRASZEWSKI (Vice-Chairman, Committee for Programme and Co-ordination) noted that the conclusions and recommendations of CPC on section 5A were contained in paragraphs 120-124 of document A/44/16. CPC had taken note of the important tasks assigned to the Director-General, as indicated in paragraph 5A.5 of the proposed budget, and had stressed the need to provide the Office with the appropriate means to carry out its tasks in the most effective manner. The Committee had recalled the recommendations it had made on the need for improvement in the presentational format for that section of the budget. It had also recommended more effective co-ordination of the efforts undertaken in the context of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development and had taken note of the programme narrative of section 5A.

33. Mrs. GOICOCHEA ESTENOZ (Cuba), referring to the last sentence of paragraph 5A.5 (a) of the proposed budget, said she wished to know just how the Secretariat intended to give consideration to developments occurring in the area of peace-keeping activities. With regard to paragraph 4A.5 (c), her delegation wished to see particular attention paid to the formulation of the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade at the special session of the General Assembly devoted to international economic co-operation, which would be held in April 1990.

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34. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it the Committee wished to approve the conclusions and recommendations of CPC on section 5A (A/44/16, paras. 120-124).

35. It was so decided.

36. An appropriation of \$4,519,500 under section 5A for the biennium 1990-1991 was approved in first reading without objection.

Section 5B. Regional Commissions New York Office

37. Mr. BAUDOT (Director, Programme Planning and Budget Division) said that the name of the Office had been changed on the basis of the conclusions of a study conducted in response to the recommendations of the Group of 18. The programme elements under that section had been reduced from six to three without any change in the staffing table or a reduction in activities. Priorities had not been designated and no extrabudgetary resources were included. Given that the section was so brief, the Secretariat was considering the possibility of abolishing it as a separate section and regrouping its activities under another section.

38. Mr. ABRASZEWSKI (Vice-Chairman, Committee for Programme and Co-ordination) said that, in paragraph 127 of its report, CPC had taken note of section 5B and had recommended that, in the future, the Secretary-General should consider its placement in another section.

39. Mr. HILL (United States of America) said that his delegation had no objection to the CPC recommendation. Nevertheless, it should be noted that that recommendation had the effect of voiding the decision taken by the General Assembly in its resolution 38/234. The Group of 18, in its recommendation 33, had requested that support activities for permanent liaison offices should be consolidated in a single office. Yet according to the Secretary-General's report on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 41/213, it seemed that no effort had been made to that end. His delegation hoped that further consideration would be given to the possibility of consolidating some of the administrative functions of those offices, which make possible a reduction in the number of General Service staff assigned to them. It might be helpful for the Secretariat to indicate why such a consolidation had been impossible.

40. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it the Committee decided to approve the conclusions and recommendations of CPC on section 5B (A/44/16, para. 127).

41. It was so decided.

42. An appropriation of \$830,900 under section 5B for the biennium 1990-1991 was approved in first reading without objection.

Section 6. Department of International Economic and Social Affairs

43. Mr. BAUDOT (Director, Programme Planning and Budget Division) pointed out that a new subprogramme on the effects of foreign debt on development had been included in section 6. Furthermore, activities having to do with global social issues had been transferred from section 6 to section 8, with a corresponding transfer of posts. It would be noted that some programme elements had been merged: under the programme co-ordination programme, the programme elements had been reduced from 7 to 6; under the programme on analysis of the world population, they had been reduced from 29 to 20. It would also be noted that the number of outputs had been reduced: from 245 currently for the programme as a whole to 218. There was a large reduction under programme co-ordination (18 outputs as against 33 currently); under the world statistics programme, there would be a slight increase in the number of outputs, from 63 to 64. Outputs for meeting servicing would decrease (30 as against 36 currently), as would outputs for reports and publications (153 as against 178 currently).

44. With regard to priorities, it would be difficult, given the importance of the various activities included in section 6, to hold to the rule that programme elements with high priority should represent about 10 per cent of the resources requested. In the case of the programme on global development issues and policies, for instance, the three programme elements considered to have absolute priority represented 24 per cent of the resources. In the energy programme, the 10 per cent target was held to more closely. In that connection, it should be noted that CPC had made no recommendation regarding the order of priorities in this section.

45. Lastly, the expenditure estimates for extrabudgetary resources stood at about \$61 million, \$2 million of which were for substantive activities and \$56 million for operational projects, mainly in the area of statistics. A certain number of posts were funded from extrabudgetary resources: they appeared in the table of post requirements at the beginning of the section and in the tables of post requirements under the various programmes.

46. Mr. Vaheer (Canada) took the Chair.

47. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) noted that real growth for section 6 had been calculated at -2.3 per cent. In paragraph 6.4 of its report, the Advisory Committee briefly outlined the impact which the implementation of General Assembly resolution 41/213 had had on the section. In paragraph 6.9 it pointed out that, according to the representatives of the Secretary-General, the high vacancy rate in the Department (15.6 per cent) was attributable to a combination of factors, including recruitment difficulties and the need to set aside a number of junior-level Professional posts for General Service staff members who had passed the G to P examination. The Committee discussed activities associated with non-governmental organizations in paragraphs 6.11 and 6.12. Noting that subprogramme 1A relating to effects of foreign debt on development had been included in the section and that, moreover, UNCTAD had a subprogramme relating to problems of indebtedness, the Advisory Committee expected that the Department and UNCTAD would do everything possible to

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co-operate closely and to harmonize their respective activities so as to avoid any overlapping and ensure the best possible use of existing resources.

48. With regard to Project LINK, the Committee expressed the view in paragraph 6.14 that the project could have financial implications in terms of the Department's future requirements. The Secretary-General should therefore provide more detailed information on the matter in the context of the programme budget proposals for 1992-1993. Lastly, with regard to population, the Advisory Committee emphasized that need for better co-ordination and harmonization of the Department's activities with those of UNFPA.

49. Mr. ABRASZEWSKI (Vice-Chairman, Committee for Programme and Co-ordination) said that the conclusions and recommendations of CPC concerning section 6 were to be found in paragraphs 135 to 139 of its report. The Committee noted the allocation of regular budget and extrabudgetary resources between programmes and subprogrammes and stressed the need to be provided with more information in the future on the criteria used for the distribution of such resources. It was of the opinion that in implementing recommendation 15 of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts it was necessary to avoid negative impacts on the programme. It requested that the corresponding references to the modifications to the revisions to the medium-term plan be reflected in the legislative references for subprogrammes 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 7 of programme 1 (Global development issues and policies), and also requested the addition of Economic and Social Council resolution 1988/75 to the legislative reference for subprogramme 6 of programme 1. The Committee had recommended that the General Assembly should approve the programme narrative of section 6.

50. Mr. HILL (United States of America) noted that the Secretary-General had taken certain steps to restructure the Department and said that he hoped the current structure would be kept under scrutiny so that further improvements could be made, particularly with regard to population activities, to which substantial resources were allocated. It might be advisable, for instance, to transfer more responsibilities to UNFPA and to consolidate some of the activities of the Fund and the Population Division. The Department's budget also covered co-ordination activities, and those could perhaps be merged with UNFPA co-ordination activities.

51. Regarding staff reductions, his delegation would like to know why, after the biennium 1986-1987, the number of posts for the administration and common services programme had been reduced only by one, from 20 to 19, whereas the Department's overall post requirements had been reduced by close to one third. Lastly, as the Advisory Committee had requested, the Secretariat should review the possible financial implications of transferring project LINK to the United Nations.

52. Mr. DANKWA (Ghana) said that on the important question of duplication brought up by the Advisory Committee it would be premature to act on the matter at the current stage, since the recommendations of the Group of 18 concerning the restructuring of the economic and social sectors were still being put into effect.

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53. Mrs. GOICOCHEA ESTENOZ (Cuba) asked which General Assembly resolution was the legislative reference for the work on sustainable development that was mentioned in paragraph 6.6 of the proposed programme budget. Regarding the programme on analysis of the world population, she believed that the programme narratives should include references to the programmes having to do with the relationship between population and development. She would also like to know what resolution was the basis for intermediate activity (ii) (Interrelations between economic and social progress and an environmentally sound development process) under subprogramme 2 (Policies for broad-based development) of the programme on global development issues and policies. Lastly, she would be interested in knowing the current vacancy rate in the Department.

54. Mr. BOUR (France) said that he did not think there was any need to change the current structure of the Population Division in order to merge some of its activities with those of UNFPA. UNFPA had an essentially operational mission while the Population Division dealt with the fundamentals of population questions by conducting studies and collecting data.

55. Mr. ETUKET (Uganda) also asked for information on the vacancy rate in the Department.

56. Mr. WU Gang (China) said that his delegation was disturbed by the 2.3 per cent negative growth rate in the Department, far more than the average negative growth rate of 0.4 per cent for the overall estimated resources in the proposed programme budget for 1990-1991. Only the programme on population had recorded a relatively modest rate of growth, and even that was far from sufficient. On the other hand, administrative and programme support expenditures had risen, which required an explanation. His delegation agreed with CPC that more resources must be allocated to operational activities. In that connection, the use of extrabudgetary resources should be rationalized. Many major programmes were, in fact, not financed from such resources. His delegation welcomed the high priority given to the new subprogramme on the effects of debt on development, but strongly urged that enough resources be allocated to it.

57. Mr. LOPEZ (Venezuela) said that, like CPC in paragraph 134 of its report, he was concerned at the negative impact that the lack of resources was having on the programmes and activities of the Department. It was important to avoid further negative impact as a consequence of deployment of posts to other bodies of the United Nations, such as the planned transfer of posts from the Department to the United Nations Office at Vienna. He would also be interested in the answer to the question raised by the Cuban delegation regarding sustainable development.

58. Mr. GUPTA (India) asked the Secretariat to provide details on the difficulties in recruitment that it had given as the reason for the high (15.6 per cent) vacancy rate in the Department, where 29 administrative and senior-level posts were not filled. He also would like to know when the situation was expected to be remedied. It was also a matter of concern that some of the Department's activities overlapped with other activities of other bodies.

59. Mr. LADJOUZI (Algeria) said that he shared the concerns of the Chinese delegation as to the negative consequences that the redistribution of extrabudgetary resources was having on programme execution. With regard to the transfer of posts to Vienna, his delegation wished to know if there had been any new developments after CPC had reviewed the matter.

60. Mr. HOHENFELLNER (Austria) supported the Secretary-General's proposal in paragraph 6.14 of the proposed programme budget that the transfer of responsibility from the Department to the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs should be accompanied by the redeployment of posts from the Department to the Centre. The Centre would thenceforth assume responsibility for work relating to the Declaration on Social Progress on Development, the Report on the World Social Situation and related issues.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.