



GOVERNING COUNCIL

Twenty-seventh session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 637th MEETING

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President:

Mr. POPESCU

(Romania)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (agenda item 4) (continued)

(b) EVALUATION (DP/456) (continued)

1. Mr. AHLANDER (Observer for Sweden) said that the report on evaluation of the global programme prepared by Dr. King (DP/456) stressed the link between research conducted internationally and its application at national level. Such research should be reinforced to make global programmes more relevant to individual countries. National research institutions in developing countries should be strengthened, even though that might not give immediate and tangible results; there was often a conflict between support for high-yielding projects of immediate impact and support for research and development over a long period. That was an aspect which should have been stressed in the report.

2. The global programme should devote more attention to the involvement of researchers from the developing countries, their training, the possibility of a brain-drain and, in general, all the problems attendant on fostering research institutions in developing countries.

3. He did not think that industrialization was a suitable subject for global research by UNDP. Industrialization necessarily involved social and other problems which placed it in a different category from such matters as health, agriculture and energy in which UNDP efforts were usually deployed. That seemed indeed to be the view expressed in paragraphs 69-83 of the report, though those paragraphs also seemed to advocate industry as a subject for further research. He did not agree with that view; the organization of such research was a matter for UNIDO and UNCTAD and until there had been some formal evaluation of their action in that respect, it would be premature for UNDP to venture into the field.

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

(b) PROGRAMME PLANNING (continued)

- (i) EXAMINATION OF THE EXPERIENCE WITH COUNTRY PROGRAMMING (DP/454 and Corr.1 and 2)
- (ii) REVIEW OF PRESENT PRACTICES AND PROPOSALS FOR ENHANCING THE COLLECTIVE INVOLVEMENT OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN THE DETERMINATION OF PRIORITIES FOR INTERCOUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND IN THE IDENTIFICATION AND INITIATION OF REGIONAL PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES (DP/435)
- (iii) CRITERIA FOR UNDP'S RESPONSE TO NATURAL DISASTERS (DP/432)
- (iv) ASSISTANCE TO NICARAGUA

4. Mr. TRAMAEUS (Observer for Sweden) said that the advent of country programming had brought coherence and stability to UNDP's work, and had created the basis for the relationship between the developing countries and the United Nations development system, and between UNDP as the financing agency and the executing organizations; it was precisely in those areas that further adjustments were called for.

5. The Administrator's report (DP/454) was based on a sample broad enough to ensure that its conclusions were applicable to the programme as a whole, though in some instances it seemed insubstantial where it should have been specific, or

advocated action beyond what seemed warranted by the substance of the report. Nevertheless, the Swedish delegation would support many of the recommendations.

6. UNDP country programming in the 1970's had been founded on the consensus and subsequently modified by such concepts as "new dimensions" and continuous programming. The report failed to deal adequately with "new dimensions" and the concept of government execution of projects, and that deficiency seemed to indicate that, in practice, the concept had been applied only on a modest scale. Many aspects of country programming had not been implemented, though that might be due to UNDP's basic problem of limited resources.

7. Referring to paragraphs 8 and 9 of the report, he observed that Sweden, together with the other Nordic countries, supported UNDP partly at least in the belief that the Programme and the United Nations technical co-operation system as a whole made a unique contribution to meeting national development needs. The Programme had access to world-wide resources and to the specialized knowledge of the agencies, while the system was of unquestioned neutrality and could meet a broad range of needs, though in doing so it might risk dissipating its resources. On the debit side, the report noted cumbersome administrative procedures and slow delivery.

8. He supported most of the recommendations in section VI of the report, including that for the more consistent application of continuous programming, though in that connexion a special effort would be needed to avoid delays in project formulation and implementation. He noted that in paragraph 97 the Administrator stressed the need to eschew bureaucracy in favour of simplicity; that might call for some inventiveness.

9. He agreed with the Administrator's enumeration in paragraph 98 of the distinctive features of country programming, but was surprised at the lack of any reference to the desirability of country programmes reflecting global priorities. That could be done without infringing Governments' prerogatives in project formulation, since the global priorities originated mainly with the developing countries themselves.

10. He endorsed the Administrator's recommendation in paragraph 101 of the report that an attempt should be made to marshal additional resources for the country programming process from all donors.

11. The reference in paragraph 2 of the draft decision (section VII) to the recommendations in paragraphs 100-105 of the report suggested that the Administrator felt those recommendations to be of major significance for the operational activities of the United Nations system in the coming decade. The country programming process would lend greater impact to those activities. It would seem appropriate to refer in paragraph 2 of the draft decision not only to the report itself but also to the views expressed by the Governing Council in discussing that document.

12. Mr. MUNTASSER (Observer, Organization of African Unity) said that he hoped the valuable work of UNDP in assisting African countries would be continued during the third development decade.

13. At the meeting of African Heads of State and Government at Lagos in April 1980 a number of priority tasks had been defined with a view to arresting the economic decline currently affecting the whole of Africa, and he trusted that UNDP and the agencies would assist in those tasks. That meeting had recommended the establishment of national, regional and subregional institutions to increase the self-reliance of African States by developing their human resources, eliminating illiteracy, and establishing scientific and technical services for development. The priorities also included the promotion of African self-reliance in food supplies, transport and communications, and regional industrial development. There was a need for co-operation in the extraction of natural resources for the benefit of Africa, and for the development of African resources of manpower. Food production in Africa should be co-ordinated so as to achieve self-sufficiency and to overcome such obstacles as desertification, erratic rainfall, lack of fertilizers, and insect pests and disease.
14. The countries of Africa appreciated the aid they had received from UNDP in the past, but much remained to be done during the third development decade in the matter, for example, of food storage and preservation, and the improvement of transport and communications by the construction of roads, railways and bridges.
15. In industry, it was the ambition of the African States to achieve a 2 per cent share of world industrial production by the year 2000. They had every reason to believe that such a target was attainable.
16. External aid, both multilateral and from specific donors, would be needed to achieve the objectives he had enumerated. Twenty of the countries of Africa were classed among the least developed, and most of those were also land-locked, which greatly retarded the distribution of external aid, while basic social and educational services were virtually non-existent. Much had been done by donor organizations to remedy the deficiencies, but again, much more remained to be done.
17. Many African problems were inherited from colonialism. For example, long-distance communications had been designed to serve the requirements of colonial Powers rather than of the African States themselves. Decolonization, the latest example being Zimbabwe, was one of Africa's proudest achievements.
18. Mr. MARTIN (Canada) said that country programming had contributed to the effective use of UNDP resources, but the process might be improved in several respects. For example, seven of the ten programmes being considered for approval at the current session ended in 1981, so that the Council was virtually being asked to approve country programmes covering activities that had already largely been finalized. There would be merit in adopting a system which would harmonize country programming with the UNDP replenishment cycle.
19. He was also concerned about the function of the country programming document. He believed that, together with the IPF, it was a cornerstone of the effective implementation of UNDP's mandate and should therefore be used as the basis for appraising the extent to which a particular country programme had achieved its objectives.
20. He fully supported the recommendations made by the Administrator in document DP/454 for country programming for the third cycle, particularly the concept of planning for fiscal periods in accordance with national requirements and the

emphasis on continuous country programming, which created the basis for effective collaboration between resident representatives, Governments and agencies and therefore gave some guarantee that sectors agreed to be of global importance were not ignored.

21. He fully supported the new consultative process for intra-country and regional programmes, recommended by the Administrator in document DP/435.

22. With reference to the criteria for UNDP's response to natural disasters, he was in favour of increasing from \$20,000 to \$30,000 the maximum amount that could be allocated from the Programme Reserve for immediate relief in any single disaster, as proposed in paragraph 20 of document DP/432. The exact amount should be within the discretion of the resident representative. As regards longer-term assistance, he considered that the sum of \$2 million per year and per country was somewhat on the high side and if that figure was adopted, the Administrator might find himself under increasing pressure to draw on the Programme Reserve. Funds approved for longer-term aid should be used strictly for technical activities designed to benefit the population in the stricken area, and amounts approved by the Administrator under that head should be reported to the Budget and Finance Committee.

23. With regard to the problem of assistance to Nicaragua, he sympathized with that country's problems and would give full consideration to a request for additional assistance, in the light of available resources and programme implications, when the matter came before the Budget and Finance Committee.

24. Mr. HARE (New Zealand), speaking also on behalf of the delegation of Fiji, stressed the importance the two delegations attached to the central role of UNDP as co-ordinator of United Nations technical co-operation. In that respect, there was a need for greater co-ordination between UNDP, the agencies and Governments at all levels, and for resident representatives to play a key role in the country programming process. High-calibre staff were therefore essential for such posts.

25. He supported the Administrator's proposals for continuous country programming based on objectives rather than inputs, because of the flexibility afforded to recipient countries and because the procedure enabled General Assembly and Governing Council decisions to be reflected in programming. The proposals in paragraph 98 of the Administrator's report (DP/454) seemed to embody a sensible approach to country programming for the third cycle and should provide a useful vehicle for follow-up in such matters as pre-investment. He stressed the importance in that connexion of keeping bureaucratic requirements to a minimum.

26. The consultation process outlined in paragraph 9 (e) of the Administrator's review of present practices (DP/435) had been successfully applied in the UNDP/ESCAP consultations during 1978, thereby demonstrating the merits of the Administrator's proposals, which he supported. UNDP was currently seeking the views of Governments on priorities for 1982-1986. He could support the proposal made by the Netherlands representative at the 685th meeting that the regional commissions should be joint convenors with UNDP of the meetings referred to in that paragraph, but hoped that, in view of distances in the Pacific region, such meetings would be convened only in association with other regional meetings.

27. He was in principle attracted by the suggestion made by the United Kingdom representative regarding the submission of country programme mid-term reviews to the Council. If there was general agreement on such a procedure, the Administrator might suggest how those reviews could be submitted for the next session.
28. Both delegations supported the criteria for UNDP response to natural disasters, as set out in the report by the Administrator (DP/432).
29. Mr. SCHLÄPFER (Switzerland) expressed his delegation's agreement with the draft decision in paragraph 103 of document DP/454. The proposal relating to continuous planning was of particular importance. It was easier for the Council to form an opinion on a set of general, long-term objectives for the national programme than on a more detailed presentation, too closely related to specific projects. However, the operational flexibility necessary to respect the various planning concepts of recipient countries must be maintained. That flexibility would also naturally apply to the periodic programme reviews recommended in paragraph 98(f). The increased importance of the resident representatives role in that continuous planning should be borne in mind when discussing their functions and responsibilities.
30. His delegation fully approved the basic ideas in paragraph 98(d) regarding the role of United Nations agencies in the country programming process. It was essential that those agencies should be involved, not only at the time of the formal planning of the five-year programme but in a continuous way through regular, direct contacts with the competent authorities of the country concerned. It was also indispensable that resident representatives should at least be kept constantly informed of agency activities, which was unfortunately not always the case.
31. His delegation considered it particularly important that any Council recommendation directly affecting the operational aspects of the Programme should be drafted in such a way that it could be translated into directives that were practical and easy to apply, so that the resident representatives' offices had an effective tool for their planning and co-ordination work.
32. The Swiss Government had already expressed its sympathy with the difficult situation of the people of Nicaragua in a practical way through bilateral aid for the reconstruction of the country and would continue to provide such aid.
33. Mr. CHOWDHURY (Bangladesh) said that his delegation could, in general, endorse the findings and recommendations in the Administrator's report (DP/454), especially the reiteration of the principle underlying the 1970 consensus, namely, that Governments themselves had the sovereign responsibility for identifying the role of programme inputs in specified areas within their development programmes. His country had had a very useful exchange of views with the Joint UNDP/Agency Mission in Dacca in October 1979 on its experience with country programming with a view to the realistic framing of the third country programme.
34. Continuous programming was of paramount importance. In view of the scarcity of resources in relation to needs, national priorities were subject to change. It would be justifiable to allow some deliberate over-programming so that the country programme could still be used as the frame for objective programming even if priorities changed. All the relevant agencies must be involved with the UNDP resident representative, in the process of formulating the country programme. That

had been done in the case of the third country programme for Bangladesh. The Government and UNDP had consequently been able to make some useful adjustments to harmonize that programme with the country's second five-year plan.

35. With regard to agenda item 5 (b)(ii), his delegation welcomed the improvements suggested in document DP/435 but considered that there was still room for further improvement. The failure of intercountry programming to make much headway in certain countries was due to the fact that the process had not been made an integral part of the planning process of those countries. Only when the developing countries were much more fully involved not only in determining priorities but also in identifying projects would they be able to co-ordinate their national priorities with intercountry programming activities. The recent trend towards involving Governments in framing and handling intercountry programmes instead of relying on the regional commissions augured well for the future. In the past, some intercountry and interregional projects had not come to the notice of many national Governments until the time of their execution. Since government decisions on participation in such projects had to be made in the light of their own planning priorities, it was important that the projects should be actively sponsored by Governments at the embryonic stage or should at least be brought to their immediate attention if they had originated elsewhere. It might be advisable for such projects to be endorsed by more than two countries before they were sent to UNDP headquarters for approval. Bangladesh would like to sponsor a number of intercountry projects in the near future. It was also hosting a conference of the least developed countries of the Asia and Pacific region in November 1980 with a view to identifying priorities and projects of an intercountry and interregional nature in those countries.

36. His delegation also wished to associate itself with the steps proposed for helping Nicaragua out of its present economic difficulties.

37. Mr. WANG Zichuan (China) said he wished to reaffirm his delegation's position on assistance to Nicaragua, as expressed at the Council's Special Meeting in February 1980. The Chinese people had the deepest sympathy with the present plight of the Nicaraguan people and hoped that the Council would give positive consideration to suggestions for implementing General Assembly resolution 34/8 at the current session.

38. Mr. ENOKI (Japan) said that his delegation had noted the information in the Administrator's report on country programming (DP/454) concerning the enhanced role of the resident representatives in co-ordinating the sectoral or intersectoral activities of the whole United Nations system and integrating them in country programming. His delegation was still concerned at the inadequate agency participation in the country programming process, to which attention had already been drawn in a report of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU/REP/76/10). His delegation therefore sincerely hoped that the report under consideration would lead to better co-operation between UNDP and the agencies with a view to more effective use of total UNDP financing and the United Nations budget.

39. The Japanese delegation supported the recommendations made in document DP/435. Multinational and regional programmes could often have a multiplier effect on the development of several developing countries and lead to large-scale investment. He therefore welcomed the efforts being made by the Administration to find a better method of formulating such programmes and budgets with the participation of the recipient countries, United Nations agencies and the regional commissions.

40. The Administrator's recommendations concerning criteria for UNDP's response to natural disasters (DP/432) seemed in general reasonable and acceptable. His delegation was, however, concerned at the proposed limit of \$1 million per disaster. The Council had approved assistance amounting to \$1,350,000 in the case of the earthquake in Yugoslavia in 1979. He would therefore like to know, firstly, whether the Administration regarded the limit of \$1 million as realistic for most disasters, and secondly, whether the recommendations in paragraph 21 (b) of the document were to be strictly applied or whether some flexibility was permissible.

41. His Government was deeply concerned at the current situation in Nicaragua. The most recent figures for per capita income must be used for calculating that country's IPF for the third cycle, and account must be taken of the fact that that income had fallen from \$830 in 1978 to \$590 in 1979. Consideration must be given to the possibility of financing projects in Nicaragua from the Programme Reserve, if the IPF allocated to Nicaragua proved inadequate for rapid project execution. It might be appropriate to give Nicaragua the privileged position of a least developed country during the third cycle until its economic situation recovered.

42. Miss NEWBY (United Kingdom) said that since her delegation had already commented on the other subheadings of the item under discussion, it would confine its remarks to the Administrator's report on the criteria for UNDP response to natural disasters (DP/432). The United Kingdom delegation accepted that UNDP should play a part in the provision of disaster relief and disaster-related assistance but would like those activities to be financed from the IPF of the country concerned. It also endorsed the statement in paragraph 10 of the document that any special disaster assistance which could not be met from the country's IPF and was to be financed from the Programme Reserve should be restricted to technical assistance activities. The figure of \$2 million per country per year for longer-term disaster-related assistance appeared rather high in view of the many other calls on the Programme Reserve. The document did not, for example, consider the likelihood of assistance being provided by other sources within the international community. Her delegation would therefore like confirmation that the sum of \$2 million would be an over-all maximum and would include the sum of \$30,000 which might already have been used for immediate disaster relief.

43. Her delegation agreed with the representative of the Netherlands that any disaster-related assistance provided by UNDP should be concerned with natural disasters as described in paragraph 8 of the document.

44. Mr. CZARKOWSKI (Poland) welcomed the attention paid by the UNDP secretariat to programme implementation, which should be kept under constant review by the Council. It was relatively easier to set up programmes and formulate projects than to implement them. For a number of reasons, implementation often lagged behind programming. The success of social and economic development depended on effective implementation of all components of the process, including technical assistance, which had an important catalytic effect. The effectiveness of the technical assistance contribution to a country's over-all economic and social development could therefore be measured only in terms of the implementation of objectives outlined in programmes and project documents.

45. His delegation welcomed the proposals made in document DP/454 for improving the quality, efficiency and effectiveness of UNDP-financed operational activities. It also agreed on the need for further improvement of procedures for efficient

programming. In particular, evaluation should be a continuing process covering all phases of programme or project implementation, including the follow-up period. Feed-back was of vital importance, and there should be a built-in mechanism for automatic incorporation of the evaluation findings and recommendations in the implementation of programmes and projects. It was equally important that the feed-back process should ensure that the lessons learned from evaluation studies were applied in the identification of future projects. The system of tripartite reviews should also be improved and ensure that all those participating in the implementation of projects should be actively involved and that their accumulated experience was broadly utilized.

46. The distribution of responsibility for programme or individual project implementation among Governments, national institutions, executing agencies, UNDP resident representatives, project managers and field experts did not always allow for an objective evaluation and identification of the real sources of difficulties in achieving immediate or long-term aims. The final responsibility for the success of multilateral and particularly of bilateral technical assistance projects should lie with the recipient Government, and his delegation was ready to continue active participation in discussions in the Council on that important issue.

47. The Polish delegation shared the view that the country programming system could be used not only in UNDP projects but by other components of the United Nations system. Against that general background, his delegation was ready to support the recommendations in paragraphs 91 - 102 of the document, which would contribute towards the establishment of a new international economic order.

48. His delegation could support the Administrator's recommendations on disaster relief (DP/432, para. 21) and wished to emphasize the value of UNDP involvement in longer-term disaster-related assistance, as indicated in paragraph 9.

OTHER FUNDS AND PROGRAMMES (agenda item 7)

(f) ASSISTANCE TO DROUGHT-STRICKEN COUNTRIES IN AFRICA AND FOLLOW-UP TO THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON DESERTIFICATION

(i) UNITED NATIONS SUDANO-SAHELIAN OFFICE

(a) IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MEDIUM-TERM AND LONG-TERM RECOVERY AND REHABILITATION PROGRAMME IN THE SUDANO-SAHELIAN REGION (DP/486)

(b) IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN OF ACTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION IN THE SUDANO-SAHELIAN REGION (DP/455, 494)

(ii) ASSISTANCE TO THE DROUGHT-STRICKEN COUNTRIES IN AFRICA (DP/450)

49. Mr. DOO KINGUE (Assistant Administrator and Regional Director for Africa), introducing document DP/450, said that, since the preparation of that document, the drought situation had unfortunately persisted in the Sahelian countries as well as in Ethiopia and Somalia. In other parts of the continent, the situation was even worse than was reported in the document. Angola, Djibouti, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda and Zimbabwe, which had not been mentioned in the document, were now also suffering from drought, though not in every case as seriously as the Sahelian countries, Ethiopia and Somalia.

50. Where the Sahelian countries were concerned, Cape Verde was facing a severe drought, affecting all crops. An FAO/WFP mission in November 1979 had recommended that emergency food aid consisting of 48,300 tons of grain and 4,500 tons of milk and edible oil should be provided to that country in 1980 and that annual food aid consisting of 25,000 tons of maize and 4,000 tons of beans should be provided for a period of 5 years to meet the existing food deficit. By the end of April, only half of the required quantity of maize had been pledged, mainly by the European Economic Community (EEC), France, the Netherlands, the United States and WFP.

51. In Chad the levels of the Chari and Logone rivers were far below normal, and Lake Chad itself was drying up, particularly in the Niger and Chad areas. The combination of drought and war had created a serious food deficit, estimated by an FAO mission in February 1980 at 80,000 tons, of which 25,000 tons could have been covered by donations from the United States, France, EEC and WFP if the local situation had made it possible for those donors to deliver their assistance.

52. An up-dated report on the Gambia had not been received and it could therefore be assumed that the situation was more or less as described in document DP/450.

53. The situation in Mali had been accurately described in that document. The FAO mission at the beginning of 1980 had recommended that 40,000 tons of grain should be provided for the three worst affected regions; 10,000 tons of grain for the remaining parts of the country; and 15,000 tons of grain for food security. By the end of May 1980 none of those items had yet been provided to the Government. However, the Director-General of FAO had just informed the Government of his decision approving the allocation of 4,000 tons of wheat and 3,200 tons of maize to cover some of the food requirements in the three worst affected regions.

54. With regard to Mauritania and Niger, no additional information had been received and it was therefore assumed that the situation was more or less as described in document DP/450.

55. The latest information on Senegal indicated that about one million people were affected by the drought in several districts. As a result of the drought, the planted area in the Senegal river valley was 90 per cent smaller than average. The 1980 food deficit was currently estimated at 118,000 metric tons of cereals. It was also expected that the shortfall in cash crops might be as much as 40 per cent, at a time when Senegal was faced with an oil import bill equal to half its export earnings. An FAO/WFP evaluation mission in April 1980 had recommended that the Government should request the following supplies from all potential food aid donors: 45,600 metric tons of grain for free distribution; 40,000 metric tons of grain for local sale, the proceeds to be used for financing the transport of part of the food aid; 5,650 metric tons of dried skim milk and 7,500 metric tons of butter and edible oil for free distribution; financial aid for the transport of 28,000 metric tons of millet left over from 1978/1979 crop; and cattle feed worth 1.5 billion francs CFA (about \$7 million).

56. Donors had already offered a total of 37,154 metric tons of various cereals. They included Argentina (2,854 metric tons), Canada (5,000 metric tons), EEC (11,000 metric tons), Federal Republic of Germany (2,000 metric tons), France (5,000 metric tons), the Netherlands (3,500 metric tons) and WFP (7,800 metric tons). Since Senegal had also received in 1980 5,000 metric tons of rice from Japan and 6,200 metric tons of rice, maize meal and dried skim milk from EEC originally intended to provide relief in the 1979 drought, the present shortfall in food aid was approximately 70,000 metric tons of grain. A local donor meeting to review the situation was to be held shortly under the chairmanship of the UNDP resident representative, who had been entrusted by the Government with the responsibility for co-ordinating donors' assistance to Senegal on drought-related matters.

57. With reference to Upper Volta, the country's agricultural situation following the 1979/1980 harvest had been evaluated by a joint FAO/WFP mission earlier in the year. The mission had concluded that the overall deficit of cereals for consumption was 18,100 tons and that there was an urgent need for 30,000 tons of cereals to reconstitute food security stocks. The mission had further recommended additional financial assistance to the Office national des céréales (National Cereals Board) for its local purchases programme.

58. Following the recommendations of the FAO/WFP mission, the Government of Upper Volta had sent requests to various donors early in May 1980. Two thousand tons of rice and 1,500 tons of wheat flour had been requested from the Federal Republic of Germany, 2,500 tons of white sorghum and 5,000 tons of corn meal as well as financial assistance from the Netherlands, and 6,000 tons of wheat flour in instalments of 2,000 tons a year from Canada. At the beginning of 1980, USAID had signed with the Government an agreement committing the United States to providing assistance over a three-year period to the Office national des céréales, including the provision of 12,000 tons of sorghum a year.

59. With regard to the situation in Ethiopia, Somalia and other eastern and southern African countries mentioned in document DP/450, in May 1980 the Ethiopian Government had requested assistance for the country's drought-affected populations. Nine of the 14 administrative regions were hit by drought but the situation was particularly serious in Eritrea, Tigray, Wollo, Haraghe, Bale, Sidamo and Gamo Gofa. In all, 5.1 million people were reported to be at risk, of whom 1.8 million had been displaced by the war. The country's own food resources being insufficient to meet all its needs, the Government had had no option but to request foreign aid. The Government's food aid requirements up to the end of 1980 totalled 411,622 tons, of which 102,840 could be met by the Government. In addition, the Government was requesting clothing, canvasses and tents, water tankers, vehicles, motor boats, drugs and medical facilities.

60. The Government had received 50,000 birr (approximately \$20,000-25,000 from USAID for medical supplies for the Gamo Gofa area; 200,000 birr from Norway for assistance to drought victims in Gamo Gofa; 4 million birr from the Netherlands for a soil rehabilitation project in Wollo, and 4 million kronor from Sweden for food aid through WFP. A multi-donor mission organized by UNDRP, comprising representatives from France, Sweden, the United States, EEC, Caritas,

WFP, FAO, WHO, UNICEF, UNHCR and UNDR0 had arrived in Ethiopia towards the end of May 1980 and had probably now completed its work. It was expected that, on the basis of the mission's recommendations, the United Nations agencies involved would make appeals for assistance.

61. As regards Somalia, an FAO/WFO evaluation mission had been sent to the country in March 1980 to assess the emergency assistance needs resulting from the 1979 drought and the related influx of refugees. As a result of the mission's findings, the Director-General of FAO had cabled an appeal to major donors for increased food aid contributions to meet the total food deficit in 1980, estimated at 94,000 metric tons. The Director-General of FAO had also appealed for complementary budgetary support for urgent food purchases and for the creation of a cereal buffer stock of 50,000 metric tons for the country's early requirements in 1981.

62. The donors' response had by and large been favourable. However, by the end of May there was still a shortfall of about 5,000 metric tons of maize and sorghum, 7,000 metric tons of rice, 4,500 metric tons of vegetable oil, 3,200 metric tons of dry skim milk, 6,000 metric tons of sugar and dates, 700 metric tons of tea and 4,850 metric tons of meat. Furthermore, no pledges had yet been received for 1981 requirements and no shipments had been announced after October 1980.

63. The situation regarding the other countries described in document DP/450 had largely improved, except in the case of Guinea, Madagascar and Mozambique.

64. In Guinea there had been two developments, of which only one was drought-related. The first had been an invasion of caterpillars that had destroyed 38,000 hectares of crops. The second had been flooding in Upper Guinea that had affected 25,000 hectares or two-thirds of the cultivated areas. As a result of those two developments, grain production in the Kankan area had dropped by one-third. It was estimated that a quarter of the country's population was affected.

65. In Madagascar the drought had been particularly severe since January 1980, and in the worst affected areas rainfall had been only 34 to 52 per cent of normal. Since the drought was affecting the main cotton and groundnut producing areas, the economy of the country would suffer seriously as a result. The Government was examining the consequences of the drought in relation to food requirements and might request foreign aid to meet the shortages.

66. The drought in Mozambique had hit the provinces of Manica, Sofala, and Tete in particular. The new estimates of assistance required included 223,000 tons of maize and 60,000 tons of rice. The assistance already pledged covered only 25 per cent of the maize, 65 per cent of the wheat and 60 per cent of the rice.

67. Of the countries not mentioned in document DP/450, Uganda's situation was the most tragic. The drought there was affecting the entire north-eastern region with a population of over 550,000; more than 160,000 people were simply starving to death in Karamoja, where the death rate was conservatively estimated at over 200 people per day. It was, however, hoped that the situation would soon improve as a result of airlifted food assistance. By the end of May 1980,

Uganda's food aid needs were for 20,000 tons of cereals, of which 17,500 tons had been pledged; 3,300 tons of pulses, for which no pledges had yet been made; 2,000 tons of dried skim milk, of which 1,200 tons had been pledged; 2,000 tons of vegetable oil, of which only half had been pledged; 680 tons of sugar for which no pledge had yet been made; and 680 tons of salt for which no pledge had yet been made. The Ugandan situation was made even more critical by the aftermath of the 1979 war, and he appealed to all donor countries and organizations to give generous help to the Government in its efforts to alleviate the sufferings of its drought-stricken people.

68. With respect to the other drought-stricken countries, UNDP had just been informed that drought was causing widespread famine in the three southern provinces of Angola. Several thousand cattle were dying and the people were suffering from serious malnutrition. The Government estimated that the sum of \$2 million would be required over the next three years for water pumps and water trucks. There had been no indication of the food assistance required.

69. In Djibouti, because of the failure of the rains in two consecutive years, many people had lost twenty to forty per cent of their livestock, and twenty thousand nomads would have to be assisted in ad hoc camps during the next six months. The Executive Director of WFP had approved aid amounting to \$1.4 million for six months for rice and vegetable oil. Other donations from Governments and non-governmental organizations included 2,000 tons of sorghum and 1,600 tents. The food assistance still urgently required included 2,000 tons of rice; 2,000 tons of sorghum; 1,000 tons of milk; 500 tons of edible oil, 300 tons of sugar, 100 tons of sardines, 100 tons of tomato paste, 30 tons of tea and 20 tons of salt. Twenty-five trucks for water and food distribution were also needed as well as blankets, tents, kitchen utensils and clothing. In addition funds were needed for health dispensaries and for the storage, transport and handling of emergency assistance.

70. In Kenya, the acute drought of 1979-1980 had affected arid and semi-arid areas and caused famine. Crop production areas had also suffered from lack of rain. Drought had greatly contributed to widespread shortages of food, especially maize, wheat, rice, milk and dairy products. The milk and dairy situation was now under control. However, it was estimated by the Kenyan Government that there would be a deficit of about 400,000 metric tons of maize and 150,000 metric tons of wheat in 1980, and the Government would appreciate urgent assistance from donors in meeting that deficit. The Government was purchasing 130,000 tons of maize but did not have the necessary foreign exchange to import the other 270,000 metric tons of maize still needed. It was also receiving 40,000 metric tons of wheat from the United States, leaving a deficit of 110,000 metric tons.

71. Lesotho was facing a serious risk of water shortage during the next six months as a result of an unusually severe drought and above average temperatures during the country's summer months. The Government estimated that the drought would cause a 40 per cent drop in food production but had not yet determined the assistance needed to cover the food deficit.

72. The southern region of Malawi had been seriously affected by the drought, while the central and northern regions were only slightly affected. It was estimated that the maize harvest had been reduced by 16 per cent, or 200,000 tons, and that up to 120,000 tons of maize were now being imported commercially. In addition, the Government was requesting 80,000 tons of maize from the United States.

73. Tanzania had also been hit by the drought. In the areas where the rainfall pattern normally provided for two growing seasons, the short rainy season had brought late rains, insufficient and uneven distribution of rainfall, and the main crop, maize, had failed in most of those areas. The long rainy season had been late in the same areas and would probably not be long enough to allow a reasonable development of long rain crops. In the regions with one growing season, crops had been affected by a dry spell in February 1980. The harvest prospects for almost all cereals were extremely poor and the country would have to import an estimated 325,000 tons, which would be difficult because of its precarious foreign exchange situation. The Government was therefore preparing appropriate requests to donor agencies. WFP had been approached for emergency food aid consisting of 11,000 tons of maize and wheat.

74. Tunisia had also suffered from the drought in 1980. Cereal crops and annual fodder crops in central and south Tunisia had almost completely failed. It was estimated that in other zones, production would be 30 to 50 per cent below normal. Consequently, Tunisia would have to import 1.2 million tons of cereals during the 1979-1980 crop year as against 817,000 tons in 1978-1979 and one million tons in 1980-1981. The Government had already requested emergency assistance from WFP, EEC, Canada and the United States. To date, it had received 10,300 tons of wheat and 5,100 tons of barley from WFP.

75. Zimbabwe also seemed to have been hit by the drought recently but it was difficult to ascertain to what extent because of other factors that might explain the drop in agricultural production, estimated at some 30 per cent.

76. The situation was therefore a matter of serious concern. The African continent seemed to be facing almost permanent ecological problems, calling for massive emergency assistance and rehabilitation programmes as well as for more ambitious investment plans for water control and harnessing in order to minimize the impact of future droughts. It was therefore important that more donor countries should join UNDP in its efforts for the development of Africa's river and lake basins. He also hoped that the regional activities UNDP intended to launch in 1982-1986 for the protection of the African environment and for action against desertification in Africa would be actively and generously supported by other donors.

77. Meanwhile, he sincerely hoped that the international community would be moved by the situations he had just described. Document DP/450 and his oral report would achieve their major purpose if, as a result of the information they provided, the drought-affected countries received appropriate assistance that would help to minimize their problems.

The meeting rose at 5.05 p.m.