

UNITED NATIONS
General Assembly
FORTY-FOURTH SESSION
Official Records

SECOND COMMITTEE
43rd meeting
held on
Wednesday, 22 November 1989
at 3 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 43rd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. GHEZAL (Tunisia)

later: Mr. DOLJINTSEREN (Mongolia)

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DISCP. GENERAL
A/C.2/44/SR.43
5 December 1989
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF MR. RENE MOAWAD, PRESIDENT OF THE LEBANESE REPUBLIC

1. The CHAIRMAN paid a tribute to the memory of Mr. René Moawad.
2. On the proposal of the Chairman, the members of the Committee observed a minute of silence in tribute to the memory of Mr. René Moawad, President of the Lebanese Republic.
3. Mr. MAHMOUD (Lebanon) thanked the Committee for its expression of sympathy in connection with the death of Mr. René Moawad.

AGENDA ITEM 86: OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT (continued) (A/44/3, A/44/361, A/44/376, A/44/401, A/44/409 and Corr.1, A/44/477, A/44/551, A/44/646, A/44/689)

- (a) COMPREHENSIVE POLICY REVIEW OF OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM (A/44/324 and Add.1-5)
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4. Mr. PAYTON (New Zealand) expressed disappointment that at its July 1989 session the Economic and Social Council had not achieved any substantive results with respect to operational activities for development; it was to be hoped that the General Assembly, at the current session, would succeed in adopting a resolution which would make such activities truly effective.

5. The Committee was undertaking the triennial review of development policy at a most interesting time when the United Nations could play a very constructive role in international affairs, although it must not be forgotten that the developing countries were experiencing a growing sense of frustration over the worsening of their economic and social situation and their development prospects. The outcome of the triennial review would have an important impact on the special session of the General Assembly to be held in April 1990 and on the negotiation of an international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade.

6. In its development assistance activities the United Nations must always keep in mind the realities of the contemporary world. For example, without forgetting the central principle of the universality of participation of all developing countries in the system's activities, growing attention must be given to the

(Mr. Payton, New Zealand)

countries designated least developed and to those with particular and recognized needs. A second reality to be kept in mind was the diversity in the capacity of developing countries to interact with the United Nations development system. Some parts of the system had not demonstrated the necessary understanding and flexibility to deal with the problems of the smallest countries. It must also be acknowledged that many developing countries had sufficient capacity to implement their United Nations-funded projects. An increase in national or governmental implementation would mean a reduction in the role of the specialized agencies which, like the regional commissions, would not undertake so much direct execution.

7. New Zealand also stressed the importance of co-ordination, which was made essential by the diversity of the developing countries participating in United Nations activities. The resident co-ordinators had a fundamental role to play in that respect. His delegation supported the recommendations of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation for enhancing the effectiveness of the resident co-ordinators and it hoped for an increase in the number of women, particularly women from developing countries, occupying those positions. It also advocated greater use of staff members of UNDP itself in filling vacancies in senior posts. It reiterated its support for the statement made by the representative of Vanuatu on behalf of the seven States members of the South Pacific Forum which were Members of the United Nations.

8. Mr. COMISSARIO (Mozambique) noted the seriousness of the international economic situation, which was characterized by the decline and stagnation of economic growth and the increase in the number of persons living in conditions of absolute poverty. The positive political trends in the world would not bear fruit unless progress was made on the economic front. In the contemporary increasingly interdependent world, failure to address the problem of deteriorating social and economic conditions in the developing countries could have serious implications. Against that background, the current session offered a fresh opportunity to redefine United Nations contributions to the developing countries.

9. Mozambique continued to support the basic principles of operational activities for development, i.e. responsiveness to the policies of recipient Governments, flexibility, multilateralism, neutrality, universality, and the granting nature of United Nations resources. With respect to defining the role and functioning of operational activities in the 1990s, his delegation endorsed the views of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination which gave a central place to the building of national capacity and to adaptation to country specificity in the preparation of the strategy for the 1990s.

10. Although everyone recognized how important it was for the developing countries to achieve self-sufficiency, particularly in technical assistance, not much had been done to achieve that goal. All the mechanisms for co-ordination of external assistance, the mobilization of additional resources, the provision of technical advice, and the still embryonic technical co-operation among developing countries must serve the goal of strengthening the national capacity of each country,

(Mr. Comissario, Mozambique)

especially with respect to human resources. That meant recognizing the social, economic and cultural realities of each country and adapting to them, using simplified and harmonized methods which had the express consent of the recipient Governments. National or governmental execution of technical assistance projects must be encouraged whenever possible.

11. The United Nations was responsible not only for maintaining and building peace in the world but also for channelling the support and material assistance of the whole international community. It was therefore important for the entire United Nations system to enjoy the financial support which could only be furnished on a sustained and predictable basis by the industrialized countries. The recent pledging conference had been a relative success, but the available resources were still much smaller than needed. It was also important to establish a close link between emergency relief and development programmes.

12. Mrs. MATHURIN-APPLEWATHE (Jamaica) said that the deterioration in the situation of the developing world, the most dramatic manifestation of which was the growing level of poverty, made it more urgent than ever to ensure proper implementation of decisions adopted to help the developing countries. Therefore, the work of the Committee could not be considered satisfactory unless the resolution adopted on operational activities included concrete measures for its implementation. In that context, the Japanese proposals regarding a timetable for the implementation of measures were very interesting.

13. There was no doubt that the United Nations system, because of its universal, multilateral and neutral characteristics, could continue to play a valuable role in strengthening the capacities of all developing countries, provided that it functioned in a more flexible, concrete and responsive manner. That meant paying close attention to four factors: decentralization, which would enable Governments to assume greater responsibility for the execution of projects and programmes; simplification and harmonization of procedures, for overburdened civil-service officers were often unable to comply with the totally unnecessary bureaucratic demands; flexibility, which would enable maximum use to be made of each country's capacities; and co-ordination, which was basically a matter for the recipient Governments but to which the relevant mechanisms of the United Nations system could also make a contribution, because Jamaica knew from its own experience, after having been devastated in 1988 by Hurricane Gilbert, that in times of disaster the most effective co-ordination took place within the United Nations system at the country level. It was also important to promote technical co-operation among developing countries, to diversify the procurement system, and to provide increased resources on a predictable basis.

14. Mr. VARGAS (Brazil) said that, despite the efforts of the developing countries to achieve self-reliance, the worsening of their social and economic situations had been the landmark of the decade. He was concerned at the counterproductive proposals to involve the United Nations system in the structural adjustment processes of recipient countries, and believed that the industrialized nations

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(Mr. Vargas, Brazil)

should make major adjustments in order to address the pressing problems of the world economy. United Nations operational activities should not be used to promote an adjustment process which clearly had had negative consequences for the economies of developing countries.

15. In the provision of technical advice and the transfer of technology, the United Nations system should shift from a project to a programme approach, increase its use of data banks and short-term specialized consultants, and promote governmental execution. Accordingly, the objectives, priorities and plans of the recipient Governments should be the basis for designing country programmes and for the role of UNDP.

16. Technical co-operation activities should aim to enhance national capacities and should not be linked to adjustment processes. Utilization of technical co-operation among developing countries (TCDC) should increase, from the programming process to programme and project execution. There should be a substantial increase in the procurement of equipment and services from the developing countries. To that end, the Inter-Agency Procurement Services Office (IAPSO) would have to act more effectively as a co-ordinating body.

17. Another important issue was resource mobilization which, unfortunately, was sluggish and uncertain. The resources for operational activities had not been sufficiently increased in recent years by donor countries which had experienced the longest period of uninterrupted economic growth in the post-war era. On the contrary, there was a net transfer of resources from the developing to the developed countries, despite the fact that the North was prospering and the South was in a deep-rooted economic crisis. Hence, in the fifth programming cycle of UNDP, it was not as important to discuss new criteria for the distribution of resources as it was to ensure that donor countries substantially increased their contributions to the core budget.

18. The programming of operational activities should continue to be based on the 1970 consensus and the UNDP country-programme process, which had clearly demonstrated their usefulness; there was no point in attempting changes which might prove to be counterproductive, such as the proposed common country statements. With regard to co-ordination, the primary responsibility lay with the recipient countries, but it was also urgent to strengthen the roles of the resident co-ordinators. Brazil hoped that the current triennial policy review would provide an opportunity to take concrete steps to enhance the effectiveness of operational activities in order to respond with flexibility to the growing needs of the developing countries.

19. Mr. OULDCHEIKH EL GAOUTH (Mauritania) said that there was complete agreement on the fact that a sufficient and reliable flow of resources constituted the basis of operational activities for development. However, the outcome of the latest pledging conference was not especially encouraging. In view of the economic, ecological and debt-servicing problems affecting the African countries in

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(Mr. Ouldcheikh El Gaouth, Mauritania)

particular, Mauritania supported the view of the Group of 77 that it was necessary to increase the resources for operational activities by more than 20 per cent.

20. The strengthening and management of human resources were fundamental in every economic development process because the utilization of other available resources and prosperity itself depended thereon. Mauritania had fully recognized the role of the human factor in development and, since achieving independence, had adopted comprehensive policies on the planning and use of human resources, with a view to integrating them into its national development plans. It had been widely noted that heavy dependence on foreign experts led to a drain on currency.

21. At the regional and continental levels, the Heads of State and Government of the African countries, in the Lagos Plan of Action and the Priority Programme for Economic Recovery, had emphasized the importance of skilled labour as a decisive factor in economic and social development. However, many obstacles had impeded the optimum development of human resources in Africa; in general, school curricula were far from adequate to meet growing development needs, and the efforts made had not yielded the desired results. After 40 years of technical assistance, Africa still lacked the skilled labour and technical personnel which it needed, and, paradoxically, was showing a high rate of unemployment, even among people with some education. The resolution adopted by the Committee at the current session should take into account the interdependence of technological and employment problems in Africa, provide for concrete measures in all areas of activity for fostering human resources development, in the private and public sectors, and lay the groundwork for economic and social justice.

22. The world had long since entered the era of high technology, especially in data-processing; the appropriate transfer and use of those technologies could help Africa in its development efforts. That fact should be taken into account in the forthcoming reviews of operational activities. UNDP was preparing a report on that subject in the context of the fortieth anniversary of technical co-operation.

23. He mentioned some major decisions adopted by the UNDP Governing Council at its most recent session, noted the important role of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in field operations, and commended the work of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), particularly its universal immunization campaign. In conclusion, he said that the Group of 77 was preparing a resolution which would reflect its position on the programming, joint programming, co-ordination, evaluation and decentralization of operational activities.

24. Mr. Doljintseren (Mongolia) took the Chair.

25. The CHAIRMAN announced that the Committee had concluded its debate on agenda item 86.

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AGENDA ITEM 82: DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (continued)

(e) ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (A/44/226, A/44/374, A/44/39; A/C.2/44/L.5)

26. Mr. CHADHA (Director of the UNDP Special Unit for Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries) introduced the report of the sixth session of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries (TCDC), and said that, in his inaugural address, the President had noted that the High-level Committee was meeting at a time when, although there was a relaxation of tensions and confrontations, alarming economic and social conditions persisted which had affected not only the developing countries, but even some parts of the developed world. It was only through a new era of co-operation that the developing countries could overcome that situation.

27. The Administrator of UNDP had pointed out in his statement that in the area of TCDC the primary responsibility lay with the developing countries themselves, but that the United Nations system had played an important catalytic role and had taken steps to integrate TCDC into the programming and project development process and, in particular, to assist Governments in organizing inter-country TCDC programming activities. The Administrator had also mentioned that the TCDC Information Referral System (INRES-South) included 4,000 institutions in its data base, and that the developing countries, UNDP field offices and the organizations of the United Nations system were using those services more and more frequently. Lastly, the Administrator had emphasized the importance which the United Nations system should attribute to TCDC.

28. He (Mr. Chadha) summarized the major decisions, annexed to the report, which requested the Administrator, the Special Unit and the developing countries to take action with a view to, *inter alia*, strengthening TCDC activities and facilitating the full participation of women in those activities. The High-level Committee had expressed interest in strengthening the Special Unit to enable it to discharge its functions in the support and promotion of TCDC. He was fully confident that the United Nations system would promote the incorporation of TCDC into its programmes and projects in compliance with the decisions of the High-level Committee.

29. Mr. CHOO (Malaysia), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77, said that technical co-operation among developing countries had been a prominent item at the Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77, held in Caracas in June 1989, the seventh meeting of the Intergovernmental Follow-up and Co-ordination Committee on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries, held in Kuala Lumpur in July 1989, and the Third Biennial Meeting of the Heads of National Agencies for Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, held in Panama in November 1988. The recent Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Belgrade, had reaffirmed the importance of such co-operation among non-aligned countries.

30. One element that was crucial to technical co-operation among developing countries was the strengthening of TCDC focal points, which would require improved co-ordination between UNDP resident representatives and national focal points.

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(Mr. Choo, Malaysia)

31. The Group of 77 had achieved significant progress in attaining the objectives of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action in the area of trade with the entry into force on 19 April 1989 of the Global System of Trade Preferences among Developing Countries. The second round of negotiations, to begin shortly, would take up the question of financial support to commercial transactions conducted under GSTP. UNDP should extend financial and technical assistance for the implementation of the GSTP agreement and for the conduct of a new round of negotiations. According to the assessment by the Group of 77, progress in the implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action had been limited due to the lack of support by the international community for TCDC.

32. The Group of 77 welcomed the UNDP initiative to allow for sufficient flexibility of the rules and procedures so that developing countries could make more effective use of indicative planning figures. The strengthening of the Special Unit for Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, as stipulated in paragraph 59 of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, would supplement the various activities designed to foster TCDC.

33. The relevant institutions of the United Nations must step up measures designed to integrate TCDC fully in their activities relating to the funding of programmes and the execution and evaluation of projects and should ensure better co-ordination of TCDC activities through collaboration among Governments, bilateral donors and United Nations agencies. Regional bodies and organizations should play a more active role in TCDC.

34. He stressed the need for a substantial increase in procurement from developing countries in the implementation of TCDC projects and for promoting the use of experts and technical skills from developing countries. Maximum use should also be made of national institutions and business entities in the implementation of projects in developing countries. Moreover, TCDC activities must benefit all developing countries in accordance with their needs and priorities. Greater attention must be devoted to the urgent and specific needs of the least developed countries. Lastly, the Group of 77 wished to reaffirm the importance of the High-level Committee as the essential organ for assessing the implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action.

35. Mr. DJOCHLAF (Algeria) said that the difficulties in connection with the report of the sixth session of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries were an illustration of the obstacles impeding the harmonious implementation of the provisions of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries. The desire to respect the rules for the presentation of the Committee's reports, however legitimate it might be, should be matched by equal concern for respecting all the provisions of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and, in particular, those relating to the financing of activities. The lack of enthusiasm when it came to acting on freely assumed commitments - set forth, inter alia, in recommendations 35 and 36 of the Plan of Action - had been one factor preventing

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(Mr. Djoghlaïf, Algeria)

the full implementation of TCDC. TCDC was, first and foremost, the concern of the developing countries themselves, but it was also the concern of the entire international community.

36. TCDC, which was neither an end unto itself nor a replacement for essential traditional international co-operation, was supposed to serve as a valuable tool for the promotion of economic and social progress in developing countries through the common realization of their potentials and the mutual utilization of their experiences. That should help to mitigate structural inequalities and correct the asymmetries which currently typified international exchanges.

37. However, in evaluating the implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action over a decade, the High-level Committee had been forced to acknowledge that the new form of international co-operation had not become standard procedure in the programming of operational activities for development, nor had it been integrated in the mainstream of international co-operation for development. In that connection, it was highly significant that 11 years after the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, there was only a modest "Special" Unit of UNDP for TCDC, which had a skeletal staff and remained excluded from the decision-making process. Equally significant was the percentage of national, regional, interregional and global indicative planning figures earmarked for TCDC over the past decade. The same could be said for the fact that many international organizations had been unable to provide information on the whole period or corroborate their results with financial and statistical data. Under those circumstances, it was not surprising that the concepts of traditional technical co-operation, ECDC and TCDC were becoming more and more closely knit as a result of the compartmentalization of institutional capacities in that area.

38. The Buenos Aires Plan of Action advocated strengthening the UNDP Special Unit for TCDC so that it could discharge the duties which had been assigned to it in the international co-ordination of TCDC activities. However, at its sixth session, the High-level Committee had had to acknowledge that, although the many resolutions and decisions adopted by both the General Assembly and the UNDP Governing Council had been clear, that objective remained unfulfilled.

39. The Special Unit, despite its shortage of human and financial resources, had managed to inject new life into the Buenos Aires Plan of Action through the launching and proliferation of intergovernmental TCDC programming exercises, which had already resulted in the formulation of more than 1,000 co-operation projects.

40. At a time when UNDP was reflecting on its future in the 1990s and when the General Assembly, by convening a special session in 1990 and elaborating a new international development strategy, had focused its attention on establishing ways and means of reactivating the economic growth of developing countries, the unique role which TCDC should play in that regard must be strengthened. The organization of a meeting of TCDC experts in January 1990, in accordance with paragraph 15 of resolution 6/3 adopted by the High-level Committee at its sixth session, afforded an ideal opportunity to fulfil that objective. Algeria would participate with great interest.

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41. Mr. PIBULSONGGRAM (Thailand) said that TCDC ranked high on his Government's list of priorities, representatives of the public and private sectors of Thailand having participated in various TCDC meetings financed by UNDP in China, Turkey and Pakistan. Thailand was currently engaged in several bilateral TCDC activities with other developing countries. To that end, UNDP's indicative planning figures had been useful, but funds from the national budget had also been allocated for such activities.

42. Thailand had long extended assistance to other developing countries: the Thai Aid Programme, currently known as the Thai International Co-operation Programme, had been launched in 1971. During the initial period, approximately \$US 40,000 per year had been allotted for that programme, and in 1989, \$1 million had been earmarked to provide fellowships to some 45 countries in Asia, Africa and the Pacific for training in such diverse fields as buffalo reproduction and dermatology. Thailand had also contributed to the Third World Training Programme, and, together with UNDP, other specialized agencies and donor countries, it had also organized numerous training programmes: between 1986 and 1988, 2,100 trainees from other developing countries had been granted fellowships. It was necessary to enhance Thailand's National Focal Point, which had supervised the implementation of a broad range of TCDC projects; in particular, its information system should be improved.

43. The Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries remained valid, and his delegation endorsed the report of the sixth session of the High-level Committee, in particular the comment suggesting that the lack of national focal points had been a major reason for the unsatisfactory progress in the area of TCDC. His delegation supported the recommendations contained in the report, and agreed in particular that the Special Unit for TCDC should, upon request, help individual Governments to examine their internal mechanism for TCDC with a view to strengthening it.

44. The report of the forty-fifth session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific had noted the absence of communications and exchange of technical information, experience and expertise among the national TCDC and ECDC focal points. To remedy that deficiency, a network of TCDC and ECDC national focal points should be established at regional and subregional levels.

45. Mrs. NTETA (Botswana), speaking in her capacity as Chairman of the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference (SADCC), whose members were Angola, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe and her own country, said that SADCC's main objective was to lessen the economic dependence of its members on South Africa, political independence being meaningless without economic independence, and to promote regional co-operation and integration.

46. The SADCC Programme of Action was composed of seven main economic sectors with about 571 projects at a cost of approximately \$7.2 billion. According to the Secretary-General's report on co-operation between the United Nations and SADCC, less than half of the budget for the Programme of Action had been secured.

(Mrs. Nteta, Botswana)

Her delegation thanked those countries and specialized agencies of the United Nations that had co-operated with SADCC and recalled that in 1987 the General Assembly had adopted a resolution calling for co-operation between the United Nations and SADCC. Although in the past several weeks the discussions had focused on a wide range of natural disasters and economic problems, her Government was confident that, with the help of the international community, SADCC would be able to meet its commitment of promoting self-sufficiency.

47. Human resources development, an area of utmost importance to SADCC, had not received sufficient international support. Her delegation urged the members of the Committee to increase their financial and material assistance in that field. With regard to the full integration of women in development, although the Heads of State of SADCC had decided not to introduce a separate sector on women's issues in the SADCC programme, it had been agreed that the Conference should further pursue the question.

48. Botswana, which had chaired SADCC since its inception, had made notable progress with its national conservation strategy and in the areas of health, maternal and child care, communications, education and financial and economic management. But as soon as some problems were solved, new ones appeared, such as rapid population growth, teen-age pregnancies and drought. Lastly, Botswana's environment was predominantly arid and fragile, and it was therefore necessary to adopt conservation measures to counteract the harmful impact that economic development could have on the environment.

49. Mr. PEJIĆ (Yugoslavia) said that economic co-operation among developing countries was not an alternative to co-operation between the developed and the developing countries but rather an indispensable part of the efforts of developing countries to play a more important role in international economic relations. Despite the unfavourable international economic environment, developing countries remained committed to the principles and objectives of ECDC and continued to strive to make ECDC more effective through the rationalization of its programmes and the adaptation of its patterns to new developments in technology and international trade.

50. As a factor that helped to strengthen the role of developing countries as trading partners, ECDC was in the interest not only of those countries but of the international community as a whole. It was therefore logical to expect that ECDC projects would receive adequate technical and financial support from the developed countries and international organizations and institutions. Special attention must be directed towards broadening and strengthening the network of direct business relations between enterprises of the developing countries. The role of Governments would nevertheless remain important, since it would be necessary to improve the legal and institutional framework and the conditions for expanding co-operation.

51. The Global System of Trade Preferences among Developing Countries (GSTP) had recently become operative, and it was to be hoped that a second round of GSTP negotiations could be launched in the near future with the participation of a

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(Mr. Rejić, Yugoslavia)

larger number of developing countries, a greater variety of products and new concessions and that the seventh round of GSTP negotiations could consider the question of providing some financial underpinning for trade among developing countries.

52. Yugoslavia supported the conclusions of the recent sixth session of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, which had called for adequate support for TCDC projects from the international community and the United Nations system, in particular from UNDP. His delegation stressed the importance of the Special Unit for Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries in promoting TCDC and reiterated Yugoslavia's firm intention to continue providing its full support to TCDC and ECDC activities.

53. Mr. ZHANG Guanghai (China) said that during the sixth session of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, a review and appraisal had been made of the activities of the United Nations system in the framework of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action. His delegation was pleased to note that many developing countries had taken an active part in Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries (TCDC), which had been vigorously promoted by UNDP and other organs of the system and had received financial support from various developed countries.

54. However, the problems and difficulties standing in the way of the expansion of TCDC had also been clearly identified. In order to solve them, it would be necessary to increase funding, particularly by the developed countries, improve co-ordination within the United Nations system, and compile and disseminate more information on the capacity and needs of developing countries.

55. Agriculture was a very important sector in the economies of the developing countries and FAO and the World Food Council (WFC) had worked tirelessly to promote TCDC in that field. Such co-operation would be still more fruitful if the developed countries and the United Nations agencies concerned provided more active financial and technical support.

56. Mr. ZANDAMELA (Mozambique) said that his Government attached great importance to economic and technical co-operation among developing countries, which enabled peoples to share their experiences and achievements. In an interdependent world, complementarity played a catalytic role in stimulating sustainable economic growth in areas of mutual interest. Mozambique was unreservedly committed to South-South co-operation among countries experiencing similar economic hardships, with a view to their achieving collective self-reliance.

57. During the sixth session of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, a significant contribution had been made towards the attainment of the goals set forth in the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, despite a lack of detailed information about the capacity of various national institutions and a scarcity of available resources.

(Mr. Zandamela, Mozambique)

58. Not all developing countries were endowed with abundant resources and their progress was being hampered by a multiplicity of factors imposed by the international economic system, most of which were beyond their control. In the case of southern Africa, those economic hardships were compounded by the impossibility of living in peace and security on account of the actions of South Africa. Mozambique was one of the countries that were hostages to the so-called "total strategy" of the racist régime in Pretoria. In fact, the total cost to the region of the acts of destabilization and aggression by South Africa amounted to \$10 billion per annum, or 40 per cent of regional GDP. From 1980 to 1988, the damage had amounted to about \$60 billion - twice current annual GDP and three times gross external resource inflows, including soft loans, export credits and commercial loans. The conclusion to be drawn was that, but for the war, the region's annual GDP growth rate would have been 5 per cent as opposed to the 3 per cent actually registered, and Mozambique would not have had to bear the loss of \$15 billion in the period under consideration.

59. It was thus essential to eliminate the apartheid system in South Africa and to put an end to the acts of destabilization in neighbouring States, so that the decade that was drawing to a close, which had been a lost decade for development in developing countries, could give way to an era of peace and progress in the region.

60. Despite all those adverse circumstances, the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference had been working energetically for the past nine years to co-ordinate actions and draw up common strategies in various areas of mutual interest. His delegation expressed its gratitude to the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and all the other agencies, within and outside the United Nations system, that had provided support in promoting the development of southern Africa. Lastly, Mozambique stood ready to welcome any positive initiative to bring peace and security to the region and looked forward to the convening of the special session of the General Assembly devoted to international economic co-operation, which it hoped would contribute to healing the resentments that were so harmful to the international economic environment.

61. Mr. SEPELAK (Czechoslovakia), speaking on behalf of his own country and also the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Poland, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, said that the report of the High-level Committee revealed that important progress had been made in the implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action. The organizations and organs of the United Nations system, particularly UNDP, also seemed to be working more in that field. However, it was essential to avoid duplication of work, to select programmes on the basis of optimum criteria, to eliminate marginal activities and to make the best use of extrabudgetary resources. More attention also needed to be paid to qualitative concerns.

62. It was generally acknowledged that TCDC could be a means of enabling developing countries to solve their employment problems, increase their sovereignty over natural resources and attract capital. The resources used for TCDC must come

(Mr. Sepelak, Czechoslovakia)

from the developing countries themselves and from voluntary contributions. The success of those activities depended not so much on the creation of new organizational structures as on better utilization of existing mechanisms. All UNDP's regional and subregional projects had elements of TCDC which must be promoted, since TCDC activities were an effective means of co-operation and one compatible with the needs and aspirations of the developing countries. Lastly, he said that bilateral and multilateral co-operation with the developing countries by the countries on whose behalf he was speaking was of great importance and had implications for TCLC.

63. Mr. YENEL (Turkey) said that technical co-operation among developing countries was an essential component of development efforts. In recent years, marked differences had emerged among the developing countries as a result of the better economic performance of some regions. The countries that had performed better had a duty to help the others. Assistance with human resources development would be particularly beneficial. If TCDC activities were to bear fruit, it was not sufficient to provide information on what was on offer; there must also be a will to utilize what had been offered. The organs of the United Nations must play a catalytic role in that exchange and field personnel must work to that end.

64. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had concluded its consideration of agenda item 82 (e). He announced that Mauritius had become a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.2/44/L.30, Guinea-Bissau had become a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.2/44/L.33 and Argentina and Italy had become sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/44/L.40.

The meeting rose at 6.05 p.m.