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*President*: Mr. PÉREZ GUERRERO (Venezuela).

AGENDA ITEM 17

- Reports of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme (E/4451, E/4545)**
- (a) United Nations Development Programme
  - (b) Technical co-operation activities undertaken by the Secretary-General (*concluded*)

1. Mr. BRADLEY (Argentina) said that although Argentina was not a member of the Governing Council, it was very interested in the work of the United Nations Development Programme, which was more practical than that of any other United Nations agency. Whereas many United Nations agencies worked chiefly for the future, the tangible results which UNDP had obtained could already be appreciated by the peoples. UNDP showed how much could be achieved by international co-operation applied pragmatically and without political motives.

2. Argentina had benefited greatly from both technical assistance and Special Fund activities thanks to which projects had been carried out in all sectors, particularly agriculture and mining. In that connexion, reference should be made to the Andean Cordillera project, which had led to the discovery and evaluation of copper deposits so extensive that they were held by some experts to constitute the main copper discovery of the century. For all those projects, UNDP had provided not only financial assistance but also the help of technicians, who had made things easier by accurately determining the conditions of the problem. While a system of priorities was indispensable, some recognition should be given to the assistance rendered by the resident representatives and technicians, whose contribution was essential to project execution.

3. As to co-operation between UNDP and other organizations, the United Nations Development Programme was not too restricted a field of action for UNIDO. On the contrary, fruitful contacts could be established between the two agencies through the resident representatives, who were UNIDO's best agents in their relations with Governments. There was no reason to change a system which had already produced such encouraging results.

4. The main question was still the financing of the Programme's work. He approved the relevant measures

that had been taken and, in particular, the target of \$250 million that had been set for the Programme. Subsequently, however, an attempt should be made to reach the ultimate target of \$350 million set for 1970. Contributions to UNDP were the best form of investment, and the example of Venezuela, Mexico and Argentina should be followed in raising them. Those countries paid the Programme back for the assistance they received from it by making a financial contribution and providing the help of highly qualified experts.

5. With reference to the Panamanian representative's statement at the 1549th meeting concerning the part that UNDP should play in population control, he said he did not think that question should have priority in the Programme's work. In that field as in others, it was for Governments themselves to establish their order of priority and take whatever measures they considered useful.

6. In conclusion, he congratulated the Programme's Administrator and his staff on their excellent work.

7. Mr. HASNAOUI (Morocco) said that his country, which benefited from UNDP aid and technical assistance in various sectors, wished to pay a tribute to that organization, whose efforts to promote economic and social development had been highly efficient and practical. With reference to the observations made by delegations at the preceding meeting, he expressed agreement with the French and Swedish representatives' view (1549th meeting) that the work of UNDP should fall within the framework of a global effort inspired by the new development strategy. He, too, was anxious that UNDP methods should be adapted to the special conditions of each area.

8. In view of UNDP's limited resources, it was specially important to establish priorities, particularly, as had been emphasized by the French representative, in the matter of rural development and the training of personnel, for in most developing countries it was the agricultural sector which, being the largest, should be given priority. Emphasis should be placed on the following: agricultural production and stock-raising, hydraulic resources, land redistribution, anti-erosion measures, the development of food crops and adaptation to the requirements of a modern economy. Special attention within the framework of UNDP action should also be given to training through education, promotional work in the villages, and the popularization of techniques.

9. UNDP's pre-investment and feasibility studies were certainly interesting, but it must be pointed out that some of them had not been followed up by action at the financing stage proper. The criteria of feasibility and profitability imposed by financiers and the World Bank often differed from the conclusions reached by UNDP experts. The fact was that in working out projects Governments were guided not only by criteria of profitability, but also

by the requirements of a balanced economic and social development. It was therefore desirable that financing bodies such as the World Bank should be associated with studies of feasibility and economic profitability, so that projects should not be left in suspense.

10. It was not always practical to assign experts for a specified number of months or years, for the studies undertaken often took longer than had been expected. It was also desirable that the experts who had taken part in the pre-investment studies should be associated with the execution of the projects for long enough to allow national working groups to take over.

11. As to the cost of pre-investment studies, he pointed out that the money spent on paying experts and on the transport equipment put at their disposal absorbed most of the aid, to the detriment of research and the studies themselves. In agriculture, for example, priority should be given to geological and pedological studies, to experiments with food crops and to selecting crops suited to the area.

12. As for methods of action, it was essential that assistance should take into account each country's point of view, and be integrated in a wider scheme of development. Poles of growth that would produce a lasting effect should be established in collaboration with Governments, which alone could have a general view of the action to be undertaken.

13. Lastly, if it was to play an effective part in the new Development Decade, UNDP must have more resources at its disposal, corresponding to the magnitude and urgency of the problems of development.

14. Mr. KOROSSO (United Republic of Tanzania) said that his country had always attached great importance to the work of UNDP. Thanks to its assistance, Tanzania would soon become an exporter of wool. Moreover, preliminary studies carried out with UNDP's help had led to the discovery of new gold deposits, and many projects had been carried out in forestry, stock-raising and agriculture. Much, however, still remained to be done.

15. He approved the new technical assistance procedures providing for continuous programming. That would certainly give fresh impetus to the Technical Assistance component of the Programme. More flexibility should likewise be introduced into other aspects of the Programme; thus, the recipient country should be able, within the framework of the targets set for it, to spend the sums allocated either on expert services or on materials, instead of being compelled to accept both those elements simultaneously.

16. His delegation shared the view of the USSR and United States representatives (1549th meeting) that priority should be given to the agricultural sector and to production. As the French representative had pointed out, the development of education and professional training could also be emphasized. It was for Governments themselves, however, to decide, in accordance

with their individual needs, where the priority should be placed.

17. He regretted that at the 1546th meeting the observer for Nigeria, referring to an earlier statement by the Tanzanian delegation (1540th meeting), should have introduced misplaced political considerations into the debate on agenda item 14. The Tanzanian delegation had simply drawn the Council's attention to the urgent problem created by the Biafran refugees, whose sufferings were well known, and it had appealed to the world community to give them all possible aid. There was no question of politics in that appeal, and Tanzania did not have any special interests in Biafra. Its position was in harmony with decisions taken by such countries as France, Belgium and Czechoslovakia, which had ceased to send arms to the Lagos régime. Tanzania could only regret that other countries continued to provide that régime with arms. In the name of humanitarian principles, it likewise protested against Nigeria's decision to bring down any plane taking relief to Biafra, for that was a decision which reflected a resolve to exterminate the Biafran people.

18. Mr. STAMBOLIEV (Bulgaria) affirmed that UNDP had become an important means of international action, which could contribute effectively to solving problems of development and co-operation in the economic and social field. If the less developed countries were to be effectively helped, however, it was necessary to know how to make the most rational use of UNDP's limited funds.

19. While recognizing the urgency of the food-producing sector's needs, he considered that UNDP aid should bear primarily on industrialization. United Nations bodies were paying increasing attention to that field, but the activities undertaken should be co-ordinated and more concentrated. He was therefore glad of the closer co-ordination established between UNDP and UNIDO, and he supported the Governing Council's proposals on pilot industrial projects aimed at encouraging the establishment of new industries in developing countries. Besides, the Programme should help to plan economic and social development, and encourage the development of the public sector, for it would thus be possible to provide more effective help and obtain more rapid results. Moreover, UNDP should mobilize the efforts of all countries wishing to participate; the German Democratic Republic, for instance, could make a useful contribution to the Programme. Bulgaria possessed trained personnel and experts in a number of fields such as rural economy, light industry, food industries, planning, public health and education, and it could offer its experts' services for the developing countries' projects. Bulgaria was raising its contribution to UNDP every year; a rational way of using the Bulgarian contribution would be to buy materials in Bulgaria and to sign sub-contracts with Bulgarian enterprises.

20. Thanks to the good will and joint efforts of all countries, the Programme would be able to expand every year, and play an increasingly effective part in international co-operation for economic and social development.

21. Mr. AKSIN (Turkey) thanked the Commissioner for Technical Co-operation and the Assistant Administrator of UNDP for their introductory statements (1549th meeting). The figures given by the latter illustrated the development of UNDP's work, which provided the most tangible example of international economic co-operation for the benefit of the developing countries.

22. As the French representative had said, UNDP was destined, thanks to the international aid it provided, to play a central part in reaching the targets that were set for the second Development Decade. But UNDP would be unable to achieve all the aims that were set if its resources were not in keeping with the developing countries' needs. That was a point which all countries, and more particularly the developed countries, should remember at a time when the plans for the second Development Decade were being prepared.

23. The Administrator of UNDP had estimated the minimum requirements for 1969 at \$250 million. Since the available resources would probably never match the developing countries' vast needs, UNDP must be careful to undertake only projects that would have a maximum impact on the economic and social life of the recipient countries. Projects for the establishment of institutions and training centres were particularly attractive from that point of view. UNDP should also give favourable consideration to requests concerning tourism, particularly where the requesting country had an obvious tourist potential. It could and should also meet requests for assistance in dealing with population problems. The Assistant Administrator had stated that a sizable number of requests concerning industrial projects were currently under consideration, a point which the Turkish delegation noted with satisfaction.

24. The reports of the UNDP Governing Council on its fifth and sixth sessions (E/4451 and E/4545) showed that the Council and the administrators of the Programme were aware of the growing needs of the developing countries and were ready to extend the work of the Programme when such action was justified. His delegation wished to congratulate the Governing Council and its President on the discharge of their duties, and it was glad to note the attention which had been given to the question of follow-up investment subsequent to pre-investment studies. His delegation was aware that the administrators of UNDP were expanding their efforts in that field in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 2280 (XXII).

25. The Turkish delegation regarded the regular programme of technical co-operation as a useful supplement to the work of UNDP. But since the funds allocated to the regular programme had remained the same for six years in a world where prices were continually rising, the programme had obviously suffered some contraction. Turkey would therefore like to see an increase in the funds allocated to the regular programme. It understood, however, that a decision on the matter might have to be postponed pending the outcome of the comprehensive study on the purposes and objectives of the regular programme which the Secretary-General was to submit to the seventh session of the Governing Council. The Turkish delegation therefore supported the recommenda-

tion by the Governing Council that the total for the regular programme should be kept at \$6.4 million for 1969.

26. With reference to the proposed study on the capacity of United Nations bodies to carry out an expanded development programme, he was glad that the UNDP Governing Council and administrators were aiming at maximum efficiency and trying to meet the developing countries' increasing needs. He noted with satisfaction that the terms of reference of the study were sufficiently wide to permit a general and detailed assessment of the operations of United Nations bodies within the UNDP framework (see E/4545, para. 187). Consideration could usefully be given, in the context of the study, to the idea that the specialized agencies might assist the developing countries, and particularly those which had recently gained independence, in identifying and preparing projects.

27. Lastly, the provision of assistance in the form of executive, managerial and administrative personnel met a major need of the developing countries. Turkey favoured continued assistance of that kind, but it was rather disturbed that at present less than half the experts serving were matched by full-time counterpart personnel. It was not thus that technical assistance could have the desired long-term effects.

28. Mr. ABE (Japan) congratulated the Commissioner for Technical Co-operation and the Assistant Administrator of UNDP on their statements, which, together with the reports submitted, covered not only the activities of the organs concerned but all the important points that had been emphasized during both sessions of the Governing Council. He also wished to congratulate the President of the Governing Council, who had helped to give fresh impetus to UNDP's work and improve it.

29. It was encouraging to note that UNDP had been able to achieve a steady expansion of its activities for the benefit of the developing countries in matters of pre-investment and technical assistance; and he noted with deep satisfaction the realism, dynamism and flexibility which the administrators of UNDP and the United Nations Secretariat had shown and which had helped to ensure the success of UNDP's work. Japan attached great importance to the part played by UNDP in matters of pre-investment and technical assistance to the developing countries. It had always given UNDP its support and full co-operation in the form of financial contributions as well as the transfer of technical knowledge and provision of human technical resources; he hoped that UNDP would continue to play an important part in years to come.

30. In view of the interesting remarks which had already been made about the reports before the Council, he would confine himself to stressing two specific points. First, with reference to UNDP fields of activity enjoying priority, there was cause for satisfaction in the growing tendency to help Governments to determine priorities in the particular fields of economic and social development which they had selected. In Asia and in many African countries in particular, priority should be given to the agricultural sector, and vigorous, comprehensive measures

should be taken urgently to enable those concerned to produce better-quality food in greater quantity and to improve rural life in general. Such results could be achieved only through sustained efforts, and it was therefore important that UNDP should safeguard the continuity of projects in that field, even if they did not produce immediate results. Consequently he hoped that UNDP would continue to give very high priority to agriculture. He had been glad to hear the United States representative say at the preceding meeting that while the responsibility for determining the priority to be given to projects rested with Governments, they in turn could derive aid and counsel from the experience of international organizations as well as from exchanges of views in international bodies which included representatives from developed and developing countries.

31. In view of the need to ensure balanced economic development, he was somewhat disturbed at the lack of expansion during the past year in another important field which should be given high priority—the industrial sector. He was therefore glad to see that many new projects were now under consideration and would enter the execution phase in the coming year. UNIDO, it was to be hoped, would be able to play an increasing part.

32. Still on the subject of priorities, he wished to raise the question of the geographical distribution of UNDP activities. The fact was that Asia's share of fund allocations and UNDP projects was very small in relation to the continent's population and extremely low *per capita* income. He sincerely hoped that the situation would improve in Asia's favour.

33. The second important point which his delegation wished to raise was the increase in UNDP resources. It had been pointed out that the activities of the Programme were still inadequate in relation to the developing countries' needs, and that the available resources were limited and much smaller than the requirements. He felt that there was room both for raising the quality of the assistance supplied by UNDP and for increasing its volume. In view, however, of the continually increasing needs of the developing countries and the limited aid which the developed countries were able to supply owing to the present international economic situation, it would be unrealistic to count on UNDP resources increasing quickly enough to meet all the requirements within a short time. The developed countries must of course endeavour to increase their contributions to UNDP, but in the meantime the limited human and financial resources available should be used in the most effective manner possible, with a clear and rational definition of priorities, whether the assistance was to be provided for sectors or for particular projects.

34. Mr. DUBEY (India) thanked the Commissioner for Technical Co-operation and the Assistant Administrator of UNDP for their statements. As the latter had said, UNDP had contributed to achieving the aims of the current Development Decade and to preparing the developing countries for the effort they would have to make in the next Decade. Although not all the possibilities of the Programme had materialized, that had been due not to a lack of energy and initiative on the part of the Adminis-

trator and his staff, but to the lack of available resources. The total contributions announced for 1968, amounting to some \$180 million, represented less than half the target figure of \$350 million set for 1970. As for 1969, the Administrator had affirmed that, to meet the key requests enjoying top priority, a minimum of \$250 million would be required, i.e. about 40 per cent more than the contributions announced for 1968.

35. The purpose of all the suggestions that had so far been made to deal with the situation arising from the shortage of funds was, in fact, to improve the quality of the assistance supplied, but there was a point beyond which quality could in no way be a substitute for quantity. In his opinion, that point had been reached long ago; what was now wanted was to find ways of increasing UNDP's funds.

36. The Commissioner for Technical Co-operation had pointed out that the resources of the regular programme had remained constant at \$6.4 million for some years, and he had stated that they would remain unchanged pending the results of a study which had been decided upon. But in order to keep the level of resources effectively constant, they ought to have increased by 30 to 40 per cent to allow for the rising cost of implementing programmes. In any case, there was no need to carry out a survey to discover that the total resources ought to be increased, if only to meet the increase in the developing countries' technical assistance needs.

37. With reference to the statement made by the Assistant Administrator of UNDP, he stressed the importance of the problem of follow-up investment. The United States representative had observed that the statistics supplied contained under-estimates and he had mentioned certain gaps. But while those remarks had been justified, there were also errors on the side of over-estimation. The figures on investment had been influenced by a number of factors other than pre-investment projects, and there was in fact no direct relationship between investment and pre-investment projects. No matter what efforts were made by international institutions to create the necessary conditions for follow-up investment, they could not succeed unless they were assisted by certain other factors, especially external factors. The statistics should therefore be approached with caution, and everything possible must be done to see that in pre-investment projects increasing attention was given to the need for finding investment funds. His delegation therefore noted with satisfaction the idea which had been put forward both at the sixth session of the Governing Council and at the present session of the Economic and Social Council, namely that prospective investors should be involved in the preparation of projects from the beginning.

38. He agreed with the United States and Argentine representatives' view that choice of priorities was ultimately a matter for Governments to decide.

39. At the sixth session of the Governing Council, mention had been made of the difficulties encountered by UNDP and the regular programme in the recruiting of experts. Again he stressed that the fullest use should be made of the experts available in the developing countries. For one thing, those experts had first-hand expe-

rience of the problems in the developing countries and the experience they acquired in other countries would make them even more useful when they returned home; for another, the cost of experts could be reduced if they were used.

40. Speaking of the technical assistance to the Republic of Southern Yemen referred to in paragraph 30 of the Governing Council's report of its sixth session, he stressed the importance of preparing and initiating assistance programmes for that country as quickly as possible, for it was starting from scratch and had to overcome difficulties familiar to all.

41. Lastly, he wished to express his deep gratitude to the Administrator of UNDP, who was one of the few people who had successfully shown that although development was a difficult job it could be carried out.

42. Mr. NAYERI (Iran) joined the speakers who had preceded him in congratulating the Commissioner for Technical Co-operation and the Assistant Administrator of UNDP on the lucid statements they had made to the Council.

43. The USSR representative had said that UNDP ought to give special attention to projects relating to agriculture. No one could deny the part which agriculture played in the economic expansion of some of the developing countries. The development of agriculture would relieve those countries of the need to spend some of their foreign currency on food.

44. The United States representative had expressed the view that agriculture and industry ought to advance hand in hand. The developing countries would of course do well to make efforts in both fields. But so far as UNDP was concerned, its activities must be directed towards industry. The administrators of UNDP could accordingly encourage Governments requesting UNDP assistance under the Special Fund to submit industrial projects.

45. The new requests for assistance submitted for consideration by the UNDP Governing Council covered practically all sectors. As had already been pointed out, agriculture and industry were of particular importance in the development of the developing countries, but priorities were actually very difficult to determine. In his view, the training of teachers and vocational training were just as important as the other sectors, for not only did they help to raise the cultural level of a country, but they also provided it with skilled manpower for the development of its industry.

46. As to the distribution of the projects recommended, the UNDP Governing Council's reports brought out certain differences of opinion. Some members of the Council had expressed the view that the distribution between the various geographical regions and between the different economic sectors was well balanced. Others had voiced the opinion that the programme was still inadequate in relation to the developing countries' needs: the donor countries should increase their contribution in order to reduce the gap between the developing countries' needs and the available resources. Several members had also been concerned about the growing difference between the rate at which requests were being received

and the rate of approval of new projects. Lastly, others had suggested that UNDP should adopt procedures to limit the number of projects requested. He agreed with the last-mentioned group and considered that the number of projects requested should in fact be limited. Various methods might be adopted and different criteria established for that purpose. In particular, the economic sectors could be spread over a period of ten years, and at a given date only projects dealing with the appropriate sectors would be accepted.

47. Mr. CRANE (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) noted that much of UNDP's work consisted of pre-investment studies for the identification and definition of projects or series of projects which might contribute to the development of national or regional economies. As had already been stated, however, the fact that a project was deemed feasible was no guarantee that the necessary financial aid for its implementation would be forthcoming. To help in filling the gap so far as agricultural development was concerned, FAO and the World Bank had in 1964 launched an FAO/IBRD Co-operative Programme under which the staff and experience of both organizations could be used for agricultural programmes in developing countries. A team of specialists had been established within FAO and, in consultation with the World Bank, it had started helping Governments to identify and prepare projects which the Bank could finance. Since 1964, the FAO/IBRD team had worked on about 130 projects of interest to fifty-eight countries, and twenty-three of those projects had been approved for financing. Most of them were still in various stages of preparation, evaluation or negotiation, but loans granted by the Bank to agriculture in 1967 had amounted to roughly \$193 million, compared with \$79 million in 1966. The total loans and credits granted for those 23 projects were expected to amount to more than \$340 million.

48. Still in the field of programmes related to the question of investment, FAO had in 1965 made a new departure by entering into direct relations—for the first time in the history of the specialized agencies—with major industries interested in investing in the developing countries. The FAO/Industry Co-operative Programme, set up as part of the Freedom from Hunger Campaign, acted as a catalyst in bringing together management, technical skills and finance to encourage further investment, and in working with Governments to remove obstacles and improve the climate so as to foster investment. In 1967, the Programme had engaged in a wide range of activities, from analysis of information to serious investment efforts. In the Middle East, for instance, a new company had been formed for processing fruit and vegetables. Local interests held the largest share in the company, though several multi-national companies were also involved. The first factory would start operations in 1968, and a second was planned. In view of the interest aroused by that project, the FAO/Industry Co-operative Programme had recommended a feasibility study which had been financed by UNDP and completed in 1967. That study was expected to lead to an expansion of the food-processing industry in the country concerned.

49. Mr. ALLEN (United Kingdom) said that his delegation had listened with interest to the statements made by the Assistant Administrator of UNDP and the Commissioner for Technical Co-operation. Since the United Kingdom was a member of the Governing Council of UNDP, his delegation had been able to take part in the detailed discussion of the matters dealt with in the Governing Council's reports. To avoid repetition, he would confine himself to general comments, more particularly regarding the future of UNDP.

50. As the Panamanian representative had pointed out (1549th meeting), it was thanks to UNDP that the man in the street, both in the advanced countries and in the developing countries, was becoming aware of the positive work the United Nations was doing. His delegation was pleased to learn that next year the Governing Council of UNDP would include among its members Argentina, whose representative had stated that it was among the richest of the developing countries and closely approaching the point at which it would be possible to "take off" and leave under-development behind. It was to be hoped that what was happening in Argentina would gradually come about in the other developing countries, and that the day would arrive when technical assistance as it existed at present would no longer be needed. Meanwhile, rather than dividing the world into very rich countries that were always in the forefront of progress, and very poor, under-developed countries, it would be better to speak of countries busily engaged in climbing the various rungs of development, since the developed countries were themselves evolving towards better conditions.

51. Both during the present discussions and at the sixth session of the Governing Council, much had been said about balancing the Programme, a subject on which the Assistant Administrator had supplied interesting statistics. In that connexion, it was important not to harbour the illusion that UNDP was the only or even the main source of development or pre-investment financing. As mentioned at the sixth session of the Governing Council, UNDP activities should be considered within the general context of the development and financing plans of each country; in other words, they should take account of programmes financed under the regular budgets of the United Nations or its specialized agencies, bilateral aid programmes and, above all, the investment programmes of the countries themselves. In that context, assistance granted under UNDP was a marginal affair, basically aimed at filling the most obvious gaps. Those gaps might be more glaring in agriculture, demography, or industrial development, depending on the country concerned. So far as industrial development was concerned, his delegation unreservedly supported the proposals designed to increase the number of industrial advisers working in the field in collaboration with the Resident Representatives. In all cases, however, it was the Governments of the countries concerned which in the final analysis had to establish priorities. In that respect, the United States representative had advanced the interesting idea that the developing countries should seek to co-ordinate their priorities in fields such as export promotion, for example.

52. Another important question concerned measures calculated to promote investment as a follow-up to UNDP pre-investment projects (Special Fund), the purpose of which was to attract capital to the developing countries by showing that they had a sound economic potential. Not all the reports on pre-investment projects had hitherto provided possible sources of financing with all the information they needed in order to take decisions.

53. It was therefore encouraging to note the measures by which the Administrator of UNDP was planning to improve investment possibilities: the main aim was to associate sources of investment more closely with each stage of the pre-investment projects, so that, if the feasibility studies resulted in positive conclusions, the investment sources would be sufficiently familiar with the projects to act upon those conclusions. Obviously, such measures implied the closest co-operation by the donor Governments and by international agencies, and the United Kingdom Government was prepared to do all it could in that respect. The Administrator also proposed to set up a group of financial advisers who would be associated with given projects and provide a link between the technical experts and possible sources of financing. Both proposals should considerably strengthen the efficiency of UNDP's activities in the promotion of follow-up investment.

54. As to administration, the United Kingdom delegation welcomed the decision to undertake a capacity study of the existing executive machinery of UNDP and of the agencies responsible for carrying out its projects; the defects and complexity of the present system should be remedied, particularly in view of the increased amount of work expected in the next Development Decade. It was heartening that the specialized agencies should have promised to collaborate in that study.

55. At the sixth session of the UNDP Governing Council, his delegation had proposed that the Council should meet only once a year, and it had explained in detail how, in its view, the Governing Council could work on that basis without loss of efficiency. Such a procedure would ensure a higher productivity, since senior officials would not have to absent themselves for so long and the volume of documentation would be reduced. The proposal had not, however, gained general approval, and the Council had simply decided to reduce the length of its January session. That was a kind of half-measure, and his delegation believed that the question would soon have to be reconsidered.

56. So far as procedure was concerned, it was worth noting that at its sixth session the Governing Council had for the first time had recourse to a vote. In his delegation's view, the consensus procedure was more in keeping with the role of the Governing Council and with the spirit in which the Council should deal with matters referred to it and he therefore hoped that the Governing Council would revert to it.

57. Mr. BRILLANTES (Philippines) said he first wished to thank the Assistant Administrator of UNDP and the Commissioner for Technical Co-operation for their statements.

58. In the view of his delegation, the basic role of UNDP was still as the Administrator had defined it when that agency first started operating, namely that of an association for progress, peace and prosperity.

59. Now that the end of the first Development Decade was approaching, it was pertinent to recall that, as had at last been recognized, the problem of development should concern the advanced countries as much as the developing countries, and that they should try to solve it together. Thanks to that realization, UNDP's influence throughout the world would, he was sure, be much more real during the next Development Decade than it had been in recent years.

60. It was saddening to note that while the needs of the developing countries increased, UNDP's resources were remaining stationary and were far from meeting the increased requirements. Speaking on that disparity at the opening of the second session of UNCTAD, the Prime Minister of India had stated that the question was not whether the developed countries could afford to give more, but whether they could afford not to. That observation seemed equally relevant in a discussion of UNDP.

61. The reports of the Governing Council on its fifth and sixth sessions called for some comment. As the Philippine delegation had already pointed out at the 1544th meeting during the discussion of agenda item 14, the Governing Council's report on its fifth session revealed that Asia was the region which had received least UNDP assistance. It was to be hoped that that imbalance would be rectified in future. In that respect, it would be interesting to obtain from the Governing Council of UNDP additional information on the comparative studies concerning the size and population of the various countries, so as to have a better idea of how much UNDP assistance each country had received.

62. His delegation agreed with the delegations of the United States, the USSR, Belgium, Argentina, India and the United Kingdom that the question of priorities was in the final analysis a matter for Governments to decide; that prerogative of sovereignty could not be called in question, whatever the nature or amount of the external assistance concerned. On the other hand, it might perhaps usefully be recalled that, in speaking of the results of the second UNCTAD session, the Secretary-General of the United Nations had recommended the developing countries to avoid sacrificing long-term objectives for immediate advantages (1531st meeting). The developing countries should bear that warning in mind in determining their priorities.

63. His delegation did not fully share the views that had been expressed regarding the usefulness of the study of the capacity of the United Nations system to deliver an expanded development programme. As stated in the progress report which the Administrator had submitted to the Governing Council at its sixth session,<sup>1</sup> the essential task was to harmonize activities. His delegation believed that harmonization meant co-ordination. For instance, the study in question would deal with matters that had already been considered by other bodies such as the *Ad Hoc* Committee of Experts to Examine the Finances of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies, or by the Joint Inspection Unit set up to study, *inter alia*, the activities of organizations taking part in the execution of UNDP. It might be better to await the result of those enquiries before contemplating a new study. The Committee for Programme and Co-ordination should be given at least two years to complete its examination of all United Nations activities in the economic and social fields.

64. If UNDP was an association for progress, peace and prosperity, it would seem only logical that UNCTAD should participate fully in its work. Pending the ratification of such a decision at the institutional level, it was to be hoped that UNCTAD's attention would be drawn to the discussions on all development projects that had a bearing on trade.

65. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council should adopt the UNDP Governing Council's proposal contained in paragraph 164 of the report on its fifth session (E/4451).

*It was so decided.*

66. The PRESIDENT proposed that the Council should take note of the UNDP Governing Council's decision contained in paragraph 322 of the report on its sixth session (E/4545).

*It was so decided.*

67. The PRESIDENT proposed that the Council should adopt the following draft resolution:

*"The Economic and Social Council*

*Takes note of the reports of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme (fifth and sixth sessions)."*

*The draft resolution was adopted.*

The meeting rose at 5.35 p.m.

<sup>1</sup> UNDP document DP/L.79.