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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 680th MEETING

held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Thursday, 5 June 1980, at 10 a.m.

President:

Mr. ALBORNOZ

(Ecuador)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (agenda item 4) (DP/500, 501) (continued)

- (a) ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATOR (DP/423 and Add.1, 439, 460-462, 463 and Corr.1)
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- (g) INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ACTION IN SUPPORT OF THE MAR DEL PLATA PLAN OF ACTION (DP/474)
- (h) STANDARDIZATION OF DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION PROCEDURES (DP/463)

PROGRAMME PLANNING AND PREPARATION FOR THE THIRD PROGRAMMING CYCLE (agenda item 5) (continued)

- (a) PREPARATION FOR THE THIRD PROGRAMMING CYCLE, 1982-1986 (DP/451 and Corr.1, 496)

1. Mr. ALI DABBAGH (Kuwait) said that his Government attached special importance to the so-called new dimensions and was confident that the Administrator would find a way of speeding up their implementation.

2. It considered that UNDP could minimize costs by concentrating on priority issues and trying to reduce support costs. It fully endorsed the efforts being made by UNDP to make operations more effective and to improve methods, and noted with satisfaction that the Programme was seeking to strengthen its collaboration with sources of financing such as the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the OPEC Fund and the World Bank.

3. If the Programme was to carry out its task successfully, it must have more stable, continuous and easily predictable financing. The best course would perhaps be to adopt the three-year method of multiyear pledging (a firm commitment would be made for the first year, with indicative contributions for the following two years), as proposed by the Intergovernmental Study Group on Future Financing of the Programme in document DP/451. In that connexion, he was pleased to inform the Council that his Government had decided to increase by 14 per cent its contribution to UNDP for 1980.

4. Multilateral assistance was only one aspect of global assistance to the developing countries but it was an essential aspect. Multilateral technical co-operation activities which helped developing countries to achieve national and collective self-reliance, strengthen their administrative and technical capacities, and up-grade their human resources constituted a foundation for other development endeavours by the countries themselves and by donor countries, and created the necessary conditions for their success. UNDP should, however, co-ordinate its activities with bilateral assistance to developing countries.
5. He was pleased to see that UNDP had made progress in implementing the Council's decision regarding assistance to the Palestinian people and that the Administrator had personally consulted all interested parties in order to implement some of the 18 projects identified and proposed by UNDP. He hoped that all those projects would eventually be implemented.
6. Although development prospects were on the whole not encouraging, the developing countries nevertheless had one source of satisfaction in the launching by UNDP and UNCTAD of a two-year programme in which technical co-operation was to play a critical preparatory role in economic co-operation among developing countries in many fields, including trade, monetary and financial relations, regional economic integration, the promotion of multinational production enterprises, technology acquisition, transport and insurance. His Government hoped that UNDP and the specialized agencies would launch similar programmes aimed at implementing the Buenos Aires Plan of Action.
7. Lastly, referring to agenda item 7 (j) and to the document entitled "Energy fund for exploration and pre-investment surveys" (DP/438), he reminded the Council that Kuwait had assisted many developing countries to undertake exploration activities because it was convinced that the discovery of new energy resources would contribute to the development of those countries. It nevertheless felt that the proposed fund might duplicate the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration and the lending programmes of the World Bank for petroleum exploration. Before taking a decision on the proposed fund, it would perhaps be advisable to await the outcome of the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Resources of Energy.
8. Mr. HODY (Belgium) congratulated the Administrator and his colleagues on the quality of the documents before the Council. It was, however, regrettable that the agenda for the current session was so heavy and that there was such an abundance of documents. The Council should leave many questions to the discretion of the Administrator and not ask him to prepare reports too frequently. Perhaps the Administrator would submit specific proposals to the Council on that matter. If it had a less cumbersome agenda, the Council would be able to devote more attention to essential problems, namely ways and means of funding the Programme, the growing needs of the developing countries seriously affected by the economic crisis, and the disturbing slow-down in contributions. The latter problem was of crucial importance and the members of the Council should agree on a system of sharing expenditure in proportion to the funding capacity of each country and a system of distributing

resources in proportion to the real needs of developing countries. The solution adopted should as far as possible respect the voluntary nature of contributions. At present too much funding was provided by too few contributors and that abnormal situation was dangerous. Although Belgium had regularly increased its contributions to UNDP over the years, there was a danger that, in view of current economic difficulties, many of the main contributors to UNDP might decide to limit the increase in their contributions if they found that countries which were able to do so were not making substantial contributions or were not increasing them each year. In addition, the payment of certain contributions in non-convertible currencies posed a serious problem.

9. In connexion with the distribution of UNDP resources, his delegation considered it acceptable that 80 per cent of resources reserved for national IPFs should be allocated to the IPFs of countries whose per capita GNP was \$500 or less, provided that the least developed countries were given priority over other developing countries in cases where the resources of the Programme failed to meet growth forecasts. Reducing all IPFs in the same proportions did not seem to be a just solution. The least developed countries must have the assurance that their IPFs would not fall below a minimum level of growth.

10. Mr. HASSON (Democratic Yemen) said that almost all countries seemed to recognize in principle that UNDP funds must be substantially increased on a more assured, guaranteed and predictable basis, but they were hesitating to put that principle into practice. The financial difficulties which the UNDP had recently experienced had threatened the implementation of projects fundamental for developing countries, especially the least developed among them, and their economic and social development plans. If contributions did not increase, the future growth of the Programme might be severely jeopardized.

11. As UNDP resources were limited, they should be used to the best advantage, i.e. for the benefit of those who needed them most. In particular, a more substantial share of those resources should be allocated to the least developed countries. The criteria for determining IPFs should be more objective and fairer, in other words they should take into account primarily the needs of those countries, their material, human and other resources their indebtedness and their national development efforts. The adoption of artificial and unrealistic criteria was adversely affecting many countries, including Democratic Yemen. The method of calculating per capita income should also be reconsidered as it gave too much weight to economic indicators which distorted and artificially inflated per capita income figures. That was not in the interests of the countries which needed UNDP assistance.

12. Democratic Yemen, which was one of the least developed countries and one of the most seriously affected by the current crisis, was grateful to the international organizations for their aid, but unfortunately that aid was still not sufficient to enable it to carry out its development plans. UNDP, which was the main source of multilateral assistance, should contribute more to government programmes in health, education, housing and transport in particular.

13. UNDP should further increase its assistance to national liberation movements. On the question of assistance to the Palestinian people, he noted with satisfaction that preliminary agreement had been reached on the implementation of 10 of the 18 projects approved by UNDP. He supported the proposal that the question of assistance to the Palestinian people should be included in the agenda for the next session of the Council.

14. Lastly, his delegation hoped that countries would contribute more generously to the various development funds, particularly to the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration, so as to enable them to operate more effectively.

15. Mr. LINDORES (Canada) said that UNDP was a well-tested programme which had evolved significantly in recent years; while concentrating on present problems, members should not forget past accomplishments. Although the need for multilateral technical co-operation was enormous, the potential for meeting that need was also considerable. The Administrator had rightly pointed out the increasing difficulties in mobilizing resources and the consequent declining share of multilateral technical co-operation activities provided through UNDP. The question was whether such difficulties were natural symptoms of a complex but essentially healthy programme or whether they indicated the presence of structural problems which the Council should tackle. It was clear that many of the basic restrictions placed on UNDP activities were beyond the ability of the Council to solve. For example, the future level of resources to be mobilized would be determined largely by the world economic situation and, in particular, by the situation of the 10 or so developed OECD countries which together supplied over 90 per cent of UNDP's hard-currency resources. It was obvious that the economic position of some countries which, in the past, had been the most faithful and generous supporters of UNDP had deteriorated. Furthermore, those who had benefited most from recent shifts in world economic power had not, with a few exceptions, used the traditional multilateral channels to deliver their official development assistance. Other problems, however, lay more clearly within the control of the Council or, at least in areas which could be influenced by the policies developed by Governments for the management of technical co-operation activities throughout the United Nations system.

16. In assessing the manner in which UNDP had met his Government's expectations during the past 10 years, it had to recognize that the ability of the Programme to live up to the role entrusted to it under the Consensus and confirmed by a series of subsequent decisions lay not primarily in the hands of the Administrator and his staff, but in the hands of recipient and donor Governments and co-operating agencies. In many ways, UNDP had fulfilled his Government's expectations and its successes were the basis for the considerable support it had received. Nevertheless, sufficient major problems remained to render his Government's expectations for the Programme during the 1980s less clear. The centrally-funded country programming system based on the establishment of IPFs had not yielded the anticipated results. While paying lip-service to the principles of country programming, namely the principle that developing countries should use their limited technical-co-operation funds to respond to their own immediate priorities, many donor countries had found it necessary, in order to implement policies established by their Governments, to seek funding channels other than UNDP.

Obviously, if funds were to be mobilized, the Parliaments of contributing Governments must be assured that such funds were ultimately being used to attain objectives they considered acceptable. During the coming decade it would be essential for donor and recipient countries to co-operate in a more realistic and constructive way in order to ensure that the directions and priorities of the Programme developed in a manner that was acceptable to both.

17. Similarly, he noted that the country programming system had prompted many countries significantly to change their pattern of use of United Nations technical-co-operation funds, thus causing growing concern among some donor Governments. For example, the Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration had been created primarily because developing countries had not been prepared to use their IPFs for projects with a much longer-term pay-off. Furthermore, the fact that there were continuing demands for the creation of special-purpose funds showed that other sectors were also neglected. That trend reflected a major weakness in the system and, if it continued, the Council would have to consider whether the basic hypothesis underlying the country programming/IPF system was still valid.

18. Canada hoped that UNDP would develop appropriate programming and administrative structures. In that area there were both encouraging and discouraging trends. Those who had closely followed the UNDP financial crisis of 1975 could not but rejoice at the dramatically improved standards of management of UNDP financial operations. One of the greatest virtues of the Administrator had been his ability to attract outstanding staff to manage UNDP affairs and it was to be hoped that he would continue to do so. However, some concern remained. Administrative and programme support costs were high and might well become completely unacceptable if the claims of some executing agencies for project implementation costs were accepted. Nevertheless, in view of UNDP's unique structure - a programme operating in virtually all developing countries, concentrating on highly labour-intensive technical co-operation programmes and providing a wide range of assistance to other programmes, Canada had always defended the Programme's level of administrative and programme support costs. But members of the Council who had in recent years participated in the discussions of the Intergovernmental Working Group on Support Costs had been dismayed at the complete inability of participating Governments and, in particular, the specialized agencies to calculate project support costs more rationally and realistically. That situation did not augur well for the ability of the Programme to deal with its most pressing problems in an increasingly complex environment.

19. Like Sir Robert Jackson, he was concerned about the inflexibility of the Programme and, in particular, its inability to improve significantly the quality of its field staff in a manner which would permit the effective implementation of a basic policy of decentralization.

20. On the question of the governance of UNDP, his delegation's primary concern was the unwillingness of the Council to consider seriously, let alone recommend, the development of an evaluation system which would provide meaningful feedback.

If nothing was done in that direction, the members of the Council would find themselves in a very difficult situation when reporting to their Parliaments on the use made of contributions to UNDP. On the positive side, Mr. Alexander King's report (DP/456) containing an evaluation of the global programme was an excellent example of what could be done to improve programme content and strengthen the ability of all Governments to obtain resources. However, the cornerstones of the Programme were its national project activities and, to date, effective evaluation of those activities had not been forthcoming.

21. On the subject of possible modifications of the working methods of the Council, his delegation was quite prepared to consider carefully any proposal which would make the Council's work more effective. Like the Administrator, he felt that the Council was doing too much work, of which little was of real value for the guidance and control of programmes. His delegation was therefore ready to consider the possibility of unofficial consultations as proposed by the representative of the United States. Furthermore, it was concerned about the increasingly political nature of discussions. In his view, the decision-making process did not require a group approach; each participant should be aware of the legitimate concerns expressed by others. It was doubtful whether the desired resource levels could be achieved if the Council's work took the form of group negotiation with all its inherent risks of confrontation and lack of flexibility. Changes in the traditional pattern of decision-making enabling all participating members to be equally involved called for the most careful consideration.

22. Considerable efforts had been made to improve co-ordination of the activities of United Nations agencies in the field, as his Government had hoped at the time of adoption of the consensus. However, although successful co-operation had been achieved by some organizations in the United Nations development system, competitive activities were unfortunately all too common.

23. The central funding concept had proved to be of limited interest to donor and recipient countries and to the agencies, and even its most ardent proponent, the Administrator of UNDP, had proposed another special-purpose fund at the current session. There was no doubt that, if funds competing for the same resources continued to be established, the proportion of technical-co-operation activities financed by UNDP would be further reduced and it would be even more difficult for UNDP to perform its co-ordinating function. Such a situation might perhaps be acceptable if additional resources were actually mobilized, but that was not likely to be the case. There was a danger that, if new funds were established in the future, their financing would be almost entirely at the expense of UNDP. In that context, it was perhaps worth noting that even with its policies of financial restraint in recent years, his Government would have been in a much better position to meet its share of the growth target for the second cycle of UNDP had it not been for the need to make provision for new funds from a fixed amount of available multilateral resources. It should also be pointed out that if new funds that were attractive to special-interest groups in donor countries were created within the United Nations system, those countries would be tempted to use them, thereby reducing the resources available to UNDP itself.

24. It was clear that the growth of regular-budget and extra-budgetary financing and loan assistance through institutions such as the International Development Association had reached the point where it was challenging the pre-eminence of UNDP in the field of multilateral technical assistance. In the light of that evolution, members must have a clear understanding of the role UNDP should play in the future, for otherwise the stability of the Programme would inevitably be affected. His delegation therefore hoped Governments would ensure that the basic structures of the United Nations system for technical co-operation would continue to contribute to fundamental goals approved by all.

25. With regard to preparation for the third programming cycle, his delegation thanked the Administrator for his note (DP/496) which contained a clear summary of the various options available for the allocation of resources and should therefore enable the Council to conclude the discussions it had begun at its twenty-sixth session. He wished to offer some preliminary observations on certain basic elements of the process of planning the next programme cycle. First, the growth rate projected for Canada's official development assistance programme was less than the 14 per cent annual growth rate proposed as the basis for the adoption of planning figures and he was very concerned lest the traditional donor countries might not be in a position to bear such a burden. Secondly, he would prefer 19 per cent of resources to be allocated to intercountry activities. Thirdly, he continued to support the allocation of 80 per cent of country IPFs to countries whose per capita GNP was less than \$500, and the proposal to apply a ceiling to countries with a per capita GNP of over \$1,500 and to reduce the minimum amount allocated to countries with a per capita GNP of over \$1,000. Countries in the middle range of the per capita GNP scale would thus benefit more fully from the over-all increase in resources. Fourthly, Canada recognized that higher-income recipient countries must not be deprived of assistance from the United Nations development system and that they should continue to receive resources under the IPF system. However, it was clear that certain countries currently enjoying net benefits from UNDP should not be doing so. His delegation was prepared to consider the third cycle as a transitional one, on the understanding that higher-income countries would move rapidly and voluntarily towards net contributor status.

26. Lastly, with regard to the establishment of regional IPFs, his delegation felt that the methods used for the current cycle should continue to be applied, with certain supplementary criteria agreed to by recipient countries.

27. Mr. MATHESON (Guyana) commended the Administrator for the clear and comprehensive manner in which he had submitted, in document DP/496, the various possibilities for the distribution of UNDP resources among country and regional programmes for the next programming cycle. He wished to reiterate his Government's position with regard to the issues raised in that document, issues which were crucial for the future of UNDP. First of all, the least developed countries should receive increased resources, but that should be done without prejudice to the universality of the Programme or to the needs of other developing countries, including island countries, land-locked countries and countries which faced special economic problems. In order to determine the allocation of resources, his Government would be in favour

of the adoption of supplementary criteria. Furthermore, even with regard to the fundamental criteria - and other delegations had already noted that point - the per capita income figures drawn from the 1979 World Bank Atlas no longer reflected the position of certain countries in 1980, and the discrepancies would be even greater in 1982, at the beginning of the next cycle. He therefore associated himself with the Administrator's recommendation that the IPFs for 1982-1986 should be recalculated on the basis of corrected data and that there should be a mid-term review of those figures.

28. With regard to the allocation of regional resources, it must not be forgotten that, within broad geographical regions, there were a number of countries which had special needs and in respect of which special arrangements should be made. In that connexion, his delegation, aware of the situation in the Caribbean subregion, had carefully studied the proposals in document DP/496 concerning the allocation of resources in that region at both the national and subregional levels. In that regard, it had very serious reservations about the proposal to discontinue the "undistributed IPF" arrangement, a proposal which had originally been made in paragraph 64 of document DP/425 and was repeated in document DP/496; under that arrangement, the small island developing countries in the subregion had been enabled in particular to undertake subregional projects aimed at overcoming the limitations imposed by their small size. The arrangement should not only be maintained but even applied elsewhere in similar situations. That comment acquired added relevance against the background of General Assembly resolutions 32/186, 33/152, 34/19, 34/118 and 34/194.

29. As to the implications of the discontinuance of the Caribbean undistributed IPF, the situation was complicated by the fact that the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Montserrat and the Turks and Caicos Islands, which had so far benefited from the undistributed IPF, were not mentioned in tables 1 and 2 of the annex to document DP/496. The reason for that omission seemed to be that their GNP data were not included in the figures provided by the World Bank for 1979; fortunately, the Administrator had indicated that the figures for those countries would soon be forthcoming. That would certainly facilitate the allocation of resources for the next cycle; in addition, it would be useful to have an early indication of the level of those resources.

30. Guyana, feeling a special responsibility with regard to the small Caribbean islands which had no voice in the Council, hoped that the Council would see fit to ensure the adoption of appropriate arrangements to take account of their special situation. In general, his delegation would co-operate fully with all members in ensuring an equitable distribution of UNDP resources during the next programming cycle.

31. Mr. GAJENTAAN (Netherlands) reaffirmed the importance which his Government attached to UNDP, which was both a unique programme for multilateral development co-operation and a universal system for technical co-operation. The current economic situation, in both the developed and developing countries, was characterized by grim features, desperate needs and great uncertainties. The Administrator had submitted to the Council a realistic analysis of the international environment in which UNDP had to operate.

32. At its current session, the Council should focus in particular on preparation for the third programming cycle. In his opinion, the two crucial principles to be applied were universality of participation in the Programme and solidarity with the poor. In accordance with the former, it was essential that all developing countries without exception should be able to receive UNDP assistance; however, it was desirable that more developing countries in a more favourable position should become net contributors and enhance their participation in cost-sharing arrangements. The second principle called for increased assistance to low-income countries. At the current session, his delegation would actively work towards a solution that would balance those two major principles.

33. The reports now before the Council should be placed in the context of the review of the operational activities for development undertaken by the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation; many aspects of that review were highly relevant to UNDP's changed role in the United Nations system. In that connexion, his delegation considered that the programming of external inputs for development should be strengthened at the country level, while the UNDP country programming process should increasingly be used as a frame of reference for the operational activities carried out and financed by other organizations in the United Nations system. During the current session, the Council should therefore hold an exchange of views on the fundamental issues raised in the report in question (which should be circulated to the members of the Council), and consider possible follow-up action within the new international development strategy for the 1980s.

34. Three general points emerged from Sir Robert Jackson's report on investment follow-up (DP/472): the significant percentage of pre-investment projects that had actually led to investment; the decline in the proportion of UNDP resources devoted to projects intended to attract investment; and the fact that country programming had fallen short of the original objectives set forth in the Capacity Study. His delegation generally supported the recommendations in the report, and suggested that a special working group of the Council should meet early in 1981 to examine the details of the report and the relevant comments made by the Administrator (DP/479), so that the Council could consider the matter at its twenty-eighth session. Commenting on Sir Robert's recommendations, he agreed that the strengthening of the role of resident representatives required a further delegation of authority at the field level, in particular in order to promote the investment orientation of projects; Sir Robert's appeal for greater flexibility in the execution of the Programme also seemed justified. He associated himself with the comments made by the representative of Norway concerning the need for closer links between UNDP and the investment institutions.

35. His delegation shared the Administrator's concern about UNDP resources. In the past, it had frequently expressed regret at the fact that UNDP was so dependent on a few donor countries. UNDP's resource base should be broadened while at the same time greater predictability should be achieved through a multi-year pledging system. Furthermore, since resources were limited, quality control and operational efficiency were of paramount importance. In that connexion, he commended the efforts of the

Administrator, and stressed the value of the relevant recommendations of the Brandt Commission concerning the need for better co-ordination of budgets, programmes and personnel policies. It was absolutely essential to improve UNDP's performance at the country level, in particular through the network of resident representatives, who should maintain a dialogue with the other organizations in the system and with Governments. It was to be hoped that the appointment of resident co-ordinators would strengthen the cohesion and effectiveness of the United Nations development system as a whole. In particular, there should be some form of participation by resident representatives in the work of the Council.

36. With regard to procurement, the activities of the Inter-Agency Procurement Services Unit were very useful, but the Administration must redouble its efforts to ensure a more even distribution of contracts among countries.

37. Lastly, in order to increase the effectiveness of the work of the Council itself, he stressed the usefulness of short sessions (one week) on specific subjects, such as that held in February on the third programming cycle; he himself had just suggested that a working group should meet briefly to study the question of investment follow-up. His delegation was open to any other suggestions that might be submitted to improve the working methods of the Council.

38. Mr. NIYIBIZI (Rwanda), referring to UNDP resources for the next programming cycle (1982-1986), considered that the annual growth rate of voluntary contributions should be maintained at not less than 14 per cent. All countries in a position to make voluntary contributions should do so in order to bring about the equity and justice which multinational co-operation should promote. As to the distribution of resources, his Government approved the fundamental criteria which had been adopted, i.e. those of GNP and population, but it also favoured the application of the supplementary criteria suggested at the Special Meeting of the Council in New York in February 1980. The application of those various criteria should enable the most disadvantaged countries to benefit from UNDP assistance in the most equitable manner possible.

39. The Government of Rwanda endorsed the new approach to the management and administration of UNDP; that approach was designed to ensure that technical assistance would effectively promote national and collective self-reliance in all fields. It also shared the just concern of UNDP about the problems which faced the developing countries in various areas: energy, transport, improved access, efforts to combat desertification, overpopulation, etc.

40. With particular regard to Africa, UNDP should, in planning its activities, take full account of the recommendations of the OAU Economic Summit Meeting of Heads of State and Government held at Lagos on 28 and 29 April 1980; these recommendations were known as the "Lagos plan of action".

41. Mr. CZARKOWSKI (Poland) stressed the importance of UNDP's activities for the economic and social progress of all countries and for the promotion of multilateral

co-operation, the surest safeguard of world peace and détente. The steady development of the Programme's activities and its many achievements during the past decade underscored the validity of the principles defined in the Consensus of 1970 as a basis for technical co-operation within the United Nations system.

42. His delegation welcomed the real growth of UNDP's operations in 1979. It had always stressed the need to concentrate on the effective implementation of field projects, and therefore welcomed the increase of more than 25 per cent in field programme expenditure in 1979 and the substantial progress in net project approvals, which had reached a record level of \$ 701 million.

43. Major steps had also been taken to improve the quality of UNDP operational activities, including the introduction of country programming and the IPF system for the allocation of Programme resources, the gradual decentralization of field operations, the introduction of country programme management plans and the system of tripartite reviews. The most important of those measures was country programming, which had enabled countries to gear UNDP-assisted technical projects to their social and economic development objectives and to make better use of available resources. Even if they were sometimes marginal in financial terms, UNDP inputs had an important impact on development because of the highly catalytic role played by technical co-operation. In that connexion he agreed with the observation made the day before by the representative of Bangladesh on the need to train counterpart personnel during project execution.

44. The question of improving the quality of technical co-operation was of particular importance when preparations for the third programming cycle were about to begin. His delegation shared the view expressed by the Administrator in his report on evaluation and related measures for improving the quality of technical co-operation (DP/448): there was a need further to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of UNDP-financed operational activities through examination and, as necessary, revision of the policies and procedures for the project cycle. That should be done with full respect for the sovereign rights of participating countries and in close collaboration with the executing agencies concerned. All phases of evaluation were important, but special attention should be paid to feedback, which would ensure that the lessons learned from the evaluation reports were applied in the identification and implementation of future UNDP-assisted projects. That was why his delegation hoped not only that the Joint Inspection Unit would be used more intensively for evaluation purposes, but also that more attention would be paid to its findings.

45. Of course, UNDP's performance in the past year had been satisfactory, but as the Administrator had noted in his report for 1979 (DP/460), implementation of the concept of the new dimensions had been too slow. A more flexible approach to project execution was required. For example, the number of projects executed by Governments still accounted for only 1.2 per cent of field-programme expenditure. One reason for the failure to apply that concept might be the complexity and cumbersomeness of certain UNDP policies and procedures, which hampered not only the participating countries, but also the partner organizations and field network. Poland's experience with the Office for Projects Execution had been very satisfactory; it felt that more projects should be executed directly by that office.

46. In order to solve the problem of resources accumulated by UNDP in national currencies, consideration might be given to conferring the execution of projects, on an experimental and step-by-step basis, to institutions in countries where those currencies were available. The Administrator, in co-operation with some specialized agencies, had taken various measures to increase the use of those currencies and progress had already been made. An FAO mission had recently visited Poland, where it had had discussions with representatives of interested enterprises and institutions with a view to increasing the procurement of equipment and services in Poland for FAO-executed projects. His delegation hoped that other specialized agencies would follow that example.

47. It was for Governments to distribute UNDP resources among the different sectors of national economies in accordance with their development priorities. Where resources allocated to regional, interregional and global programmes were concerned, the greater collective involvement of Governments in the setting of priorities was necessary. Since the General Assembly would shortly be holding a special session on the new international economic order, his delegation considered that some additional studies should be undertaken to establish whether UNDP's work in multilateral technical co-operation was in accordance with the guidelines of the new international strategy. UNDP certainly had a major role to play in that area.

48. The Council had already begun to discuss the question of criteria to be applied to the distribution of IPFs for the third programming cycle. Most delegations had reaffirmed their attachment to the basic principles outlined in the 1970 Consensus, the first being the universal and voluntary nature of the Programme.

49. His delegation favoured the idea of allocating a greater share of resources to the least developed countries. That should be done by gradually changing the proportions of the amounts allocated to those countries as the global resources of UNDP increased, and not by abruptly cutting off some recipients at the middle or upper levels of per capita income, a course which would jeopardize the development chances of many countries. The disadvantages of a cut-off point were obvious. The work of UNDP should be extended rather than limited, and the principle of universality in all Programme activities should continue to be respected.

50. Efforts should be concentrated on the further improvement of the quality of technical-assistance programmes and finding new forms of multilateral technical co-operation. At the twenty-sixth session of the Council, his delegation had proposed more detailed consideration of the concept of "twinning arrangements" as proposed by the Administrator. It held the view that the twinning of the technical-assistance programmes of the more advanced countries and the competent institutions and technical assistance projects in the least advanced countries could yield fruitful results. His country was ready to participate in that form of co-operation, which could be financed partly from IPFs allocated to the more advanced countries. That system of multilateral technical co-operation would constitute a practical step towards implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries and at the same time would enable a number of interested countries voluntarily to forego part of their IPFs, without thereby limiting their participation in multilateral technical co-operation within the United Nations system. That could also be a way to improve

the quality and effectiveness of UNDP operations and to stimulate the exchange of accumulated experience and skill for the benefit of the low-income countries. The training of national personnel in those countries, which was just as important for development as the establishment of the economic infrastructure, could also be organized under twinning arrangements, and Poland would be most willing to share its experience in that field with interested developing countries.

51. His delegation considered that the proliferation of funds and technical-assistance programmes in the various specialized agencies in the United Nations system jeopardized the future development of UNDP activities. It continued to hold the view that multilateral technical-co-operation activities within the United Nations system should be financed through UNDP voluntary funds. That had also been the view of most delegations participating in the discussion on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system. The proliferation of funds and programmes led not to an increase in technical assistance inputs but rather to a waste of resources. It was not a question of proposing that UNDP should be the one and only fund, which would be equally harmful. His delegation was not opposed to the expansion of technical co-operation within the United Nations system, but such expansion should be based on sound budgetary and financial practices and be consistent with the existing regulations. As the representatives of Norway and Canada had stated, UNDP should be the major instrument for technical co-operation within the United Nations system.

52. Another area in which improvements were possible was that of co-operation between UNDP and the executing agencies in their everyday operations, and particularly in the preparation and execution of country, intercountry, regional and global projects. Such co-operation should be geared to the implementation of global and national development objectives. Greater attention should be focused on intercountry and regional projects. In such sectors as transport, energy or environmental protection, neighbouring countries faced the same problems and his delegation was convinced that they would increasingly tend to make joint efforts to find optimum solutions.

53. Poland's experience in that area had been very successful. It had participated with nine other countries in the UNDP/ECE Trans-European North-South Motorway Project. That joint venture involving countries with different social and political systems and different levels of development was helping solve some of Europe's transport problems and was also of importance to the neighbouring countries in the Middle East. That type of co-operative project should be encouraged in Europe and be financed with the participation of UNDP regional funds. Developing countries with similar problems should be given an opportunity to benefit, perhaps under twinning arrangements, from the experience acquired during the execution of those projects.

The meeting rose at 12.20 p.m.