



Distr.  
GENERAL  
DP/SR.695  
19 June 1980  
ENGLISH  
Original: FRENCH

GOVERNING COUNCIL

Twenty-seventh session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 695TH MEETING

held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,  
on Tuesday, 17 June 1980, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. POPESCU (Romania)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.30 a.m.

MATTERS ARISING OUT OF ACTION TAKEN BY OTHER ORGANS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM  
(agenda item 9) (continued)

(b) ROLE OF QUALIFIED NATIONAL PERSONNEL IN THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (DP/443)

1. Mr. SHUMAEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that each country's development was largely dependent upon the availability of qualified national personnel and that the main reason why the developing countries were lagging behind in economic and social respects was that the colonial rule under which they had lived for so long had prevented them from providing for the training of their nationals. The developing countries must now therefore define and apply a specific policy for the utilization of human resources.
2. Without wishing to question the value of the report on the role of qualified national personnel in the social and economic development of the developing countries (DP/443), he thought that it over-emphasized the objectives of human resources development and did not give enough prominence to the means of achieving those objectives.
3. The USSR, which had a great deal of experience in that field, considered that the training of local cadres should be accelerated, should be carried out in the country itself and should be directed towards the masses. His Government had financed various training programmes in the developing countries, notably in Iran, Turkey and India, where in 1978, there had been 5,000, 3,500 and 3,100 Soviet experts respectively. His Government noted that the developing countries were willing to accept such programmes in their own territory, for in that way they did not need to pay for their nationals' travelling and subsistence expenses which they had to defray when they were trained abroad. Furthermore, whereas in the case of training sponsored by the United Nations it frequently happened that, after the completion of training programmes which might last up to 10 years, the internationally recruited experts left the country concerned without having managed to train counterpart personnel, training projects financed by his Government had made it possible to train highly qualified local experts very quickly. In that connexion, he said that UNDP should redouble its efforts to reduce the cost of expert services, which was currently very high.
4. In addition, in order to enable experts from developing countries to acquire further skills and additional qualifications, more seminars, refresher courses and study trips should be organized both, in the developing and in the developed countries. His Government had organized, in collaboration with UNIDO and UNFPA among others, over 20 seminars and courses of all kinds annually for which it provided half the financing. It would like UNDP to arrange more activities of that kind in the USSR, which would be a good way of using the contributions paid by the USSR in non-convertible currency.
5. The seminars, training courses, etc. held under United Nations auspices should be organized with greater care, for not uncommonly participants in seminars were not really experts in the subject matter, or they arrived after the date scheduled

for the beginning of the proceedings or they were unfamiliar with the language in which the seminar was conducted, and as a consequence the success of such meetings was inevitably compromised.

6. He added that the problem of the brain drain was extremely serious, and UNDP should take very significant steps to deal with it. The brain drain was in fact a form of plundering of the resources of the developing countries. The nationals of those countries who had received some training must be persuaded to stay in their home countries or to return there in order to participate in the national development effort.

7. Mr. KUNIGI (Japan) noted with satisfaction that, in his report on the role of qualified national personnel in the social and economic development of the developing countries (DP/443), which contained relevant statistics and reasonable recommendations, the Administrator had placed great emphasis on the key element of development, namely human resources development. He recommended that research in that field should be continued, taking into account the views and experience of Governments.

8. Japan followed with great sympathy and interest the efforts of the developing countries which were making every effort, as Japan had, to build an economic and social infrastructure and particularly to develop their human resources.

9. In 1979, his Government had launched a \$5 million fellowship programme to train persons from developing countries. It was now considering, with the Government of the United States of America, various projects for the promotion of human resources development for countries in the Asian and Pacific region, including the establishment of national and regional training and research and development institutes.

10. In his delegation's view, technical co-operation among developing countries was an excellent way of promoting the training of qualified national personnel in the developing countries; at the same time, his delegation considered that the developed countries should be more generous in financing activities in that field. Furthermore, care should be taken to ensure that the application of science and technology benefited not only an élite minority in the developing countries but also the masses. Small and medium-sized enterprises could play a particularly significant part in meeting the basic needs of the masses and maximizing growth and employment.

11. The report of the Administrator (DP/443) contained a number of reasonable recommendations on the very delicate problem of the brain drain which deserved serious attention.

12. If, as he hoped, draft decision DP/GC/XXVII/CRP.8, by which the report of the Administrator would be referred to the Economic and Social Council, was adopted, his delegation would pursue the question of human resources development further during the discussion of the report in that body.

13. Mr. VUNIBOBO (Fiji) said that each country had to decide for itself what its education objectives were, define the policy required to achieve them and determine, in terms of the time available, the amount of resources to be allocated to the task and the number of foreign experts to be recruited to make up for lost time.

14. Unfortunately, in determining objectives and policies, if the State was the sole provider of resources for training, there was a danger of conflict between the State and individuals, for, contrary to a very common belief, the State and individuals did not necessarily expect the same things from education.

15. Furthermore, in view of the number of persons who did not manage to find gainful employment, despite the considerable funds devoted to education in the majority of developing countries, and despite the training, one might well ask whether the education currently provided was appropriate to their needs and if the authorities' views on education were in fact correct.

16. The reason why many countries lacked qualified personnel to carry out their development programmes was not only that the educational system was ill adapted to its needs and could not train the manpower required, but also that, rather than enter the public sector which needed them so badly, many nationals of those countries who had received advanced training chose either to work in the private sector which offered them higher salaries, or to emigrate voluntarily or under pressure from the authorities who, in times of turmoil, frequently sought to get rid of intellectuals and highly qualified people whose criticism they feared. Such a brain drain, from which the public sector was the first to suffer, was very harmful to the economic and social development of developing countries, since their development effort was largely based on the public sector.

17. The qualified personnel which the developing countries managed to keep faced two problems. First, technology changed so rapidly that they found it difficult to keep up with the latest progress, particularly with regard to machinery and equipment in general, especially since the developed countries tended to supply the third world countries with obsolete machinery and equipment. Second, such persons, particularly when they had received advanced training, rarely had occasion to use it, which was extremely frustrating for them. Thus, he felt that in certain situations, the Governments of the developing countries should require pupils who had concluded their secondary education to work for two years, in order to become familiar with specific problems and think about their future, before they were sponsored for higher education.

18. Speaking on the subject of integrated rural development and the qualified personnel required to carry out the relevant activities, he felt that it would be dangerous to train too many experts, because they tended to ignore the real needs of the rural population and to neglect all aspects of rural development which were not directly connected with their field of competence. Excessive specialization led to the same disappointments as the single-sector approach which had been abandoned for an integrated approach to rural development.

19. He stressed that the object of education was not simply to train "units of production", but to give individuals the know-how and knowledge to which they were entitled and which would enable them to choose freely the path they wished to follow. In attempting to adapt the educational system to their needs, developing countries must therefore ensure that the quality of the education provided was maintained and its universal character preserved.

20. Mr. TRANAEUS (Observer for Sweden), speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries, emphasized the importance of the development of human resources, on which depended the success of all development efforts at all levels. The Administrator must have found it frustrating to condense the mass of documentation available into 32 pages. It was therefore understandable that his report (DP/443) should consist essentially of a series of itemized analyses of achievements and shortfalls, followed by recommendations which illustrated, not only the complex nature of the issues but also the widely differing situations in which the developing countries found themselves with respect to human resources development.

21. Some countries, particularly the newly independent ones, faced acute shortages of qualified nationals at virtually all levels and had not the means to draw up - let alone implement - comprehensive plans for human resources development. The major oil exporting countries were under no financial constraints, and most of them had embarked on major national schemes of education and training, in the meantime using expatriate personnel. Other countries had the means to train more staff than they could absorb, owing to insufficient economic growth and lack of financial resources for development, and had become large-scale exporters of human skills. Most developing countries had been unable as yet to tackle their human resources problems in a comprehensive manner and had had to resort to partial solutions involving difficult and often painful choices among priorities. Priority had often been given to the modern or organized sector of society, at the expense of the traditional sector covering the rural areas and the vast majority of the population where the need for educational and training resources was most acute. In that connexion, he pointed out that illiteracy was tending to increase in many developing countries.

22. It was often said that the developing countries were generously endowed with one asset necessary for development, namely human resources. However, that asset was far from being fully exploited, as was illustrated by the minor role of women in society and in the development process. No doubt the World Conference on the United Nations Decade for Women, to be held in Copenhagen in July 1980, would address itself forcefully to that issue.

23. Another difficulty was that individuals did not always identify themselves with the broader national interest as perceived by governments. The report (DP/443) referred to the difficulty of inducing qualified personnel to serve in remote rural areas as long as career opportunities and remuneration prospects were better in the urban centres. The phenomenon of the brain drain was also frequently an expression of that conflict. The report spoke of voluntary migration; that was very much the same, except that comparatively few migrant workers would wish to settle permanently in the adopted country, even if given the choice. The brain drain could be stopped if a country denied its nationals the right to seek better opportunities of employment abroad, but only a minority of developing countries had chosen that course, which was likely to become counter-productive in the long run. Paragraphs 114 to 116 of the report identified various measures for reversing the brain drain, which suggested that they had been practised with

success. It would have been interesting to have more details - especially figures - on that matter, which the Administrator might have done had he not had to respect the 32-page limit. In the circumstances, there was ample evidence for the view that the problem of the brain drain would remain a global phenomenon as long as there remained a marked imbalance between countries with respect to opportunities for professional development and material rewards.

24. In general, document DP/443 appeared to give rise to few objections and its conclusions were borne out by the experience gained by the Nordic countries in their bilateral development co-operation. However, the development of human resources in the developing countries was above all dependent on the will and capacity of the countries themselves. His delegation would have liked to know the opinion of many representatives of developing countries on the picture of the situation given in the report and on the recommendations made to governments and to the United Nations system, which were not entirely consistent. The Administrator would thus have been able to supplement his report before transmitting it to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council.

25. To the extent that the report provided guidelines for further United Nations assistance in human resources development, it would no doubt be useful, but it was for the developing countries themselves to carry out the tremendous task of training and utilizing qualified national personnel. The technical co-operation of the United Nations system could be effectively supplemented by bilateral donors, the World Bank and the regional development banks, especially in the infrastructure and capital goods sectors.

26. The question of global priorities and the attention given to them in country programme documents had been discussed at length at the current session. The recommendations made in document DP/443 had been drawn to a considerable extent from such strategies, and the report mentioned certain instruments adopted in various forums, which showed that human resources development was an essential element in virtually every sectoral and intersectoral strategy. At the same time, that was a subject with an identity of its own, in the sense that the optimum management of human resources could only be achieved by means of a comprehensive approach, taking into account national interests and priorities.

27. UNDP had complied with the mandate of acting as "lead organization" given to it by the General Assembly, but the recommendations in the report did not identify the role that could be played by the whole international community in assisting the developing countries to develop human resources in the 1980s. The Administrator's report should serve as a timely input in the preparation of the International Development Strategy, which should assign a central role to the development of human resources; it was to be hoped that that strategy would provide the guidance needed for joint efforts by developing and developed countries to make full use of the human resources with which the developing countries were so richly endowed.

28. The Nordic countries supported the draft Decision prepared on that matter (DP/GC/XVII/CRP.8) but would have liked it to refer to the vital importance of the development of human resources.

29. Ms. SCHELTEMA (Netherlands) said that her delegation endorsed the view that the development of human resources was of great importance to the developing countries and should be linked to other economic, social and cultural objectives, as mentioned in the Administrator's excellent report (DP/443, para. 85(a)). The promotion of self-reliance was particularly dependent on the strengthening of industrial and technological capabilities in all sectors and at all levels, which in turn depended on the policy formulation and planning capability of qualified personnel.

30. Development did not begin with structures or organizations, but with people; hence the vital importance of education and training. Planning, management and information with respect to human resources were particularly well suited to international co-operation - bilateral and multilateral - and UNDP should therefore focus more on that sector, stressing the educational aspects of its projects, promoting the recruitment of local personnel in project execution, and keeping in mind the general objectives of adequate manpower planning when periodically reviewing country programmes.

31. The Netherlands was in the process of changing the system of training courses for nationals from developing countries, making increasing use of specialized training capacities to strengthen education at various levels in developing countries. In addition, a programme was being set up with the object of strengthening the research capacities of developing countries.

32. The Administrator's report rightly recognized that teachers should interact with the community in which they worked (DP/443, para. 66), and stressed the need to train middle-level personnel: that was an important factor in extending the benefit of knowledge to vast numbers of people on whose efforts further development largely depended (DP/443, para. 67).

33. The section on integrated rural development (paragraphs 34-48) clearly showed the need to train not only specialists but also generalists. The long-term perspective deserved far more attention, even if short-term successes were more attractive.

34. On the other hand, it was also necessary to train highly specialized personnel in sectors such as photogrammetry, industrial management, enhancement of the status of women and mass media. That problem could be partially dealt with at the national level, but UNDP and the United Nations system should increase their contributions in that respect through fellowship programmes and training programmes. Technical co-operation among developing countries should also play a useful role.

35. Her delegation in general approved the recommendations made in section V of the document (DP/443).

36. Mr. MORSE (Administrator of UNDP) said that he had listened very carefully to the comments made on document DP/443 and that UNDP would take them fully into account in preparing its future projects and programmes. He would also transmit the recommendations made to the governments, so that they could take them into account

when preparing their programmes. In reply to the Observer for Sweden, who had emphasized the **problem** of the brain drain, he drew attention to the report by the Secretary-General of the United Nations on reverse transfer of technology (A/34/593).

PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (agenda item 4) (continued)

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

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

37. Mr. ALBORNOZ (Ecuador) welcomed the progress made in programming, as regards both country programmes and regional or interregional programmes. He thanked the Director of the Regional Office for Latin America for his untiring efforts to promote the development of the Latin American countries. He also paid a tribute to several resident representatives who, in Latin America or elsewhere, had devoted their lives to the ideals of UNDP and had made valiant efforts to improve the living conditions of future generations. Their activities formed part of a noble international co-operative endeavour to ensure the transfer of technologies which would enable the developing countries to become more self-reliant and contribute to economic growth and social justice, while reducing the gap between low-income and high-income countries.

38. The regional report submitted the preceding week had confirmed the characteristics of the programme for Latin America: high execution rate of governmental development plans, concentration on social anti-poverty projects, programmes related to the cultural heritage, increased investment in national resources in relation to UNDP's relatively modest, but very effective contribution, importance given to agricultural productivity and industrial development to provide full employment, search for appropriate technology, continuous expansion of the TCDC programme, promotion of projects for newly-independent island countries.

39. The Latin American countries reaffirmed their determination to defend the essential, original characteristics of UNDP, particularly its universality and voluntary nature, the value of which had been proved since the inception of the Programme and especially during the second programming cycle and which formed part of the multilateral efforts to establish the new international economic order.

40. Latin America's position had been stated at the meeting of the Latin American Economic System (SELA). The Ministers present at that meeting had emphasized the need for TCDC, with the ultimate objective of attaining national self-reliance and promoting the new international economic order; had welcomed the efforts made by the Latin American countries to increase their contributions by 14 per cent per year, in accordance with the target set; had reaffirmed that all countries participating in the Programme should promptly honour their commitments; had reaffirmed the need to grant to recipient countries an IPF not lower than that of the second cycle; and had voiced their opposition to the "threshold" principle. He requested that the important document prepared at that meeting should be circulated to participants in the Council.



## CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT DECISIONS

Role of qualified national personnel in the social and economic development of the developing countries (agenda item 9(b)) (DP/GC/XXVII/CRP.8)

41. Mr. BA-ISSA (Democratic Yemen) indicated a number of drafting changes in the draft decision. The words "which is" should be omitted from the third line of paragraph 1 and, at the end of that paragraph, the words "on the role of qualified national personnel" should be replaced by the words "and of the views expressed thereon at the twenty-seventh session". In paragraph 2 the words "made in" should be replaced by "contained in sections 4 and 5 of". In the third line of paragraph 4, the words "adoption of a decision on" should be replaced by the words "its consideration of" and in the fourth line, the word "system" should be added after "United Nations".

42. Mr. BOURGOIS (Secretary of the Governing Council) suggested, in response to a comment by the observer for Sweden, that the following preambular paragraph should be added: "Recognizing the vital importance of human resources development for the economic and social progress of developing countries".

43. The draft decision was adopted as so amended.

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 (agenda item 5(b) (ii)) (DP/GC/XXVII/CRP.4)

44. Mr. GAJENTAAN (Netherlands) referred to the comments made by his delegation, in the course of the general debate, on the potential role of the regional commissions in the collective involvement of the developing countries in the determination of priorities for intercountry programmes. In keeping with those comments, his delegation had intended to submit an amendment to the draft decision to reflect subparagraph 9(a) of document DP/435; in the light of the detailed and satisfactory reply of the Administrator, however, it would refrain from proposing an amendment.

45. Mr. KANE (Senegal), referring to paragraph 2 of draft decision DP/GC/XXVII/CRP.4, said that Africa had been dismembered and balkanized and was seeking to escape from that situation with the help of those who had brought it about and of the international community, in particular, UNDP. Measures to counteract that balkanization were envisaged in the strategy worked out by the African Heads of State at their meeting in Lagos. He emphasized the important role which UNDP could play in Africa, welcomed past efforts in that direction and thanked Mr. Morse and Mr. Doo Kingué, the Assistant Administrator and Director of the Regional Bureau for Africa. Among African projects in which UNDP in collaboration with other agencies, FAO in particular, could become involved during the third programming cycle were the studies on rivers and river basins, adaptable vegetable species, underground water resources, and sources of renewable energy, including solar energy. He hoped in particular that the regional projects referred to in paragraph 2 of the draft decision would be productive, especially during the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa, and would contribute to the self-reliance of the region and to the development of communications within the context of the establishment of the new international economic order.

46. Mr. BOURGOIS (Secretary of the Governing Council) referred to the Governing Council's decision 25/30, by which the Administrator was required to provide a statement of financial implications before the Council took a decision. Accordingly, the Administrator wished to inform the Council that, in the light of information provided by each Director of UNDP's Regional Bureaux during their statements under agenda item 6 (Country and intercountry programmes and projects), draft decision DP/GC/XXVII/CRP.4 had no financial implications which could not be absorbed within already approved allocations.

47. Draft decision DP/GC/XXVII/CRP.4 was adopted.

Country and intercountry programmes and projects (agenda item 6) (DP/TC/XXVII/CRP.9)

48. Mr. TSIEN (Deputy Assistant Administrator, Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific) assured members of the Council that all the Regional Bureaux had taken careful note of the comments and suggestions made by delegations during the debate. He wished in particular to assure the delegation of Japan that the suggestions made in the Governing Council would be taken into account during the periodic reviews of the country programmes and continuous programming. Country programme priorities did not necessarily coincide with national development priorities but rather reflected the Government's views regarding the most appropriate use that could be made of the limited UNDP resources available. The representative of Japan had asked for a more detailed breakdown of the proposed Programme Reserve allocation for Fiji; details were expected from the Government of Fiji and would be provided as soon as they became available.

49. Mr. KUNIGI (Japan) stressed that the Secretariat should transmit the information as soon as it was received. His Government was most anxious that assistance should be given to Fiji but considered that members of the Council should be informed. In regard to the parenthetical reference to Fiji in part III of draft decision DP/GC/XXVII/CRP.9, he inquired whether the resources to be allotted would come from the Programme Reserve or from another source. He asked, in addition, what the consequences would be if the Council adopted the part in parenthesis together with the rest of the draft decision.

50. Mr. TSIEN (Deputy Assistant Administrator, Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific) assured the Council that the Secretariat would circulate information about Fiji as soon as it was received. In reply to the Japanese representative's other question, he stated that the assistance to the Government of Fiji would come from the Programme Reserve; the question of financial implications had been referred to the Budgetary and Finance Committee, as indicated in the sentence in parentheses in part III of the draft decision, in order to determine what funds would be available if the Council approved such assistance.

51. Mr. SZNAJDER (Poland), referring to paragraph 2 of draft decision DP/GC/XXVII/CRP.9, said that his delegation approved the proposed country programmes, in particular those for Ethiopia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Viet Nam. The case of Viet Nam merited the special attention of UNDP, for that country was not only a developing country but had suffered severely during its war of independence; it was currently making a huge reconstruction effort in which UNDP should play its part.

52. Draft decision DP/GC/XXVII/CRP.9 was adopted.

Comprehensive report to the General Assembly on UNDP and the new International economic order (agenda item 4 (d) (DP/GC/XXVII/GRP.13)

53. Draft decision DP/GC/XXVII/GRP.13 was adopted.

OTHER FUNDS AND PROGRAMMES (Agenda item 7)

(a) UNITED NATIONS FUND FOR POPULATION ACTIVITIES

(i) The report of the Executive Director on 1979 activities and the future programme (DP/464 and Corr.1 (English and French only), DP/465 and Corr.1 (English and Spanish only))

54. Mr. AL SHAKAR (Bahrain) commended the high quality of the report entitled "The State of Bahrain: report of the mission on needs assessment for population assistance", which had been written as a result of the mission mentioned in paragraph 82 of document DP/464. Bahrain's 35 islands represented a total area of 622 square kilometres, with a population of 370,000 inhabitants; the country thus had a population density of more than 550 persons per square kilometre. A high degree of urban concentration and one of the highest population growth rates in the world explained why the Government of Bahrain attached great importance to the findings and recommendations of the mission.

55. The mission had recommended a multi-sectoral programme of assistance from UNFPA and other interested agencies covering: training in the field of data collection, data interpretation, population-related activities in the fields of maternal and child health, family planning, health education and social development. The Government of Bahrain was in particular need of assistance in connexion with the 1981 census and, through the UNDP office in Bahrain, had already submitted a request to UNFPA for that purpose. In order to implement the mission's recommendations, the Government had requested assistance in the following fields: maternal and child health, family planning, migration and employment policies, training in population information, promotion of the integration of women in community development. Bahrain had benefited from UNFPA assistance in the past and would be heavily dependent on such aid in the future.

56. His delegation hoped that donor countries would increase their contributions to UNFPA to help solve the many alarming problems faced by the international community in the field of population and development. In order to maintain the effectiveness of the Fund, the Governing Council should give favourable consideration to the proposals of the Executive Director for strengthening the capacity of its staff.

57. Mr. WANG (China) congratulated UNFPA and its Executive Director, Mr. Salas, on the progress achieved by the Fund. During the 1980's, many developing countries, including China, would pay increasing attention to the practical problems arising from their population growth. In that context, his delegation endorsed the work plans for the coming four years contained in Mr. Salas' report (DP/464). Donor countries had increased their contributions during the past decade, but needs would be so great during the coming years that the developed countries in particular should provide increased financial support.

58. Particularly during the past two years, co-operation between UNFPA and the Chinese Government had been further enhanced. On 3 May 1979, a mission headed by Mr. Gille, Deputy Executive Director of the Fund, had visited China and had signed a memorandum of understanding concerning assistance in the following projects: population census taking, family planning programme, population education, research on productive endocrinology, demographic training and research, production of contraceptives and instruments. Other missions had assisted the appropriate Chinese services in drafting project proposals and specific project documents, and preparatory work on such projects was well under way.

59. The formulation of a correct population policy was of great importance to China, a country with a population of nearly one billion. Family planning was a long-term task but progress had been made and the natural population growth rate had dropped to 1.17 per cent in 1979. Nevertheless, the population was still growing by more than 10 million a year and China had therefore adopted the target rate of zero population growth by the end of the century. In pursuit of that target his Government encouraged couples to have only one child in the densely populated areas and for that purpose was relying on information and incentive measures, without compulsion or any measure detrimental to the mental state and health of women.

60. Notwithstanding such progress, China still had much to learn in the fields of technology and equipment. He hoped therefore that the Governing Council would give favourable consideration to his country's needs and would adopt the recommendations contained in document DP/FPA/II/Add.22 submitted by the Executive Director. China had begun to contribute to UNFPA in 1979 on a modest scale, and a gradual increase could be expected as the country's economy grew. China was prepared to exchange experience with other countries and would discuss with UNFPA a number of TCDC projects involving the organization of study tours in China and the provision of contraceptives and instruments to other developing countries.

61. Mr. LEIKVANG (Norway) commended UNFPA for the support which it had given to some 2,000 projects since its establishment in 1969. He considered that the General Assembly had made an appropriate decision in its resolution 34/104 when it had invited the Governing Council to devote a specific time to adequate and separate consideration of items relating to UNFPA; his delegation had advocated such a step for some time past, and Norway had supported the Colombo Declaration on Population Development which had called for the strengthening of the role and functions of UNFPA.

62. He welcomed the information given by the Executive Director in his report but, for purposes of comparison, would have liked details regarding the performance of the programme before 1979. Too much emphasis had been given to projections; he considered that future reports should contain more complete statistical data.

63. His delegation hoped that UNFPA would shortly reach its target of allocating two-thirds of resources to priority countries, in keeping with the Governing Council's decision. It also hoped that increased resources would continue to be shifted from intercountry activities to country projects so that, by 1982, 75 per cent at least of total programmes resources would be devoted to country activities, in accordance with the Governing Council's decision.

64. He welcomed the principle that, in future, UNFPA programmes would be adopted for the entire proposed period rather than re-submitted every two years. As far as technical co-operation among developing countries was concerned, his delegation supported the practice of UNFPA of relying increasingly on the expertise, training and research facilities of those countries. It considered, moreover, that an increased number of population activities should be executed directly by the developing countries themselves.

65. Noting that UNFPA projected an increase in the programme to a total level of \$791 million for the 1981-1984 period, he said that in his opinion that goal was too ambitious. In the light of the current trend for official development assistance to stagnate and in view of the shortfall from pledge projections in 1979, the Fund should be realistic in accepting limitations, if not reductions. His delegation would favour the formulation of a contingency plan for the following years based on the 1980 level of resources. Should cuts in the programme become necessary, the only way in which a political consensus could be reached would be by making a flat, across-the-board percentage reduction in the various programmes. In such an eventuality, his delegation would suggest that the Executive Director should approach the recipient countries having the largest UNFPA programmes and should encourage them to relinquish voluntarily a larger part of their UNFPA resources than their normal share. His delegation found it difficult to subscribe to the proposed targets for resource growth, in particular, the projection of a 25 per cent increase in resources from 1980 to 1981. In the current situation, his delegation would find it difficult to agree to a change in the approval authority.

66. In conclusion, he expressed the hope that UNFPA would continue to make population dynamics one of its chief concerns, by assisting Governments to focus on ways in which population policy could be integrated into their development policies and programmes.

67. Mr. GADEL HAK (Egypt) said that the magnitude of the project now presented to the Council, totalling \$320 million, confirmed the interest generated in developing countries for population activities. Since most countries of the third world had adopted a well-defined population policy and needed increased assistance in that area, he urged all countries to increase their contribution to UNFPA to enable it to meet that demand. In that connexion he referred to the recommendation adopted by the International Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development, held in Colombo, that aid for population activities should be increased to \$1 billion by 1984.

68. In order to maintain the efficacy of UNFPA, the Governing Council should allow the Executive Director to recruit the professionals needed and make the necessary reclassifications in his staff. In view of the magnitude of programmes in the various regions, his delegation trusted that the Council would approve the administrative budget (DP/483).

69. He was pleased to note the excellent working relationship between his country and UNFPA. The Egyptian Government was very grateful for the Fund's support, which had already helped it to achieve some of the objectives of the nation-wide population programmes. He welcomed the proposal for sending a needs assessment mission to Egypt in September; its recommendations would serve as a basis for formulating the new programme for 1981-1984. He hoped that on that occasion UNFPA would take account of Egypt's current economic difficulties and provide support on an even greater scale than in the past.

70. Mr. DARSA (Indonesia) said that the progress recorded by UNFPA in 1979 augured well for the near future. However, having played an important part in promoting demographic concerns in the 1970s, UNFPA was now faced with a new demand for the 1980s. In view of the close relationships between population matters and economic, social, and political development, his delegation welcomed the action taken by the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session to strengthen the Fund's position in the United Nations system. It was his delegation's firm belief that the Assembly's action would enable the Fund to respond adequately to the growing needs of the developing countries. Greater attention to new fields such as population dynamics should not, however, divert resources from more traditional pursuits such as data collection and family planning programmes.

71. He noted with satisfaction that in 1979 the allocation of resources to family planning programmes had increased by over 15 per cent over the 1978 figure, and that UNFPA had provided substantial assistance in the development of manufacturing plants for the production of contraceptives and in support of community-based family planning programmes. Moreover, improvements in programming capacity had enabled UNFPA to allocate funds in advance, thus facilitating the planning of national programme budgets by governments. UNFPA was also to be congratulated upon the excellent quality of two of its publications, Population facts at hand and World population and development, which contained the most comprehensive information on population matters even made available to the general public.

72. Despite those positive developments, a great deal still remained to be done in order to achieve the targets set at the World Population Conference held in Bucharest. His delegation therefore appealed to all donor countries to increase the resources they provided to UNFPA to enable it to meet increasing population needs even more effectively.

73. Referring to the case of his own country, he said that Indonesia had long recognized the relationship between population growth and socio-economic development, and in its current five-year development plan the Indonesian Government had reaffirmed its long-term objectives of reducing fertility, increasing life-expectancy, reducing mortality and modifying geographical imbalances. To implement the last objective the Government was relocating people from the densely populated areas of Java and Bali to under-populated areas. That redistribution of population was accompanied by increased emphasis on rural development. In order to improve the statistical data that were essential for its population policy, more regular and frequent population censuses were necessary. Family planning programmes had enabled Indonesia to decrease its population growth rate from almost 3 per cent to almost 2 per cent in ten years, and that policy would be continued.

74. But despite the tremendous efforts and the progress already made, there were still enormous population problems to be solved, and even though Indonesia was prepared to assume its full responsibility in that area, the co-operation of the international community, particularly UNFPA, would be welcomed. He hoped, therefore, that the Council would give positive consideration to the recommendations submitted in document DP/FPA/11/Add.19 concerning assistance to the Government of Indonesia.

75. Mr. DEAC (Romania) said that in its ten years of existence UNFPA had made good progress. It had supported nearly 2,000 projects of which about 1,000 had been completed by the end of 1979. Cumulative allocations for projects had passed the half billion dollar mark. World population problems had changed greatly in those

ten years: there was a better understanding of the problems and the means of solving them had improved. The World Population Conference held in Bucharest in 1974 had given significant momentum to that progress, for it had led to a general recognition of the importance of the population factor as an indispensable part of economic and social development.

76. The Romanian Government greatly appreciated the work of the Executive Director of UNFPA in increasing the assistance given to the developing countries, and intended to continue its co-operation with the Fund. Since 1979 Romania had been a donor country and he hoped that his country's pledge would be mentioned in document DP/464. Moreover, the Government of Romania had decided to continue to finance, jointly with the Fund, the activities of the United Nations/Romanian centre for training and research for developing countries in the special field of the interrelationship of population and development (CEDOR). An agreement concerning the centre had recently been signed in New York. That was a successful form of co-operation between the Government of a developing country and the Fund and a practical example of implementing the Buenos Aires Plan of Action on TCDC. With the support of UNFPA the Centre would be able to continue and diversify its activities, and his delegation was grateful to the Executive Director for his support.

77. The Romanian delegation considered that the Executive Director had been right to ask for full approval authority for 1981 of the revised Work Plan 1981-1984, and for partial approval authority for 1982-83, and it supported that request. Moreover, it approved all the projects proposed in document DP/FPA/11/Add.1-25, including the project for China (DP/FPA/11/Add.2), for it strongly believed that a country with a population of almost one billion committed to stabilizing its population ought to be assisted by the Fund. It also endorsed the recommendations in paragraph 50(a)(ii), (a)(iii), and (b) of document DP/FPA/11/Add.26. It considered the 1981 budget estimate for the administrative and programme support services as well as the 1980 supplementary appropriation (DP/483) justified and could approve them.

78. Mr. RUSO (Finland) said that, given the complex nature of population problems, UNFPA had performed remarkably well in 1979 and had made considerable progress towards its goal of allocating two-thirds of programme resources to priority countries. In that connexion, he hoped that UNFPA would pay special attention to the priority countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, which seemed to be lagging behind somewhat in programme implementation. Since a great many new programmes had been formulated on the basis of recommendations by needs assessment missions, UNFPA should send such missions regularly particularly to countries which, because of a lack of specialized national institutions dealing with population activities, might have absorption problems. The strengthening or establishment of national infrastructures for population activities could also offer opportunities for TCDC, and UNFPA could have an important role to play in that regard. Guidelines on needs assessment, project identification and appraisal, regional priorities, interim interviews, post-evaluation and over-all financial implications would greatly help all countries in identifying primary needs and preparing project proposals.

79. Intercountry activities should, however, be concentrated on priority areas and on a limited number of major programmes. In 1979, intercountry programmes had accounted for nearly 30 per cent of the Fund's activities; if the 25 per cent level was to be reached without a decrease in real terms, a substantial and rapid increase in total resources would be needed. Finland for its part considered that continued priority should be given to programmes at the country level, and fully endorsed the growing trend towards direct government execution of UNFPA projects.

80. Turning to financial matters, he said that his delegation shared the Executive Director's concern about general economic conditions and high inflation rates. Clearly, a special effort should be made to increase resources so as to ensure effective planning and implementation of the programme. But it was probably optimistic to expect that in 1981 contributions would increase by 25 per cent over the 1980 total, especially in the light of the shortfalls in anticipated contributions in the current year. In order to find additional new resources, UNFPA might consider financing programmes jointly with the regional development banks. Multilateral and bilateral programmes, which had given very encouraging results so far, should also be promoted.

81. The Finnish Government attached great importance to the full participation of women in population programmes, and he noted with satisfaction in that respect that UNFPA had made a significant contribution to preparations for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women to be held in Copenhagen in July.

82. He was confident that UNFPA would continue to play an important catalytic role in the population field.

83. Mr. LIPTAU (Federal Republic of Germany) said that, despite certain shortcomings, what had been achieved by UNFPA in 1979 could be considered very positive. In particular the situation with respect to unallocated resources had improved greatly and a record implementation rate of 84 per cent had been achieved in 1979. The question now was whether the forecasts of increased contributions for 1981 and subsequent years were not over-optimistic, unless of course the Executive Director had good reason to think that enough donors would provide larger contributions. That would unfortunately not be possible for the Federal Republic of Germany, which because of budgetary constraints would not be able to increase its contributions to the same extent as in the previous years. UNFPA could not be reproached for submitting ambitious, sometimes costly, programmes; but it was necessary to be realistic and to bear in mind the need for a sound and cautious financial policy even at the planning stage. UNFPA should therefore apply with caution the figures given in table 3 of document DP/464, which in any case were only indicative, so as not to run the risk of having to reduce the programmes considerably if resources failed to materialize. In that connexion, his delegation hoped that the Executive Director would study the possibility of improving planning procedures so that UNFPA was not caught unawares if the contributions actually paid fell short of the forecast. If reductions did become necessary, they should be made pro rata. Moreover, intercountry programmes could also provide a certain margin for manoeuvre.

84. With respect to the request for approval authority submitted by the Executive Director in document DP/482, he agreed that the improvement of programming capacity had enabled UNDP to allocate funds in advance and that even better programming implementation could be expected if project budgets were approved well in advance of implementation. Nevertheless, great care had to be taken since official approval of a programme constituted a moral and political commitment. Since it already seemed doubtful whether the 1981, 1982 and 1983 financial targets would be achieved, a compromise solution was needed. The question should be examined in detail by the Budgetary and Finance Committee.

85. Turning to the priority activities for 1981-1984, he said that he still believed that UNFPA should continue to lay stress on family planning programmes, but suggested that perhaps more resources should be devoted to special programmes



for women, children, young people and old people, and to multi-sectoral activities, and a little less to data collection and population dynamics projects. It would be for Mr. Salas to decide whether a better balance among the various sectors could be achieved.

86. His delegation wished to reiterate its confidence in the Executive Director and the staff of UNFPA. It would continue to support the Fund, for it firmly believed that its role as a catalyst in the field of population and family planning would be of decisive importance in solving development problems.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.