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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 693rd MEETING

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President: Mr. POPESCU (Romania)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.25.p.m.

AWARD OF THE KING BAUDOUIN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PRIZE

1. Mrs. VERVALCKE (Belgium) said she had pleasure in announcing that the board of management of the King Baudouin Foundation had just awarded the King Baudouin International Development Prize, 1980, jointly to Professor Paulo Freire of Brazil and the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). The prize was awarded to persons or bodies of any nationality for an important contribution to the development of the third world as well as to solidarity and good relations between the industrialized and the developing countries, and between the peoples of those countries. Particular importance was attached to activities with possible multiplier effects and to those which enabled the peoples of the third world to assume responsibility for their own development. The Prize amounted to three million Belgian francs (some \$100,000) and would be divided equally between the two prize-winners. It would be presented in the presence of King Baudouin at the Royal Palace in Brussels on 15 November 1980. The awarding of the Prize was the first international activity of the King Baudouin Foundation which, since its inception in 1976, had carried out its principal activities in Belgium.
2. Mr. MORSE (Administrator) said he welcomed the award of the Prize by His Majesty, King Baudouin, with great pride because it was a well-deserved tribute to an imaginative and brilliantly executed concept, which had benefited hundreds of millions of people in developing countries in every part of the world.
3. When the Consultative Group had been founded in 1971 under the sponsorship of UNDP, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the seed was to flower like few others in the history of development efforts. The award of the prize was above all a tribute to the men in whose minds that seed had germinated - in particular, the late Mr. Paul Hoffman, UNDP's first Administrator, Mr. McNamara of IBRD, and Mr. Boerma, the then Director-General of FAO. The seed had since been nourished by the many scientists and technicians who ran the 13 CGIAR centres throughout the world.
4. The Consultative Group enjoyed the support of 32 Governments, international organizations and private philanthropic organizations around the world and its 13 centres carried out their applied research with the continued strong support of the Group's original sponsors, including UNDP. The latter was proud of its association with the Group; it was grateful to His Majesty, King Baudouin, for his singular recognition of the Group's efforts, and would continue to give its fullest support to those efforts in the future.
5. He was sure that the Council would wish to join him in congratulating Professor Paulo Freire the other recipient of the Prize.
6. Mr. RILEY (International Bank for Reconstruction and Development) said that the award of the King Baudouin Prize to CGIAR gave recognition to one of the most productive endeavours in which UNDP had been engaged for a decade. The Bank, as one of the three original sponsors, of the Consultative Group as the major contributor to its financing and as the provider of its chairman and secretariat, shared the satisfaction at the award. He wished to join the Administrator in expressing to the

representative of Belgium, and through her to the King Baudouin Foundation, the Bank's deep appreciation of the award, which reflected the Foundation's recognition not only of CGIAR as a noteworthy example of multilateral co-operation at its best but also of the pioneering work being done in the 13 centres it supported.

COUNTRY AND INTERCOUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS (agenda item 6) (continued)

- (a) RELEVANT TRENDS AND PROBLEMS IN THE COUNTRY PROGRAMMES (DP/478)
- (b) COUNTRY AND INTERCOUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS (DP/GC/COI/R.1 and R.1/RECOMMENDATION; DP/GC/ETH/R.2 and R.2/RECOMMENDATION; DP/GC/GUA/R.3 and R.3/RECOMMENDATION; DP/GC/LAO/R.3 and R.3/RECOMMENDATION; DP/GC/MLW/R.2 and Corr.1, and R.2/RECOMMENDATION; DP/GC/NIU/R.1 and R.1/RECOMMENDATION; DP/GC/SEY/R.1 and R.1/RECOMMENDATION; DP/GC/SIL/R.2 and R.2/RECOMMENDATION; DP/GC/SOM/R.2 and R.2/RECOMMENDATION; DP/GC/SRL/R.2 and R.2/RECOMMENDATION; DP/GC/VIE/R.1 and Corr. 1, and R.1/RECOMMENDATION; DP/PROJECTS/R.13 and Add. 1-7)

7. Mr. EGUCHI (Japan) endorsed the statement by the representative of Malaysia stressing the need to make adequate resources available for regional priorities in the ESCAP region by granting that region a maximum allocation during the forthcoming programming cycle.

8. With regard to individual country programmes, that of Viet Nam (DP/GC/VIE/R.1), the first country programme for that country, would constitute a basis for future work. The programme had been prepared in accordance with the priorities set in the second five-year economic plan, a larger part of the country's IPF having been allocated to the agricultural sector. His delegation fully appreciated the importance of that sector, which accounted for 40 per cent of the country's GNP. It had, however, been allocated 38.5 per cent of the country's IPF, whereas the share of the human settlements sector was only 28.5 per cent. In his delegation's opinion, UNDP should strengthen its activities in the latter sector with a view to reducing the number of displaced persons in the country by promoting the resettlement of farmers in rural areas and providing sufficient numbers of dwellings in urban areas; a larger share of the country's IPF should therefore be allocated to that sector in 1980 and 1981. His delegation would like to hear the Administrator's views on the possibility of such a reallocation and on the need for UNDP, in collaboration with UNHCR, to play a positive role in preventing the outflow of refugees from the country.

9. With regard to the country programme for Somalia (DP/GC/SOM/R.2), his delegation would like to draw the Council's attention to the resolution concerning assistance to refugees in Somalia, adopted at the first regular session of the Economic and Social Council in 1980. Somalia had also had to deal with a large number of displaced persons during the past few years. The Japanese Government appreciated the efforts of the Somalia Government and people to reconstruct the economy under the second three-year economic plan. In that connexion, it was commendable that the country programme, on which 30.3 per cent of the IPF was allocated to rural development and food production and 24.5 per cent to social and human resources development, was designed to accelerate the settlement of nomads and promote vocational training. His delegation hoped that UNDP would tackle the refugee problem in co-operation with other bilateral and multilateral aid agencies.

10. In the country programme for Ethiopia, (DP/GC/ETH/R.2), 80 per cent of the IPF was understandably allocated to the implementation of on-going projects, in view of the fact that the national economy had been severely affected by incessant disturbances. However, the proposed allocation of 30 per cent of the IPF to the agricultural sector appeared insufficient in view of the urgent need to make the country self-sufficient in food and to promote the production of primary products for export. Another feature of the programme was the use of the term "institution-building" to describe a category of projects. Although the Ethiopian Government naturally attached great importance to "institution-building" projects in carrying out a social reform plan after the revolution, in view of the need for a well-balanced distribution of the IPF among priority sectors, it might be necessary to consider whether as much as 50 per cent of the IPF should be allocated to projects in that category.
11. With regard to the country programme for Niue (DP/GC/NIU/R.1), that country's most serious problem was the steady decline in its population since 1970. His delegation understood that the programme had been formulated primarily with a view to accelerating the attainment of a greater measure of economic self-reliance, and expected UNDP to continue to play an active role in that task. It seemed above all essential that UNDP should accelerate plantation development, for instance, by conducting irrigation projects in co-operation with FAO.
12. The other seven country programmes, namely those for the Comoros, Guatemala, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malawi, Seychelles, Sierra Leone and Sri Lanka, were all well-balanced and geared to the needs of the respective countries. For instance, the country programme for Sri Lanka (DP/GC/SIL/R.2) attached great importance to the priority areas of the public investment plan by allocating 30 per cent of the IPF to the agricultural sector, 35 per cent to the development of the infrastructure and 25 per cent to education and health. The country programme for Malawi (DP/GC/MLW/R.2 and Corr.1) also appeared to be well-balanced, the IPF being allocated to the priority areas related to the development of the country's human resources. The country programmes for the Comoros (DP/GC/COI/R.1) and Seychelles (DP/GC/SEY/R.1) were well adapted to the needs of island countries.
13. With respect to emergency assistance for the reconstruction programme of Fiji, he wished to reiterate his Government's deepest sympathy regarding damage caused by a cyclone in April 1980. The Japanese Government had immediately joined other countries in international assistance efforts by making a grant of \$20,000. His delegation therefore supported, in principle, the proposal submitted for emergency assistance to Fiji, but would like a more detailed breakdown of the amount needed before taking a final decision.
14. His delegation wished to suggest that UNDP should pay more attention to promoting disaster-prevention projects in order to minimize damage from disasters as well as to protect the results of its own assistance. In that connexion, consideration should be given to the work of UNDRO, which already had disaster preparedness/prevention projects as a separate category of activity.
15. The Asia and Pacific region, which contained 60 per cent of the world's population, had the greatest need for economic and social development. The region's absorptive capacity was relatively high. The regional projects so far promoted by

the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) had been effective elements in regional co-operation schemes. His delegation therefore considered that the total UNDP programme funds for regional IPFs should be allocated to that region.

16. Mr. VUNIBOBO (Fiji) said that his delegation had no comment on the substance of the programmes for the Asia and Pacific region because they had been prepared in close consultation with Governments and in the best interests of the countries concerned.

17. There was a general misconception that the smaller a country, the easier it was to deal with its problems. That was far from true, as the small island countries in the Pacific knew from experience. He hoped that the Council would be especially sympathetic to the recommendations made with regard to Tonga.

18. His delegation was particularly grateful for the Administrator's response to the request made by the Government of Fiji concerning the recent disaster that had struck the country. The death toll might seem small, but it should be remembered that the total population was not large. His country had hardly completed its rehabilitation work after the 1979 hurricane before it had been hit by the 1980 cyclone. However, he fully realized that UNDP's resources were limited and that other States might have greater justification for calling on them. He sincerely hoped that in the understandable desire to ensure that those limited resources were put to the best possible use, UNDP would not lose the human approach.

19. Mr. GREEN (New Zealand) said that the programmes reviewed in document DP/478 were few and not entirely representative.

20. The special difficulties of small developing island countries were well understood by the Council, which would certainly continue to respond sympathetically to their needs. In the South Pacific, as elsewhere, the very real problems of those countries in developing their economic and social systems were exacerbated by frequent natural disasters. The devastation recently caused in Fiji by a cyclone which had struck the country while it was still recovering from two earlier cyclones would require extensive reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts. It would also seriously set back development efforts. As New Zealand knew from its own co-operation with the authorities of Fiji, the Government of that country had developed an efficient relief co-ordination mechanism, which had played a vital role in the immediate post-cyclone period. Fiji would, however, need special external assistance for the far-reaching rehabilitation and development effort. The measures proposed by the Administrator (DP/GC/R.13/Add.7) would be particularly valuable and had his Government's full support.

21. Further evidence of the fact that natural disasters created special developmental problems in the Pacific was provided by the country programme for Niue (DP/GC/NIU/R.1). There, the nascent fishing industry had sustained serious damage from a hurricane in December 1979. Resources that might have been allocated for other purposes had therefore had to be applied to rebuilding the infrastructure of that industry. UNDP was playing a vital part in that process, as in the broader task of working towards Niue's development objectives. The Niue country programme could not deal

with the main problems affecting the prospects of small island developing countries in the Pacific - those of adequate transport and communications. Those problems were under discussion in other forums in the Pacific and it was hoped that some improvements would result during 1980. Notwithstanding the relative lack of emphasis on the transport sector, the projects proposed to be undertaken with UNDP support constructively complemented the assistance programmes of Niue's major donors. His delegation had no hesitation in supporting the country programme.

22. Finally, his delegation fully supported the action proposed by the Administrator in response to the General Assembly's resolution on Tonga, a country whose needs were particularly pressing.

23. Mr. FOX (United States of America) said his delegation welcomed the fact that the document on relevant trends and problems in the country programmes (DP/478) focused attention on programmes and activities to meet the needs of the poorest segments of society. At the same time, it was somewhat disappointed that so few of the programmes related to other priorities endorsed by UNDP and other intergovernmental bodies, such as the enhancement of women's role in development or environmental questions. While national priorities for UNDP assistance did not necessarily have to pursue those internationally recognized concerns, UNDP country programmes might be expected to reflect them to a greater extent than the programmes considered in document DP/478. His delegation also deplored the fact that only one of the programmes submitted for approval included a government cost-sharing component. Of course, such cost-sharing represented a voluntary act by recipient Governments. Those Governments should, however, realize that, by entering into cost-sharing arrangements, they could increase the effectiveness of their IPFs and greatly improve the climate in which decisions on contributions were taken by donors, particularly at a time of increased economic strain.

24. His delegation would transmit its comments on individual programmes to the Secretariat in writing. It could support nine out of the eleven programmes outlined in the document without reservation. It also supported the global interregional projects submitted for approval and had already transmitted its detailed comments to the Secretariat.

25. It was, however, greatly concerned about the country programmes for Viet Nam and the Lao People's Democratic Republic. It was strange to be asked to approve a programme for the latter country in the face of gross violations of human rights. While UNDP and its representatives could not be expected to improve the internal situation regarding human rights single-handed, his country's ability to continue its support for assistance to the Lao People's Democratic Republic would be seriously influenced by the policies pursued by the Government of that country. That Government's failure to terminate the current oppression of the Hmong tribal people as well as to free political prisoners and all others suffering from current proscription practices might force the United States to conclude that UNDP assistance to Laos was not serving the legitimate needs of the Lao people and hence was no longer worthy of its support. His delegation urged UNDP, in its work in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, to bear in mind the importance of improving human rights in that country. Continued UNDP assistance should depend on the achievement of significant improvements in the treatment of all segments of its population.

26. With regard to the Viet Nam country programme (DP/GC/VIE/R.1), the issue should be placed in a broader context. In November 1979, the United Nations General Assembly had passed by a large majority resolution 34/22, calling for the immediate withdrawal of all foreign forces from Kampuchea and for all States to refrain from all acts or threats of aggression and all forms of interference in the internal affairs of States in South-East Asia. Seven months later, Vietnamese military forces were still occupying Kampuchea and were still refusing, as was also called for in the resolution, to give full co-operation to United Nations and other international humanitarian relief operations. That raised fundamental questions about the nature and merit of United Nations-sponsored assistance to Viet Nam. It was difficult to accept the logic of the continued provision of multilateral economic aid through the United Nations system to a country engaged in an aggressive war condemned by the General Assembly. The United States was genuinely disturbed that UNDP would even consider maintaining a "business as usual" attitude in that matter. There could be no doubt that UNDP assistance to some extent compensated Viet Nam for resources diverted to its war in Kampuchea and thus indirectly supported its aggression in the latter country. In addition, his delegation understood that the equipment component of the proposed Viet Nam programme might even exceed 75 per cent of total costs. Such expenditure would be a distortion of the concept of technical co-operation. Expensive equipment should be procured through financial channels and not from an agency such as UNDP, whose principal purpose was technical co-operation, in which the provision of equipment should play only an incidental part. In the light of all those circumstances, the United States was deeply concerned that the objectives of peace, humanity and development would be distorted in that country programme.

27. Ms. SCHELTEMA (Netherlands) said that document DP/478 generally reflected her delegation's views on country programming and, in particular, on the critical role of the resident representative. In her delegation's view, the various responsibilities of all the parties concerned should be clearly defined at an early stage of the country programming process.

28. Although the continuous programming approach was not yet consistently applied, it seemed desirable to continue its systematic application. However, the percentage of on-going projects in the programmes before the Council seemed rather high even taking into account the explanations that had been put forward in the document. The fact that country programmes were being submitted to the Council towards the end of the second cycle demonstrated the importance of a predictable flow of resources, pledged on a multi-year basis. That would enable links between country programmes and national plans to be more effectively established and to go beyond the UNDP cycle, and for the identification, formulation and implementation of new projects to take place concurrently with programme implementation.

29. Her delegation supported periodical country programme reviews by the Administrator, in order to maintain the relevance of programmes to changing development needs. Global priorities, which were the subject of annex VI to document DP/478, deserved more attention in the future. In that connexion her delegation welcomed the efforts made by the Government of Seychelles. With respect to the percentage of resources devoted to equipment, she stressed the importance of over-all balance and due regard for the specific circumstances of each country.

30. Her delegation welcomed the country programme for Sri Lanka, which was also receiving bilateral development aid from the Netherlands. It was in favour of development projects being formulated before UNDP assistance was requested, since that assistance could then contribute to effective realization of the project instead of being its raison d'être. It also noted with satisfaction that the Government of Sri Lanka and others were giving due regard to the needs of the poorest segments of the population.

31. Her delegation generally supported the projects for global and interregional assistance, in particular, the project relating to assessment and development of world renewable marine resources, which was an effective follow-up to the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea. In that context, specific attention should be given to small-scale fisheries.

32. Finally, she suggested that resident representatives should perhaps be actively associated with the work of the Council in connexion with presentation of the country programmes.

33. Mr. HOHWU-CHRISTENSEN (Observer for Sweden) recalled that, during the discussion of agenda item 5(b), his delegation had already pointed out that global priorities were not generally reflected in country programmes. Paragraph 36 of document DP/478 stated that the country programmes had been examined to identify the extent to which they promoted development priorities endorsed by intergovernmental bodies, but the choice of priorities made for the purpose of that document was a fairly narrow one. The ILO Basic-Needs Strategy was focused on meeting the needs of the poorest segments of the population, but included a number of more specific priorities; the Alma Ata declaration on health for all by the year 2000 was a major global strategy document; and the FAO World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development in 1979 had agreed on many guidelines for future activities in those vital areas. Document DP/478 admittedly included technical co-operation among developing countries among the global priorities, but although that was a very useful tool development, his delegation did not place it in the same category as the other global priorities listed in that document. Nonetheless, it agreed with the Administrator that global priorities could in fact be observed in implementing UNDP assistance even where they were not specifically mentioned in country programme documents. In that sense, annex VI of document DP/478 was a somewhat misleading summary. He nevertheless believed that the Council should give continued attention to those matters and requested the Administrator to consider using a somewhat more representative selection of global priorities in the future.

34. Four of the 11 countries for which UNDP country programmes were presented for approval were also receiving Swedish bilateral assistance. They were Ethiopia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam.

35. Ethiopia had been a recipient of Swedish bilateral assistance for more than 25 years, and the development programme, which by common agreement was focused on agriculture, health, education and water resources, had in general been moving forward satisfactorily. Ethiopia remained one of the world's poorest countries and was not the victim of a very serious drought. In its efforts to achieve economic development and social justice, it deserved the international community's help, and his delegation therefore supported the UNDP country programme for Ethiopia for 1980-1982.

36. Sweden's development co-operation relationship with the Lao People's Democratic Republic had been established in recognition of the fact that it was one of the poorest countries in the world, with enormous problems. The Swedish Development Co-operation Office in Vientiane considered that the UNDP country programme for 1980-1985 concentrated on vital priority sectors and that the projects represented a realistic choice of technology. The Office had also reported that the Government especially appreciated the flexibility and use of unconventional solutions that had characterized the technical co-operation of the United Nations system in recent years.

37. His delegation noted that the country programme for Sri Lanka was the largest among the eleven under consideration in terms of size but not in terms of annual expenditure. It had a specific point to raise in connexion with the United Nations Volunteers but would do so under agenda item 7(b). He supported the Administrator's recommendation that the Sri Lanka country programme for the period 1977-1983 should be approved by the Council.

38. The Observer for Viet Nam, in her statement on agenda item 5, had already spoken strongly in favour of the proposals for UNDP assistance to her country for the period 1977-1981. Her praise of the UNDP assistance received by her country should be a source of satisfaction to the Administrator and his staff. Sweden was aware of the great difficulties faced by the Government of Viet Nam in its reconstruction and development efforts. Viet Nam was relatively new to the development co-operation relationship. The projects included in the Swedish-Vietnamese co-operation programme made very great demands on the Vietnamese Government, which it was becoming increasingly capable of meeting. His delegation believed that the proposed UNDP programme for the period 1977-1981 was well designed to meet some of Viet Nam's requirements, in particular for equipment deliveries and the provision of experts on a short-term basis. He therefore supported the Administrator's recommendation in paragraph 9 of document DP/GC/VIE/R.1/RECOMMENDATION.

39. Mr. FONSEKA (Sri Lanka) said that his country, like other developing island countries, was facing an unprecedented crisis as a result of the failure of the monsoon. Sri Lanka largely depended on hydro-power and might have to introduce drastic power cuts throughout the country. It was also adversely affected by the deterioration in the terms of trade for its export commodities and by rising oil prices, which created problems for all non-oil producing countries, but particularly for developing countries, which had no means of counteracting the rise in oil prices by increasing the prices of manufactured exports. Under the relevant agenda item his delegation proposed to support the idea of a fund for assisting in the exploration and development of energy resources.

40. With respect to the proposed country programme for Sri Lanka, that country's investment strategy was concentrated on four areas: the expansion of employment, the promotion of ~~over~~-all growth through increased savings and investments, improvement of the balance of payments, and safeguarding the living standards of the poor. The strategy was reflected in three "lead" projects: the accelerated Mahaweli development programme, the free-trade zone and an urban renewal and housing programme.

41. In paragraph 34 of document DP/478 mention was made of the fact that some Governments, such as that of Sri Lanka, advocated the concentration of the available UNDP assistance on specific sectors. Sri Lanka believed that small projects with little impact should be eliminated and attention concentrated on lead programmes with

multiplier effects. The Administrator's report referred to the Sri Lanka country programme as being unusual in that it contained a statement on the Government's intention to promote global priorities in its programme without neglecting other development priorities, such as the needs of the poorest segments of society, the role of women in development, environmental questions or TCDC.

42. In the context of global priorities, he said that the project on assessment and development of world renewable marine resources was timely in view of the decision by the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea that coastal States should exercise control over their 200 mile exclusive economic zones. That was of particular concern to Sri Lanka as an island State. The project, designed to assist coastal countries to acquire an adequate knowledge of fish resources, stocks, migration patterns, etc., involved the use of sophisticated technology and equipment not yet available to developing countries. In that connexion, he expressed his Government's appreciation to the Norwegian Agency for Development for offering to make a research vessel available and to meet 60 per cent of its operating costs. His delegation strongly supported the Administrator's recommendation that the project, whose aims and geographical coverage qualified it as a truly inter-country one, should be approved.

43. Mr. FIVAT (Switzerland) said that the final decision on all country programmes seemed increasingly to lie with the Administrator, who had at his disposal the necessary information on which to base an opinion. The role of the Governing Council had been reduced to that of giving formal approval. That observation was intended as a statement of a fact, not as a criticism. The degree of control exercised in their respective areas by the Administrator, receiving countries and executing agencies was such that the Governing Council must at all times have full confidence in their judgment. That confidence had so far been fully justified and his delegation accordingly gave its general approval to the group of programmes which had been proposed.

44. The consensus of 1970 had stipulated that receiving Governments should establish programme priorities consistent with their national plans. In so doing, they based themselves on national plans, which should preferably cover the same period as the programming cycle. For reasons set out in paragraph 3 of document DP/478, such synchronization had not always been possible. The Administrator had pointed out that countries rarely undertook systematic sectoral studies and an inventory of global technical co-operation needs and that the "programme approach" recommended by UNDP had not been used by many countries. His delegation did not regard planning as being a primary goal in itself. Nevertheless, available resources must be strictly co-ordinated in a coherent development effort; planning made no sense unless it was based on measurable operational goals which would make it possible to assess progress. In that connexion he supported the statements made by the representatives of the United Kingdom and Canada during the discussion on agenda item 5(b).

45. His delegation had taken note of the tabulation of the distribution of resources between new and old programmes. In a number of cases there seemed to be no way of tilting the balance towards new projects. Nevertheless, means must be found to restrain factors which made for such a situation. He shared the Administrator's view that attention should be given to the tendency for some projects to become self-perpetuating at the expense of new activities.

46. UNDP resources should be applied towards the strengthening of the basic infrastructure, the satisfaction of vital needs and the training of personnel. The distribution of funds set out in annex IV of document DP/478 and in individual country programmes seemed consistent with such criteria. Among the goals of co-operation for development, his Government attached great importance to the struggle against poverty through programmes favouring the poorest segments of society. Paragraph 38 of document DP/478 made it clear that only one programme had adopted the alleviation of poverty as a major theme and only a few country programmes contained projects specifically designed to promote that objective. His delegation nevertheless considered that the programmes proposed were compatible with such a priority.

47. Mr. FILIMONOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) noted that in the composition of country programmes there had been some progress towards an integrated approach and the selection of projects most appropriate to the country and region. However, there were still some anomalies in the use of resources and the practice still persisted of entrusting the execution of projects allocating equipment orders to a small group of Western countries.

48. The Soviet Union supported the strengthening of UNDP technical co-operation between States on a basis of sovereign equality, the promotion of economic independence, and the elimination of all vestiges of colonialism. A necessary preliminary to international technical assistance was the strengthening of the State sector and progressive agrarian reform.

49. The programmes approved by the Governing Council should supplement national efforts and promote national economic development; a measure of the effectiveness of the programme was the extent to which it took account of national problems. The main accent should be on sectors whose development would promote economic independence and social and economic progress.

50. He fully supported the proposed programmes for Ethiopia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, and Viet Nam, and deplored the action of some delegations in attempting to invoke questions of human rights as an argument against the provision of technical assistance to Viet Nam. The first technical assistance programme for that country would help its people to overcome the effects of war and to carry out the national development plan. The programme concentrated on a few large-scale projects in sectors such as the development of water resources, agriculture and the rehabilitation of industry.

51. The Lao People's Democratic Republic was a least-developed land-locked State also ravaged by war. The country programme there concentrated on attainment of basic development objectives. Its primary aim was to increase agricultural production and to make the country self-supporting in foodstuffs.

52. The Government of Ethiopia had played a vital part in preparing the programme for that country. Ethiopia was one of the least developed countries and had suffered greatly in recent years from floods, drought and locusts. The programme was aimed at the mobilization of national resources for social and economic development.

53. His delegation also approved the programmes proposed for the Comoros, Guatemala, Malaysia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia and Sri Lanka. He had no objection to approval of the global projects submitted to the Council at the current session. The USSR was ready to play a part in the execution of the programmes.

54. Mr. BIDAUT (France) said that his delegation had taken note of the Administrator's efforts to synchronize national planning cycles with IPF cycles for purposes of UNDP assistance. It was clear, however, from documents DP/454 and DP/478 that complete synchronization had become less essential in view of the growing trend towards continuous programming accompanied by increasingly detailed annual revisions. In paragraph 29 of document DP/478, the Administrator had stated that the priorities for UNDP assistance were not, and should not necessarily be, the same as those of the national development plan. It was for individual Governments to determine the distribution of external aid as well as the level of co-ordination to be established with the representatives of agencies furnishing multilateral and bilateral assistance.

55. There was a need for closer liaison between resident representatives and the representatives of other sources of aid, particularly bilateral aid, as in the case of the Comoros. Under the terms of co-operation agreements with the Federal Islamic Republic of the Comoros, his Government had furnished assistance in the health and educational sectors and, since 1978, had provided financial subsidies, totalling 40 million French francs, in support of the balance of payments. He wished to draw attention to the fact that the document setting out the country programme for the Comoros (DP/GC/COI/R.1) contained a map which incorporated part of another State in the territory of the Comoros; he hoped that such misrepresentation would be avoided in the future.

56. In Seychelles, the assistance given by his Government and that of UNDP to the fisheries sector had been harmonized in co-operation with FAO. He hoped that such contacts would be continued. He deplored the lack of a map, which would have illustrated the country's special geographical characteristics. He welcomed the emphasis laid in those programmes on rural development, on the reduction in discrepancies in living standards, in particular, between the urban and rural sectors, and on efforts to establish an appropriate balance between self-sufficiency in food and the development of export crops, as in the case of Sierra Leone. He also welcomed the inclusion in the Guatemala programme of a technical co-operation project for the Central American area, as well as postal and telecommunications training projects and the transportation project for the land-locked countries of southern Africa included in the Malawi programme.

57. In connexion with global projects for applied research, he drew attention to the assistance given by the French committee for collaboration in adapting inventions and innovations for the developing countries (CIARD) in connexion with means for raising and drawing water, and to the work done by the Inter-African Committee for hydraulic studies in Ougadougou.

58. His delegation approved the proposed national and global programmes.

59. Mrs. MENA (Cuba) said that her delegation welcomed the progress made in subregional integration within the framework of the regional programme for Latin America. In the distribution of regional resources, preference had been given to the least developed countries without however prejudicing important technological programmes, such as the energy development project, which was designed to emphasize renewable and non-conventional sources of energy.

60. Her delegation considered that the experience of a number of Latin American countries should be taken into account in global projects such as those relating to small-scale solar-powered pumping systems (GLO/78/004) and renewable marine resources (GLO/79/011).

61. Her delegation supported the proposal that assistance should be given from the Programme Reserve to the Government of Fiji in connexion with its reconstruction programme. It also supported the country programmes and, in particular, those for Viet Nam, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Ethiopia. In that connexion, her delegation firmly rejected the slanderous comments made by one delegation both against the people of Viet Nam who had suffered in the cause of national unification and reconstruction and against the people of the Lao People's Democratic Republic. The position of her Government on that question was well-known. Her delegation appealed to the Administrator to implement the programme for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea as quickly as possible.

62. Mr. HARE (Canada) said that his delegation endorsed the country programmes and global projects which had been submitted for approval. The programmes, with two exceptions, were well-balanced in focussing on the special needs of the countries themselves. His delegation had noted the comments made by the United States representative with respect to two of the country programmes.

63. The Administrator had suggested that the Council might consider how best it might be involved in the review of country programme implementation. His delegation had already expressed the hope that means might be found to use the country programme as the basis for evaluating the effectiveness of programme implementation with a view to such evaluations being brought to the attention of the Council. Such reviews would ensure the accountability required both by the Council and by respective legislative bodies.

64. His delegation had provided the Division for Global and Interregional Projects with written comments on three of the global projects. Those projects clearly demonstrated those characteristics of the global programme which had been rightly endorsed in the over-all evaluation contained in document DP/456. The projects were based on priorities which were high on the global agenda and, in at least one instance, fostered the network approach advocated in document DP/456.

65. Mr. KUCK (Observer for the German Democratic Republic) said that his delegation welcomed the stress laid in paragraphs 22 and 27 of document DP/478 on the leading role of government co-ordinating bodies in the selection of projects to be included in country programmes.

66. Solid economic relations, based on equality and mutual advantage, existed between his Government and a number of countries for which country programmes had been submitted. Such relations could be developed further through participation in the implementation of some of the projects proposed in the country programmes and his Government would therefore have many opportunities to participate actively in the main tasks of the programme.

67. His delegation supported the country programmes proposed and, in particular, that for Viet Nam, whose economy had been destroyed during the long period of military aggression. His delegation also supported strongly the country programmes for the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Ethiopia.

68. Mr. RILEY (International Bank for Reconstruction and Development) said that the global projects submitted for the Council's approval had been designed with initiative, creativity and a sense of pragmatism. Three of the projects listed (DP/PROJECTS/R.13)

would be assisted by the Bank, namely those for small-scale solar-powered pumping systems and low-cost water and sanitation techniques (supplementary assistance) and rural water supply hand pumps (initial funding with preparatory UNDP aid). All the projects focussed on action which would lead to significant follow-up and investment demand. The Bank was grateful for the support of the Director of the Division for Mobile and Interregional Projects; it would try to meet all its obligations as executing agency and he hoped that the Governing Council would approve the projects.

69. Mrs. PHAN Thi Minh (Observer for Viet Nam) said that she appreciated the objective comments of the representatives of Cuba and the USSR and the observers for the German Democratic Republic and Sweden. She reminded the Council of the destruction, suffering and disruption caused by the war in Viet Nam, a country which for the past 40 years had not known a single year in which it had been left in peace to embark on reconstruction. The country was at last trying, with UNDP aid, to start the work of rebuilding. She thanked the Administrator and his staff and said that Viet Nam would adhere fully to the spirit and aims of the programme. On the question of Kampuchean refugees, she thought there were other bodies in which that matter could be brought up.

70. She commended the programme for the Lao People's Democratic Republic, a representative of which was absent. She agreed with the observer for Sweden that the Laotian people faced enormous difficulties in their struggle for development.

71. She regretted that, despite Viet Nam's wish to forget the past, countries which were basically the authors of its destruction should be seeking to limit aid to it.

72. Mr. HARLAND (Acting Assistant Administrator and Director, Bureau for Programme Policy and Evaluation) agreed that the item before the Council was closely related to agenda item 5 (b)(i) on programme planning and preparation for the third programming cycle. He thanked the representative of Indonesia for his comments on the Administrator's report on examination of the experience with country programming (DP/454), which would be taken into account in preparing for the third cycle.

73. With regard to comments on the relationship between national and global priorities, he referred representatives to the Administrator's statement at the 688th meeting, in which he had drawn attention to the different time horizons relating to the various national and global priorities. He noted the comment of the observer for Sweden that the listing of global priorities in document DP/478 was rather narrow; in future analyses the Administrator would endeavour to provide more comprehensive and representative information on the identification of those priorities.

74. The representative of Brazil had asked for elucidation of the remarks in paragraph 29 of document DP/478 regarding the relationship between UNDP country programmes and national development objectives. The paragraph recognized the fact that there might be some high-priority government activities for which external resources were required but for which UNDP was not the most appropriate source of external assistance. He was gratified by the comments of the representative of France who had spoken in support of the position stated in that paragraph.

75. He noted the observation of the United States representative that there was only one country with a cost-sharing element in its programme. Governments usually provided the major part of their contribution in the form of local inputs and services, and not all were able to comply with the Council's requirement that they should make available the foreign exchange resources necessary to finance cost-sharing activities. That was particularly true of the sample of countries

76. The representative of Switzerland had observed that the Council seemed to have a rather passive role in the approval of country programmes. The arrangement suggested by the United Kingdom and supported by the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany, that the Council might receive periodic reviews of country programming, would perhaps involve the Council more closely in such programming.

77. Mr. VAIDES (Assistant Administrator and Director, Regional Bureau for Latin America) thanked the Council for approving the programme submitted for its consideration, and for its members' expressions of support. He had taken note of comments made on specific matters during the discussion.

78. Mr. BOURGOIS (Secretary of the Council) said that a draft decision on agenda item 6 would be circulated so that the Council could act on it at a forthcoming meeting.

79. He informed the Council that the Administrator's recommendation regarding assistance to the Government of Fiji in the implementation of a rehabilitation and reconstruction programme had financial implications, since the proposed assistance was to be taken from the Programme Reserve. The Council might therefore wish to refer the financial aspects of that recommendation to the Budgetary and Finance Committee.

80. It was so decided.

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

(b) PROGRAMME PLANNING

(i) EXAMINATION OF THE EXPERIENCE WITH COUNTRY PROGRAMMING (DP/454 and Corr.1 and 2; DP/GC/XXVII/CRP.3) (continued)

81. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to approve the draft decision (DP/GC/XXVII/CRP.3) on third cycle country programmes.

82. Mr. GAJENTAAN (Netherlands) referred to the request expressed in paragraph 2 of the draft decision that the Administrator should place renewed emphasis on pre-investment activities in the elaboration of country programmes. The Netherlands delegation had proposed convening a special working group on pre-investment activities; he would have no objection if consideration of that proposal were deferred until the Council discussed the programming of its future work. Subject to that observation, he agreed with the draft decision.

83. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council should adopt the draft decision (DP/GC/XXVII/CRP.3).

84. It was so decided.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

85. Mr. BOURGOIS (Secretary of the Council) informed the Council that the draft decisions on UNDP assistance in response to natural disasters (DP/GC/XXVII/CRP.2), implementation of the plan of action to combat desertification in the Sudano-Sahelian region (DP/GC/XXVIII/CRP.6) and implementation of the recovery and rehabilitation programme in the Sudano-Sahelian region (DP/GC/XXVIII/CRP.7) had been referred to the Budgetary and Finance Committee and would be submitted to the Council at a later date with that Committee's observations.