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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 697th MEETING

held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,  
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President: Mr. POPESCU (Romania)

CONTENTS

Other funds and programmes (continued)

- (a) United Nations Fund for Population Activities
  - (i) The report of the Executive Director on 1979 activities and the future programme
  - (ii) Proposed projects and programmes
  - (iii) Request for approval authority
  - (iv) Budget estimates for UNFPA administrative and programme support services for 1981
  - (v) Audit reports
  - (vi) An evaluation report on selected UNFPA projects
  - (vii) The future role of UNFPA

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The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

OTHER FUNDS AND PROGRAMMES (agenda item 7) (continued)

(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, 465 and Corr.1)
- (ii) PROPOSED PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES (DP/TPA/11 and Add.1-12, 13 and Corr.1 and 2, 14, 15, 16 and Corr. 1, 17-22, 23 and Corr.1, 24-26)
- (iii) REQUEST FOR APPROVAL AUTHORITY (DP/432)
- (iv) BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR UNFPA ADMINISTRATIVE AND PROGRAMME SUPPORT SERVICES FOR 1981 (DP/483, 497)
- (v) AUDIT REPORTS (DP/434)
- (vi) AN EVALUATION REPORT ON SELECTED UNFPA PROJECTS (DP/493)
- (vii) THE FUTURE ROLE OF UNFPA

1. Mr. SY (Senegal) said that the excellent results obtained by UNFPA since its establishment testified to the interest which the developing countries took in its activities and to a greater understanding of the link between population growth and economic development. His Government had noted that an undue population growth could constitute an obstacle to harmonious economic and social development. It had therefore set as priorities a reduction in mortality and morbidity and an improvement in the geographical distribution of the population. In that connexion, it welcomed the assistance it had been given by UNFPA, in particular with regard to basic data collection, training in maternal and child health, and physical planning. That assistance should enable it to ensure that population problems were integrated more effectively within its development plan.

2. It was to be hoped that UNFPA would soon be in a position to allocate two thirds of its resources to priority countries; in any event his delegation fully appreciated the efforts which had already been made to that end. If resources continued to be transferred from intercountry activities to country activities, the 25 per cent target set in that respect by the Governing Council would soon be attained.

3. With regard to technical co-operation among developing countries (TCDC), he was glad to note that UNFPA was making increasing use of the experts and training and research institutes of those countries. That was a positive development which should enhance the effectiveness of projects and programmes. It was also encouraging to see that one third of the total amount of UNFPA projects had been implemented by Governments of developing countries.

4. As to financing questions, it was essential that UNFPA should have available sufficient resources to implement its multiyear programmes; donor countries should therefore increase the amount of their contributions. Noting with satisfaction the relatively low level of administrative expenditure, he expressed the hope that the Council would give favourable consideration to the requests of the Executive Director for the reclassification of certain posts and the establishment of a number of new posts.

5. His delegation supported all the Executive Director's recommendations. It would nevertheless welcome an increase in the number of co-ordinators in the African region. With regard to the Asian continent, it attached special importance to the programme for China. That country, which had the largest population in the world, had multiplied its efforts to control population problems; it was therefore only normal that the international community should support it and that the Council should approve the Chinese programme.
6. In conclusion, he requested additional information on the conference of mayors and community leaders of cities which were projected to have populations of 5 million by the year 2000.
7. Mr. FIVAT (Switzerland) said that his Government fully supported the fundamental objective of UNFPA, which was to provide assistance to developing countries that wished to achieve a better balance between population growth and the increase in available resources, combat infant mortality and restrain excessive migration. UNFPA clearly showed the advantages of a multilateral institution within the framework of international development aid, since in a field which greatly affected cultural values, it enabled action to be taken in total harmony with the policies of the countries concerned. By helping the Governments of developing countries to devise their own population policy while at the same time leaving them entirely free to take decisions, UNFPA promoted the principle of self-reliance, which was valid for all technical assistance provided by the United Nations system.
8. Referring to UNFPA operational activities, he noted with satisfaction that in 1979 actual expenditure had reached a level corresponding to the Fund's resources (\$150 million) and that the slow-down in disbursements caused by the introduction of the priority system had been largely overcome. In view of the importance of the Fund's activities and the success of its operations, it would be desirable for the volume of expenditure to be maintained, or even increased. Unfortunately, the financial burden was currently borne by a dozen or so countries which would probably be unable to increase their contributions sufficiently to achieve an annual growth of 25 per cent, as envisaged by the Executive Director. The group of donors should therefore be further enlarged and, in particular, the number of major donors should be increased.
9. Evaluation of activities and projects was a key element for any organization active in the field of technical co-operation. In his report on the evaluation of three projects (DP/493), the Executive Director had not simply indicated the positive results; he had also referred to the weak points which could be taken into account in the future. Those evaluation studies should be pursued and extended to major projects and programmes, and the Executive Director should report regularly to the Council on that matter. Furthermore, it seemed essential to include the reactions of the population concerned in the evaluation of projects, in particular where family planning was involved.
10. With regard to the role of women in development, he noted with interest the importance which UNFPA attached to the problems of women within the framework of its special programmes. It was clear that the place of women in society, their level of education and their social role had important effects on fertility

and, consequently, on the demographic evolution of peoples and countries. UNFPA should not concern itself with the problems of women only when its own projects were being designed; it should also make the entire United Nations development system aware of those problems. The multisector activities referred to in document DP/464, paragraph 60, would undoubtedly provide an excellent means of doing that, since the desire to improve the situation of women should be reflected at all levels and in all sectors.

11. His delegation had no objection in principle to an increase in the approval authority of the Executive Director. It nevertheless considered that the figures given in document DP/472 were unrealistic and that the Council should be required to take decisions on the basis of estimates which did not assume an annual increase of more than 10 to 11 per cent.

12. Mr. GAVIRIA LIEVANO (Colombia) expressed satisfaction at the results obtained by UNFPA in 1979 and said that his delegation attached great importance to the programmes undertaken in the field of population, since they helped the developing countries effectively to fight against economic difficulties and poverty. It was quite clear that population problems hampered economic and social development. His Government was, for its part, endeavouring to control excessive population growth as effectively as possible. Many bodies were closely co-operating with it to find specific solutions to that problem, not only by pursuing an adequate family planning policy but also by offering protection to needy mothers and children. Those efforts did not imply that his Government did not fully appreciate UNFPA assistance. It had, in fact, co-operated closely with the Fund in implementing population programmes, in particular two projects concerning migration, which was mentioned in document DP/464. Also under the auspices of UNFPA the Latin American Conference on Population and Development Planning had been held in Colombia; that Conference had, inter alia, recommended that population variables should be taken into account in development planning.

13. He expressed the hope that, in the future, the Fund would continue to co-operate with the developing countries, taking due account of their specific needs.

14. Mrs. PHAN (Observer for Viet Nam) thanked the Executive Director and his staff for the efforts they had made to ensure that close co-operation was established between Viet Nam and UNFPA. Those efforts had already borne fruit, since a substantial assistance programme had been initiated as early as 1977.

15. In Viet Nam, population problems were particularly acute, for several reasons. First, in spite of destructive wars, the population of Viet Nam had increased at a very rapid rate. At the time of the 1979 census, organized in accordance with UNFPA methods and with technical facilities provided by UNFPA, there had been nearly 55 million Vietnamese, which represented an annual increase of 2.6 per cent since 1975. At the same time, with the cessation of United States aid to South Viet Nam, the halting of Chinese aid and the destruction caused by Pol Pot in the south and China in the north, the per capita GNP had declined and at present it barely exceeded \$100. Secondly, the Vietnamese population was poorly distributed in geographical terms. The river delta areas were grossly overpopulated, whereas the very fertile high-plateau regions and heavily-wooded mountain regions were still very underpopulated. To ensure a balanced development of the country, the Government had long been endeavouring to relieve congestion in the overpopulated

areas by granting subsidies to families who volunteered to settle in the new economic areas. Similarly, officials, technicians and labourers who worked in those areas received higher pay. Thirdly, since 1975 Viet Nam had had to face enormous population problems due to the after-effects of the war. For example, family planning had been virtually ignored in the south of the country, particularly in circles which had had an easy life owing to United States aid; it was therefore not unusual to find families with about a dozen children. Prostitution and venereal disease, which was its corollary, were also hampering the application of family-planning methods, particularly since the bulk of the population, especially in the rural areas, had no health services or access to education. However, the most serious problem was due to the war, which had completely disrupted the geographical distribution of the population. Fleeing the bombing and toxic chemicals which had destroyed the environment, people had abandoned the rural areas and thronged to the towns. In spite of the efforts made by the Government to encourage them to return to the countryside, 25.6 per cent of the population of the south of the country remained concentrated in towns lacking industrial infrastructure, while in the north, which was more industrialized, only 13.2 per cent of the population lived in towns.

16. The programme undertaken by Viet Nam to try to solve all those problems formed an integral part of the national reconstruction and development plan. The goals sought were to reduce the population growth rate first to 2 per cent and then to 1 per cent, to create new industrial, handicrafts and agricultural centres in order to relieve congestion in the towns, and to encourage people to return to the areas where they had formerly lived. Since the problems were very delicate, the Vietnamese Government was being very flexible in executing the programme. For example, in the deltas and towns, it was mounting an intensive campaign in favour of family planning, while in the areas in which there were ethnic minorities with their own culture, it was encouraging a relative growth in population. To implement that programme, the Government was relying on institutions which were very active, particularly in the field of health and education, but the decisive role was being played by the Union of Vietnamese Women, within the framework of a large-scale movement for the protection of mothers and children.

17. However, irrespective of the size of the efforts it was making, the Vietnamese Government could not do without international assistance in carrying out the programme which was to be completed in 1981. Accordingly, in view of the acute and urgent nature of the problems facing her country, she suggested that UNFPA should consider making a detailed study of the characteristics of Viet Nam's population problems, that it should help the country to benefit from its experience in that field, that it should provide increased assistance to the competent national services to help them to implement projects more rapidly, especially the project concerning the contraceptive production unit, and that it should consider undertaking a more ambitious programme during the next cycle.

18. Mr. NIYIBIZI (Rwanda) noted with satisfaction the praiseworthy efforts which UNFPA had been making during the past 10 years and which promoted, inter alia, the economic, social and cultural development of the developing countries.

19. UNFPA had acquired a universal dimension by constantly stepping up its aid to all developing countries which requested it. Rwanda was among those countries, since it was thanks to technical and financial assistance from UNFPA that his Government had been able in 1978 to undertake the first general census of the Rwandese population. The data collected were at present being analysed and the process would be completed by 1981. His Government would therefore have at its disposal accurate and complete data which would enable it to carry out the specific studies needed to define the directions which development planning should take. Rwanda was, in fact, one of the most densely populated countries in Africa (over 190 inhabitants per square kilometre) and its demographic problems were aggravated by the fact that its annual population growth rate was about 4 per cent. In that connexion, he pointed out that the figures concerning the population of Rwanda contained in the various documents, which were based on World Bank estimates, were incorrect and would have to be rectified.
20. During the past two years, UNFPA had sent missions to Rwanda to assess population needs. In view of the results of those missions, UNFPA proposed to support a comprehensive population programme as outlined in document DP/FPA/11/Add.9. The programme included important projects which were to be carried out during the next three years and concerned, inter alia, population data collection and analysis, maternal and child health, family planning, demographic research and training, and information, education and communication activities. He hoped that the Council would give favourable consideration to that assistance programme which was proposed with the agreement of the Rwandese Government, and to all the other programmes submitted by priority countries.
21. He expressed the hope that the rich industrialized countries and, generally speaking, all countries in a position to do so would significantly increase their contributions to UNFPA, so as to guarantee the implementation of the various projects and programmes envisaged. Furthermore, UNFPA should strengthen its field staff in order to co-ordinate more effectively its own activities and those of Governments, and to ensure that programmes were implemented on schedule, which was frequently not the case at present.
22. Mr. BENEDICK (United States of America) said that the present and projected growth of the world population was an unprecedented phenomenon in the history of man; as Mr. McNamara had stressed at the annual meeting of the World Bank in 1979, excessive population growth and related problems were, in many countries, the most important obstacles to economic and social development, and impeded progress in many areas such as the elimination of malnutrition, improvement of health, education, and the reduction of unemployment. In that context, UNFPA's mission was complex and crucial.
23. The current debate showed that countries representing the most varied social, cultural and economic systems were becoming increasingly aware of the importance of demographic issues, and of the usefulness and effectiveness of UNFPA programmes. He had had an opportunity to see that for himself during a recent visit to Africa.

24. His delegation noted with satisfaction a number of areas in which significant progress had been made: increase in the implementation rate of programmes, elimination of unallocated resources, the candour of evaluation exercises, the quality of needs assessment reports, the sensitization of public opinion and policy-makers, efforts to improve the role of women in development, the Fund's participation in various international conferences, the formulation of appropriate language on population factors in the international development strategy for the Third Decade, etc. Among the conferences in which UNFPA had participated or was due to participate, he stressed the usefulness of the International Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development, the international conference on ageing on which UNFPA had initiated a dialogue with the Holy See, and the International Conference on Population and the Urban Future to be held in Rome.

25. Turning to specific issues, he noted that the necessary expansion of UNFPA activities to meet growing needs would impose an increasing burden on donors, who were subjected to severe budgetary pressures. Such expansion attested to the effectiveness of the Fund, which had made considerable progress since quite recent times, when population programmes had still been a sensitive subject in many parts of the world. In that context, the United States would do its best to continue to increase its contribution and hoped that other donor countries would do likewise; UNFPA, for its part, should intensify its efforts to expand the number of significant contributors.

26. On the subject of agenda item 7 (a) (ii), his delegation endorsed all the new programmes recommended by UNFPA; with regard to the implementation of country programmes, it advocated close collaboration with other donors, including the World Bank and bilateral donors.

27. On agenda item 7 (a) (iii), his delegation supported the request for net additional approval authority of \$90 million in 1981; it would subsequently propose a possible compromise concerning the revision of second-year and third-year approval authority levels consistent with the comments of other delegations.

28. With reference to agenda item 7 (a) (iv), his Government endorsed the proposed strengthening of field staff and an additional allocation of \$100,000 to the administrative budget for 1980; in order to establish the number of new posts, a compromise must be found between the 22 posts requested by the Fund, and supported by many delegations, and the 6 posts recommended by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ). The United States was prepared to support an additional three professional posts in financial services, support for the Executive Director, and multilateral and bilateral programme activities.

29. With regard to the future role of UNFPA (agenda item 7 (a) (vii)), his delegation urged the Council to allocate sufficient time to consideration of that important question.

30. Now that the developing countries recognized the need for action to solve population problems, the donor countries should not be less generous than in the past. They had a responsibility to future generations and must strive to achieve a balance between the need for fiscal constraint and the urgent need for expanded population programmes.

31. Mr. BENDAÑA (Observer for Nicaragua) said that since the war of liberation in Nicaragua in 1979 UNFPA had provided his country with assistance in family planning and maternal and child health, and in training. As was evident from document DP/FPA/11/Add.21, UNFPA would also provide assistance in the preparation of a population census in Nicaragua; the results of the census would be very useful to planners in fields such as education, health and food.

32. Generally speaking, UNFPA had taken effective action to help the poor countries of the world confront demographic problems. It was therefore a matter for concern that its resources were dwindling; in order to halt that trend and give UNFPA the opportunity to increase its inputs, the Council should support the recommendations of the Executive Director contained in document DP/483.

33. Mr. SHUMAEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) noted with interest the UNFPA reports submitted at the current session and the statement made by the Executive Director. The documentation, which was of excellent quality, contained a mass of data and reflected positive efforts. Praise was due to Mr. Salas and his limited but efficient staff for the results achieved.

34. The participation of a very large number of Governments in UNFPA activities indicated the current interest in population problems. Those problems were so large that, according to United Nations experts, 4,000 demographic experts would be required in the next 20 years. In order to achieve that objective, a considerable effort would have to be made to train national contingents of such experts. The USSR, which had accumulated vast experience in the population field and had been co-operating with UNFPA for several years, had placed particular emphasis on training. His Government was organizing at the University of Moscow specialized courses which were highly appreciated by participants and their Governments. The curriculum had been studied with Mr. Salas and various UNFPA officials who had visited the Soviet Union. A new curriculum had been prepared for 1980-1982 and the courses were to begin in two months' time; his Government had allocated 250,000 roubles to the programme, in addition to its normal contribution to the Fund. In that connexion, he referred to the continuing problems concerning the use of contributions in roubles; he hoped that the UNDP Administration would take the necessary steps to ensure that such contributions were put to good use. In the future, the USSR intended to transform the population courses programme at the University of Moscow, which had already given such good results, into a permanent centre for demographic studies.

35. Mr. ABBAS (Observer for the Sudan) said that the very detailed documents submitted to the Council and the excellent report on UNFPA activities in 1979 by the Executive Director clearly showed that its activities aimed at alleviating population problems were both important and useful. His Government attached special importance to the Fund's activities and, following a needs-assessment mission to the Sudan in 1978, it had been proposed that it should be classified among the priority countries.



36. The Sudan had a population of about 18 million, 44 per cent of whom were under the age of 15; 45.7 per cent of the female population were between the ages of 15 and 49. The birth rate was 45.8 per thousand and the death rate 18.4 per thousand. At the current population growth rate of 2.7 per cent, the population would double by the year 2000. Per capita income was only \$320 and the Sudan was one of the least developed countries. Furthermore, it had admitted half a million refugees from neighbouring African countries who required assistance in adapting and resettling. It therefore urgently needed UNFPA assistance to complement its national population policies.

37. Several African countries were in the same situation: Africa was the continent with the largest number of least developed countries and its population problems deserved special attention. His delegation therefore hoped that the Council would approve the necessary programme and enable UNFPA to continue and intensify the useful activities it had carried out during the 1970s to meet the growing needs of the developing countries. It supported the Executive Director's appeal to donor countries to increase their contributions.

38. Mr. ALSHAMI (Observer for Yemen) joined other speakers who had praised the Executive Director and his staff for the Fund's very positive achievements, which included a rapid growth in activities, a high rate of implementation, almost total elimination of non-allocated funds, well-prepared documentation alerting the international community to population problems and to the close relationship between development and population policies, and support for international conferences such as the International Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development in Colombo, the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women to be held shortly in Copenhagen and the International Conference on Population and the Urban Future to be held in Rome. It was absolutely essential that UNFPA should be given the means to continue its important contribution to multilateral efforts to establish the new international economic order and improve the quality of life.

39. With regard to UNFPA activities in Yemen, one of the 40 priority countries, the record was not very convincing. It was apparent from the figures given in document DP/465 (p.21) that the resources allocated to projects of interest to Yemen compared very poorly with those granted to other non-priority countries with a population of similar size. It could be argued that that was due to the capacity, or rather incapacity, of the country to absorb assistance or to the lack of well-prepared and well-documented requests. However, the role of international institutions such as UNFPA was surely to help the developing countries, particularly the hard-core developing countries, to escape from the vicious circle of underdevelopment. Difficult operational conditions should stimulate rather than discourage action by the international development agencies.

40. More energetic action by UNFPA would have averted the current polemics on determination of the population of Yemen. However, it was reassuring to note that the figures quoted in the UNFPA documents endorsed the official figures given by the Yemeni Government.

41. He sincerely hoped that the needs-assessment mission which had recently visited Yemen would remedy the present situation and help to bring about a fresh start.

42. Mr. KUNIGI (Japan), continuing the statement he had begun at the preceding meeting, said that his country had been co-operating with Governments of Bangladesh, Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand in the implementation of their family-planning projects by providing experts and audio-visual equipment. As the Executive Director had noted in his introductory statement, further multilateral and bilateral programmes were under consideration by his Government.
43. The priority countries had received increased allocations in 1979 and it was to be hoped that the percentage increase would continue, so as to reach the two-thirds target. His country would welcome an increase in the proportion of funds allocated to Asian countries, in view of the size of their populations and their absorptive capacity.
44. His delegation supported the Executive Director's request for approval authority, on the understanding that projects would be approved within the limits of available resources, as agreed at the Council's twenty-fourth session. It shared the views of the delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany on the question of approval authority.
45. The implementation rate was only a relative indicator of performance: a high rate might arise simply from higher expenditures in nominal terms without necessarily implying any qualitative improvement.
46. On the subject of resources, his delegation noted with concern the decline in the number of donor countries in recent years; in that connexion, however, the recent announcement by the delegation of the USSR was encouraging. The Fund should make greater efforts to obtain contributions from other countries and, at the same time, to improve its operational effectiveness. It would be useful to introduce an operational concept of selected priority areas and to strengthen projects executed jointly with other organizations.
47. His Government endorsed the projects and programmes listed in document DP/FPA/11 and the addenda thereto, and looked forward in particular to the successful implementation of the major projects concerning India and China, which merited the Council's backing. On the question of strengthening the staff, his delegation shared the views of the United States delegation concerning the establishment of three additional professional posts and the reclassification of certain posts; its approval would, however, be subject to clarification, which the secretariat might wish to give in the Budgetary and Finance Committee.
48. As to the qualitative improvement of the Fund's operations, he felt that the publication "World population and development: challenges and prospects" and the document which reflected the views of UNFPA personnel on the future role of the Fund would be of great value to the Council when it came to evaluate the future of the Fund at its next session.
49. He hoped the number of recipient and donor countries would grow so that the Fund could meet the challenge of the coming decades.
50. Mr. SALAS (Executive Director, UNFPA) thanked delegations which had taken part in the discussions: almost all of them had taken an encouraging view of some of the successes achieved by the Fund, such as heightened awareness of population problems, programme effectiveness, limitation of administrative costs and innovative approaches.

51. Replying to some of the questions raised, he reminded the representatives of Sweden and Canada that he had already replied personally at the previous session to objections concerning conferences such as the International Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development held in Colombo. Activities of that kind undoubtedly fell within the Fund's mandate, as was apparent from Economic and Social Council resolution 1763 (LIV), of which he read out paragraph 1(b). Moreover, the General Assembly had referred to the Colombo Declaration on Population and Development in the preamble to its resolution 34/104; the secretariat could therefore refer to that Declaration, which the General Assembly had accepted. In the same context, he pointed out that the association of Members of Parliaments with UNFPA activities was not new, since as early as 1971 the Federal Republic of Germany and Japan had made arrangements for Parliamentarians of those countries to follow up the Fund's projects. UNFPA had no intention of holding a large conference every year; in fact, the preparation of the Colombo Conference had taken two and a half years and the preparations for the Conference on Population and the Urban Future to be held in Rome had begun in 1974. He had stated that the cost of the Colombo Conference would not exceed \$500,000 and from the list of allocations on page 116 of the booklet entitled "1979 report - United Nations Fund for Population Activities" it could be seen that it had cost \$446,000. The cost of the Conference on Population and the Urban Future should not exceed \$330,000; as for the conference on ageing to be organized in co-operation with the Holy See, it should not entail very high costs for UNFPA.

52. Delegations had shown interest in the document reflecting the views of UNFPA personnel on the future of the Fund; that document was the outcome of an unprecedented initiative in the United Nations system. In addition, he stressed the value of the document "World population and development: challenges and prospects", which contained forecasts extending well into the twenty-first century.

53. With regard to the future role of UNFPA, general guidelines were to be found in General Assembly resolution 34/104. Reference might also be made to Assembly resolution 3019 (XXVII); he read out paragraph 2 of the latter resolution, in which the Assembly distinguished between, on the one hand, the responsibilities of the Economic and Social Council for UNFPA policies, and, on the other, the financial and administrative policies relating to the work programme, fund-raising methods and the annual budget of the Fund, which were matters for the UNDP Governing Council.

54. Replying to a comment by the delegation of Canada, he said that the number of donor countries had in fact increased: there were 85 in 1980 as opposed to 45 in 1979. He read out the list of the most generous donor countries in order: United States of America, Federal Republic of Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Canada, Denmark, the United Kingdom, Switzerland and Belgium. In addition to those 11 countries, which had all given more than \$1 million, 3 others - Australia, New Zealand and Finland - had made substantial contributions. He also mentioned the oil-producing OPEC countries: Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Libya and Iraq.

55. An annual increase of 25 per cent in contributions had been requested to finance UNFPA's work plan, but in view of donors' budgetary constraints, that percentage might not be achieved. The Netherlands had announced an increase of 10 per cent, and many countries had regarded the figure of 25 per cent as too high. In those circumstances,

the execution of projects would have to be spread over a longer period, as the delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany had suggested, or priority areas would have to be defined in relation to the Fund's capacity. UNFPA would programme its activities on the basis of resources actually obtained.

56. Mrs. SUTHERLAND (Canada) said that her delegation was very impressed by the amount of work entailed in the programmes and projects submitted to the Council, and at the same time somewhat awed by being asked to approve so much (the total cost of the programmes exceeded \$343 million) in so little time. She would like to know, in the case of some of the large-scale projects which were really phase II operations, whether there was any unexpended balance remaining from phase I and how much it amounted to for each country. If realistic financial projections showed that the necessary resources would not be available for the forthcoming work plan, the Council must realize that it was approving programmes extending over more than five years. Her delegation would like the Executive Director to indicate how programmes might be scaled down if resources turned out to be less than forecast.

57. Her delegation's concerns were centred not so much on national population policies as on how UNFPA was applying to programmes policies which had already been approved by the Council and which the Council must review and amend if necessary. Of course, some reference to country programmes might have to be made in order to initiate the necessary dialogue with the secretariat and other members of the Council.

58. On the assessment of basic needs, her delegation would like the Executive Director to enlarge on what he had said in his opening statement, namely that many of the programmes submitted at the current session were based on needs assessment. She would have thought that that would be the case for all priority country programmes. Did that mean that the programmes for non-priority countries were developed on an ad hoc project-by-project basis? Furthermore, some assessments were still awaited. Had assessment for Sri Lanka been completely abandoned? In view of the number and scale of the programmes, it was important to know more about the project appraisal process and in particular, what proportion of projects were developed on the basis of needs assessment and what criteria governed project-funding choices.

59. Her delegation would also like to know what was the proportion of "projects pending", i.e. projects for which the relevant documentation had been completed. Many of the proposals placed before the Council extended beyond 1985 and it would be useful to know whether they were covered by table 6 on page 17 of document DP/464.

60. Her delegation would also like to know what was meant by the "reserve" provided for in some programmes and projects; in some cases it seemed rather substantial. Were such reserves covered by the official agreement with the country concerned? There was also a tendency to approve pre-programme budgets. When were such budgets negotiated, in relation to the signature of the official agreement? And at what moment did signature take place in relation to approval by the Council?

61. Another question concerned long-term projects: how long was UNFPA expected to remain active in a country? There seemed to be a tendency to move towards an IPF system, especially in the case of programmes for which a substantial reserve was provided.

61.bis. Another question was whether UNFPA should engage in large-scale purchases of vehicles and the construction of buildings. Other sources of financing might be available for such purposes.

62. Since \$6 million had already been spent on the proposals before the Council, it would be helpful if the secretariat would say what ceiling was placed on spending on programmes which had not yet received Council approval.

63. How were projects in the course of execution evaluated? Were checks based on quarterly and national reviews? In some phase II programmes it was apparently suggested that the same type of activity should continue as in phase I, without any evaluation.

64. With regard to the comprehensive country programmes, the secretariat should indicate what amounts had actually been disbursed out of earlier multiyear commitments. If there was a balance remaining, was it committed? Was it carried over to the new programme? It would be helpful to know the annual allocations, disbursements and commitments for each country.

65. There was also the question how the multilateral-bilateral system worked. Was it a global programme, to which were added certain projects intended for multilateral financing? Or was it like the system in force in UNICEF, where all projects were approved but provision was made only for some out of general resources, which were limited, while others were financed from special funds? That was a solution which might be considered if resources fell short of expected levels.

66. Before turning to specific programmes on which she wished to comment, she said that her delegation supported the programmes as a whole submitted to the Council, subject, of course, to the necessary resources being available, and endorsed the Executive Director's suggestion that general agreement might be reached on the way in which reductions should be effected if necessary.

67. Her delegation unreservedly supported the programme of assistance to the Government of India (DP/FPA/11/Add.13 and Corr.1 and 2), in which there were several interesting features, such as the retraining programme for health and social welfare personnel, the population education programme for the trade-union and industrial sectors, the participation of medical auxiliaries in the distribution of oral contraceptives in rural areas, the comprehensive programmes in Bihar and Rajasthan, and the development of local contraceptive manufacturing units.

67 bis. In connexion with the programme of assistance to the Government of Indonesia (DP/FPA/11/Add.19), which her delegation strongly supported, it had noted a very appreciable decline in fertility rates, especially in Java and Bali, a firm policy commitment to reduce fertility, the excellent organization provided by the National Family Planning Co-ordinating Board, the very effective efforts of donors, and the substantial volume of funds allocated by the World Bank and UNICEF. The programme

seemed to be having a considerable impact and the Government of Indonesia, which was itself executing many projects, was to be congratulated on its innovative ideas on organization and programming.

68. Her delegation fully supported the programme of assistance to China (DP/FPA/11/Add.22). It noted with particular satisfaction that UNFPA was to help in the 1981 census, an operation which was fully justified in view of China's enormous population, and that UNFPA would provide assistance for the institute of developmental biology, whose work would be centred on new technologies and which was undertaking exactly the type of research programme that UNFPA should support. Her delegation also welcomed the importance given to information and education on population matters; that would enable the best possible use to be made of the skills of the two executing agencies, WHO and the Programme for the Introduction and Adaptation of Contraceptive Technology (PIACT). The proposed programme was very well designed and its cost altogether reasonable, given the large number of people it would affect. Her delegation thanked China for its contribution to the Fund and its very generous offer relating to TCDC.

69. Her delegation was particularly interested in the programme of assistance to the Government of Nepal (DP/FPA/11/Add.23 and Corr.1), which reflected the multisector approach adopted by the field co-ordinator; it was following closely the basic-needs assessment undertaken in Nepal, so as to gain a better understanding of the planning process initiated by UNFPA. It noted with satisfaction that emphasis was placed in the programme on family planning, maternal and child health, data collection and analysis, and special programmes comprising low-cost projects oriented essentially towards women.

70. Mr. ABELIN (Observer for Sweden) said that his delegation supported the country programmes as a whole submitted for the Council's approval, provided that the necessary resources were available. In the absence of resources, some of the programmes which had been approved would have to be extended beyond the planned five-year period or curtailed, in which case it would be useful if the secretariat could indicate how such a reduction might be carried out. His delegation hoped that the necessary funds could be found to implement all the programmes but considered that, if that was to be achieved, the circle of donors would have to be widened and diversified.

71. Following a decision taken by the Council at its previous session, the Executive Director of UNFPA was no longer required to submit a report to the Council every two years. Nonetheless, in view of the many large-scale programmes currently being implemented - particularly in China, India, Indonesia and Viet Nam - such reports would be very useful even if they were no longer mandatory.

72. His delegation was somewhat concerned about the fact that each country programme gave the estimated contribution, in dollars, not only of UNFPA but also of the Government in question. It was practically impossible to put an actual figure on the input of recipient countries. UNFPA's contribution could be no more than minimal compared with the cost borne by the countries themselves and, while it was normal for the Government's contribution to be higher than that of UNFPA, there was a disproportion - for example, in the case of Viet Nam, where contributions were \$250 million and \$17 million respectively - which might give the false impression that the developing countries had far more resources at their disposal than was actually the case. The secretariat might perhaps review that matter for future years.

73. Mrs. MUNCK (Observer for Sweden), complementing Mr. Abelin's statement with comments on the programme of assistance to China (DP/FPA/11/Add.22), said that her delegation welcomed the co-operation which had been established between UNFPA and China, particularly in view of the size of the Chinese population and because of the importance which China attached to its population problems, the determined and innovative efforts it had made in that area, and the experience which it had acquired and which might be useful for all countries.

74. The proposed programme had many positive components, including support for the institute of developmental biology, which would concern itself with reproductive quality, for studies on infertility and subfertility, and for strengthening of the National Research Institute for Family Planning, which would work on the development of new methods, with particular emphasis on male fertility.

75. On the question of the 1981 census, which formed the largest part of the programme, her delegation, while appreciating the importance of the project and agreeing that UNFPA should support it, was somewhat concerned about the fact that provision was made for the purchase of 21 computers, which would be used only for a short period during the project. In the opinion of her delegation, there was a danger that that might be regarded as a precedent; it would be preferable to finance the purchase of the computers from sources outside the regular UNFPA budget, possibly through multilateral assistance.

76. Mr. HEMMER (United States of America) congratulated UNFPA, and in particular the Chief of the Programme Planning Division, on having responded to the directives of the Council and succeeded, within two short years, in transforming the bulk of its projects, which had taken the form of modest, single-year projects, into multiyear comprehensive programmes often preceded by needs-assessment missions.

77. In documents DP/FPA/11/Add.1-26, the Executive Director had recommended that the Council should approve 25 new country programmes and make allocations for the remaining portions of three programmes approved in 1978. His delegation fully concurred in all those recommendations. However, although most of the programmes, particularly those for Nepal (DP/FPA/11/Add.23), Indonesia (DP/FPA/11/Add.19), the Upper Volta (DP/FPA/11/Add.8) and Somalia (DP/FPA/11/Add.18), were entirely satisfactory to the Government, others seemed to have shortcomings. In the programme for Madagascar (DP/FPA/11/Add.10), for example, there appeared to be considerable duplication of activity, and the resources allocated for the promotion of the participation of women in development were inadequate. In the same programme, and in the programmes for Bolivia (DP/FPA/11/Add.25), Malawi (DP/FPA/11/Add.3) and Mauritania (DP/FPA/11/Add.6), the absence of family-planning activity might seriously hamper improvements in maternal and child health services, which those countries badly needed. In the case of Peru (DP/FPA/11/Add.11), the very considerable financial aid that UNFPA planned to provide to the Government in order to enable it to carry out a population and housing census in 1981 significantly reduced the resources available for other assistance activities. In the case of Colombia (DP/FPA/11/Add.17), some of the proposed training activities for midwives seemed costly and unnecessary. In the case of Guatemala (DP/FPA/11/Add.14), UNFPA should consider appointing a full-time local co-ordinator to supervise all activities planned within the ambitious programme for that country. In the case of Nicaragua (DP/FPA/11/Add.21), the health objectives set appeared unrealistic in view of the limited resources available. Moreover, as Nicaragua already had large quantities of contraceptives available, it should not be difficult to incorporate a family-planning element into that programme, a development which would be extremely useful.

78. Since, in order to implement the new programmes and continue on-going programmes, the Fund would need resources in excess of the contributions it might expect for 1980 and the years ahead, it should not only make every effort to increase the volume of contributions and broaden the donor base, but should also consider how to make the best use of available resources in order to meet the most urgent needs and should inform the Council of the adjustments which it had made for that purpose in the different programmes. If it was decided sufficiently early to lengthen programmes or to defer implementation of low-priority activities, the countries concerned could adjust their development plans accordingly and transfer resources to programmes which UNFPA might no longer be able to finance. His Government would be ready to consult with the Fund on ways in which United States assistance might be used in such a case to avoid gaps in programme funding.

79. Miss SKETCHLEY (United Kingdom) said that UNFPA should ensure that its programmes and projects were suited to the needs of the countries concerned and that they could be implemented within the scheduled time. It should also see that the difference between its contribution and that of the Government was not excessive. In that regard, her delegation regretted that, in documents DP/FPA/11/Add. 6-10, dealing with the programmes for Mauritania, Tanzania, the Upper Volta, Rwanda and Madagascar respectively, the estimated amount of the government contribution was not shown, and hoped that the UNFPA secretariat would remedy that omission.

80. Given the large amount of resources which UNFPA proposed to devote to programmes for certain countries with relatively small populations, she expressed the view that, although the Fund should not overlook the needs of such countries, it must continue its efforts to meet the needs of the countries with the largest populations.

81. Concerning the programme reserve, her delegation felt that at its future sessions the Council should consider what use should be made of the reserve for five programmes, which amounted to over \$1 million.

82. She would welcome further details on multilateral funding agreements and UNFPA policy for financing construction work and purchases of equipment.

83. In relation to the programme for India (DP/FPA/11/Add.13), she wished to know exactly what was included under the heading "Implementation of policies", to which, according to the table in paragraph 55, it was planned to devote 60 per cent of the resources allocated to the programme.

84. In conclusion, she announced that her Government was prepared to approve the programmes as a whole submitted to the Council, provided, of course, that UNFPA managed to obtain the funds necessary to implement them.

85. Mr. MOHLING (Federal Republic of Germany) said that he had studied with interest the 26 country programmes submitted to the Council for approval and was pleased to see that UNFPA was continuing to co-operate with India and Indonesia and that it was for the first time proposing a programme for China. The importance of that programme was fully appreciated by his delegation. However, as the funds required for those three country programmes and for all the other programmes submitted for the Council's approval were likely to represent some 50 per cent of total contributions to UNFPA during the next four years, sound and realistic planning and the most careful allocation of funds were essential.



86. In order that members of the Council might have as precise an idea as possible of the programmes which UNFPA intended to finance, programme documentation must contain all the necessary information on the scope and objective of each project, the proposed executing agency and the breakdown of expenditure by category and by component. Except in document DP/FPA/11/Add.22, which related to assistance to the Government of China and in which the precise mandate of PIACT had unfortunately not been defined, documents on programmes which UNFPA intended to finance had so far always provided ample information on scope, objectives and executing agencies. However, information on the breakdown of expenditure by category and component was very inadequate. Of all the programme documents before the Council, only 16 gave a breakdown of expenditure by category and only 9 gave a breakdown by component. His delegation therefore hoped that the secretariat would transmit that information to it since, in its opinion, without that information it was impossible to undertake a thorough examination of the programmes.

87. Without wishing to contest the inalienable right of countries to determine their own needs, and bearing in mind the limited resources at the Fund's disposal, he wondered whether the Fund was well-advised, within the framework of its programme of assistance to China, in planning to participate in the financing of an institute of developmental biology (DP/FPA/11/Add.22, para. 26); such a course ran counter to the policy which it had previously followed of refraining from financing projects concerning long-term basic research. In his opinion, it would be preferable for that type of project to be considered for multilateral-bilateral financing.

88. In spite of the shortcomings to which it had drawn attention, his delegation was prepared to support the country programmes as a whole as submitted to the Council. However, because of financial constraints, UNFPA should prepare for all eventualities and be willing to make adjustments in programmes in case contributions did not reach anticipated levels.

89. He wished to congratulate the Executive Director and his staff on having undertaken a candid evaluation of UNFPA projects, even though the report on the question (DP/493) was in some respects highly critical; he was convinced that UNFPA was already making efforts to implement its recommendations.

90. Mr. WANG (China) thanked all the delegations which had expressed support for the proposed programme for China. His delegation particularly endorsed the programmes and projects concerning the Comoros, the Gambia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritania, Nigeria, Rwanda, Somalia, the Sudan, the Upper Volta, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal, the Philippines, Bolivia, Colombia, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua and Peru.

91. As the observer for Viet Nam had made unfounded accusations against China, it was the duty of his delegation to re-establish the truth. If Chinese troops had been obliged briefly to penetrate into Viet Nam, they had done so in order to defend their own country and put an end to the repeated incursions of Vietnamese forces into China. Since the end of its struggle against the foreign invader, Viet Nam, instead of developing its economy and forging friendly links with other countries, had practised a policy of hegemony, as was indicated by the presence of its troops in Kampuchea and its refusal to withdraw troops from that country in spite of the relevant resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations.

92. Mr. ENOKI (Japan) said that his Government was ready to endorse all the programmes submitted to the Council and, in particular, the programmes for Indonesia and the Philippines, countries in which Japan had financed various projects under bilateral agreements.

93. In respect to the programme for China, his Government would be prepared to consider the possibility of participating, under multilateral agreements, in the financing of the proposed census, which in his opinion was of considerable importance, and of activities to enable China to improve its statistical system and implement its demographic policy, whose objective was to reduce the population growth rate to 0.5 per cent by 1985 and to zero by the year 2000.

94. Since both the programme for China, and the programme for India, which his country unreservedly supported, were very large-scale programmes to which it was proposed to assign \$50 million and \$100 million respectively, it would be desirable for UNFPA to prepare for the Council either interim progress reports or evaluation reports when the programmes were completed.

95. Mr. SALAS (Executive Director, UNFPA) urged members of the Council to consider possibilities of contributing to the various country programmes and projects before them within the framework of multilateral financing agreements.

96. Mrs. SADIK (Assistant Executive Director, UNFPA), replying to a number of questions asked by the Canadian delegation, said that in most cases the resources allocated in the past to countries for which further aid was projected had been fully used; of the 25 programmes and projects submitted for the Council's approval, 14 had been based on a needs-assessment mission. In that connexion, it would certainly be helpful for the Council to invite UNFPA to submit to it at its next session a report on the experience gained in the evaluation of needs and in the preparation of projects and programmes.

97. It was UNFPA's practice to try to finance up to 40 per cent of the cost of projects, provided that the total cost of the project did not exceed \$1 million. In the financing of construction work and the purchase of equipment and vehicles, UNFPA acted in conformity with general policy guidelines, which were currently being redrafted. In general, therefore, the cost of construction work which might be included in a project should not account for more than one third of the total project budget.

98. UNFPA project and programme follow-up procedures were described in detail in a handbook entitled "Monitoring instructions", which she would arrange to be distributed to members of the Council. The relevant information on the procedures for concluding multilateral financing agreements and the rules governing them were to be found in the UNFPA document on the procedures for such agreements. In that connexion, she pointed out that the assistance requested by the Government of China in the establishment of an institute of developmental biology should mainly be furnished under multilateral financing agreements.

99. Replying to a question by the representative of Sweden concerning the estimated amount of contributions from Governments, she said that UNFPA generally had to rely on the figures transmitted to it by Governments since it was difficult for the Fund to carry out such estimates itself, although that had been done in several cases.

100. Turning to the comments made by the United States representative, she said she did not quite see in what way there might be any duplication of activities in the programme for Madagascar (DP/FPA/11/Add.10). The programme for Bolivia (DP/FPA/11/Add.25) did not include any activity designed to promote family planning because that had been the wish of the Bolivian Government, whose aim was above all to reduce morbidity and mortality among mothers and children. On the other hand, the training of medical and paramedical personnel and the information campaigns, mainly on human reproduction, which were provided for in the programmes for Mauritania (DP/FPA/11/Add.6) and Malawi (DP/FPA/11/Add.3) should lead to the provision of family-planning services.

101. With regard to the financing of local expenditure incurred in projected censuses, UNFPA had decided, prior to the comments by the United States representative on the projected census in Peru (DP/FPA/11/Add.11), that in future that type of expenditure should be borne by the Government of the country concerned. Furthermore, in order to co-ordinate activities under the programme for Guatemala, (DP/FPA/11/Add.14), the Fund had decided to send a programme administrator to work on the spot. Concerning the training of traditional midwives provided for in the programme for Colombia (DP/FPA/11/Add.17), the value of which had been questioned by the United States representative, it had been decided to postpone execution until 1981.

102. In conclusion, she invited the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany to transmit his comments and proposals in writing since some of them, concerning the presentation and content of programme descriptions submitted to the Council, called for careful study.

103. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council should approve document DP/FPA/11 on country projects and programmes. He further suggested that the Budgetary and Finance Committee should be requested to study the financial implications of the recommendations contained in the report of the High-level Meeting on the Review of TCDC (TCDC/13) and the recommendation in the report of the Administrator on the feasibility of indexing the Council's decisions (DP/481), which the Council had before it under agenda item 11(b).

104. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.