

UNITED NATIONS  
DEVELOPMENT  
PROGRAMME



UNDP

Distr.  
GENERAL

DP/SR.704  
27 June 1980

Original: ENGLISH

GOVERNING COUNCIL

Twenty-seventh session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 704th MEETING

held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,  
on Wednesday, 25 June 1980, at 3.15 p.m.

President:

Mr. POPESCU

(Romania)

CONTENTS

Technical co-operation among developing countries (continued)

- (a) Report of high-level meeting on the review of technical co-operation among developing countries (continued)
- (b) Report of the Administrator on enhancing the capacities of developing countries for technical co-operation (continued)

Other funds and programmes (continued)

- (h) United Nations technical co-operation activities
- (i) Information on agency regular and extrabudgetary technical co-operation expenditures financed from sources other than UNDP

This record is subject to correction.

Participants wishing to make corrections should submit them in writing to the Official Records Editing Section, room E.6108, Palais des Nations, Geneva, within one week of receiving the record in their working language.

Corrections to the records of the meetings of the Governing Council at this session will be consolidated in a single corrigendum to be issued shortly after the end of this session.

The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (agenda item 8) (continued)

- (a) REPORT OF HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON THE REVIEW OF TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (TCDC/13 and Corr.1-2) (continued)
  - (b) REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATOR ON ENHANCING THE CAPACITIES OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES FOR TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION (continued) (DP/457)
1. Mr. SZNAJDER (Poland) said that since ECDC and TCDC should continue to be central components of efforts to create the New International Economic Order, his delegation was glad that both had received increased attention within the United Nations family and in UNDP.
  2. Following the General Assembly's delegation of special responsibility for TCDC to UNDP, the Administrator had introduced a greater measure of TCDC in UNDP programmes and activities, a trend which his delegation fully approved. It had also noted with great interest the efforts made by the Administrator and the countries concerned to achieve a more effective level of sharing and exchanging know-how and capacities between developing countries; in that connexion, reference might be made to the strengthening of the Special Unit for TCDC within UNDP, the agreement between UNDP and UNCTAD on a programme of co-operation for the period 1980-1982, and the outcome of the high-level meeting on TCDC held in May 1980. From the very outset Poland had supported the concept of TCDC, which it considered to be a solid basis for further co-operation among developing countries. The idea was beneficial to developing countries and not prejudicial to the goals of international economic co-operation among all States.
  3. Turning to document DP/457, he said his delegation agreed that the United Nations system should play a catalytic, supportive and innovative rather than an operational role in the promotion of TCDC activities.
  4. The third programming cycle would provide new opportunities for TCDC action which, in his delegation's view, should be an integral part of the preparation of country programmes, project formulation, execution and evaluation.
  5. His delegation believed that special attention should be given to twinning arrangements between corresponding institutions in developing countries, since they would release potential accumulated but not always utilized in particular countries. Poland was ready to participate in such arrangements.
  6. His delegation had doubts about the utilization of the regular budget for TCDC activities, for it believed that, as a matter of principle, financial support for TCDC should be derived from voluntary contributions.
  7. His delegation hoped that the high-level meeting would lead to positive results serving, not as an end in themselves, but as a means of achieving progress towards the establishment of the New International Economic Order and the implementation of the new International Development Strategy for the 1980s.
  8. Miss COURSON (France) said that the importance of TCDC in international relations had been recognized at the Buenos Aires Conference, which had reaffirmed its role in ensuring national and collective self-reliance for developing countries. The spirit

of Buenos Aires should not be lost in reports and recommendations, which remained a dead letter. The contrast between the impressive mass of studies and research and the low level of co-operation in trade, science and technology between the developing countries was very marked. As the high-level meeting had noted, the idea of TCDC was intellectually accepted but much still remained to be done before it became a force for economic, social and cultural co-operation among the countries of the third world.

9. With respect to the decision of the Budgetary and Finance Committee on the financial implications of the decisions adopted at the high-level meeting (DP/L.336/Add.4) she shared the concern of the Nordic delegations that some of the many studies proposed might be duplicated by work being done in the Economic and Social Council and the specialized agencies. Care must be taken to ensure that TCDC did not remain a mere abstract concept. She recalled that her delegation had made suggestions in that regard at the high-level meeting.
10. Mr. ABBAS (Observer for Sudan) thanked the Administrator for his report on the results of the high-level meeting on TCDC, and commended the work of the Special Unit for TCDC.
11. His country attached great importance to TCDC as a means of building up self-reliance in the developing countries, and believed that it could serve as a basis for an effective development dialogue between developed and developing countries. Properly implemented global and regional TCDC programmes could help to reduce inequalities in the scientific and technological capabilities of nations. The developing countries should be supported in their efforts by the developed countries, the United Nations system and other international institutions.
12. He endorsed the remarks of the representatives of Uganda, Egypt, Mexico and Argentina and supported all the recommendations in document TCDC/13. He appealed to members of the Council to endorse the studies recommended in that report, and expressed his delegation's approval of document DP/457.
13. Mr. WAFULA (Kenya) said that his delegation greatly appreciated the importance attached by the Administrator to TCDC, and endorsed the remarks made by the representative of Uganda on the question.
14. Kenya had been honoured to host a meeting of African government experts on TCDC in May 1980, attended by over 400 delegations from all countries of the African region. Representatives of nearly 45 Governments and over 50 non-governmental organizations and agencies had been present. The meeting had underscored the importance attached by African countries to the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and to TCDC in general. The meeting had addressed itself to three main issues - rural development; food production, processing and marketing; and the application of technology to development. It had made recommendations for the consideration of the high-level meeting on TCDC held at Geneva in May 1980, and those recommendations had been adopted.
15. He appealed to the international community for undivided support for TCDC, which was a vehicle for the realization of the New International Economic Order and would do much to alleviate the sufferings of the impoverished peoples of the developing countries.
16. Under the auspices of OAU and ECA, the African countries had recently launched the African Institute for High Technical Training and Research in Nairobi. That was a practical example of TCDC, and his delegation appealed to all developed countries to aid the Institute, which required massive financial resources if it was to be successful.

17. He hoped that the Council would be able to approve the decision of the Budgetary and Finance Committee concerning the provision of additional resources for TCDC activities (DP/L.336/Add.4).

18. If supported by all developed and developing countries, TCDC would ensure the national and collective self-reliance of the developing countries. Kenya was fully committed to TCDC and was prepared to co-operate with other countries and share its experience in order to ensure the success of the Nairobi recommendations and the Buenos Aires Plan of Action.

19. Mr. MULDER (Netherlands) drew attention to paragraph 2 of the decision of the Budgetary and Finance Committee on the financial implications of the decisions adopted at the high-level meeting on TCDC (DP/L.336/Add.4). In that paragraph, the Administrator was requested to determine whether some of the proposed studies and reports could not be carried out as a by-product of other activities in the United Nations system and thereby from other sources of funds.

20. Mr. BROWN (Deputy Administrator) said that the ten representatives who had spoken had by and large supported the work done by the Special Unit for TCDC and the recommendations made by the high-level conference.

21. Some delegations had expressed concern about the number of studies and reports recommended and had suggested that some of them might duplicate work being done within UNDP or other United Nations bodies. He assured those delegations that, as provided for in the decision of the Budgetary and Finance Committee, the Administrator's intention was to examine very carefully all requests made with a view to determining the most economic manner of making the studies required for the high-level meeting in 1981.

22. One representative had suggested that since there had not been time for the administration to review the implications of the report of the high-level meeting, it should be given an opportunity to do so and to report back to the Council at its next session. That would mean a postponement of the next high-level meeting from 1981 to 1982. However, the timing of that meeting was the result of an agreement reached at Buenos Aires between developed and developing countries; one consideration underlying that agreement had been that if a high-level meeting was held in New York in 1981 and every two years thereafter, such meetings would not coincide with the Governing Council's sessions in Geneva. It would, however, be for the Council to make a recommendation to the General Assembly regarding any change in the date of the next high-level meeting.

23. There were some important recommendations on financial resources, particularly in the recommendations on the use of IPFs by one country for TCDC purposes in another. Certain principles had been suggested by the high-level meeting which required endorsement by the Council, and it was suggested that they should be included in a decision by the Council. The relevant text would be circulated shortly, and delegations might wish to raise the matter when it was under discussion.

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

##### (h) UNITED NATIONS TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES (DP/RP/21 and Add.1, DP/RP/22)

24. Mr. BI JILONG (Under-Secretary-General, Department of Technical Co-operation for Development) said that the decisions of the Council and their implementation would be a major contribution to the search for solutions to the serious problems involved in

the economic and social development of the developing countries, problems which were currently complicated by inflation, scarce energy, monetary disturbances and other man-made and natural upheavals. The great challenge of the 1980s was to achieve the New International Economic Order. Vigorous action was required to bridge the widening economic gap between developed and developing countries, and to strengthen the national capabilities of developing countries so that they could participate fully in international economic relations and thereby benefit from a more equitable distribution of scarce resources.

25. The process of negotiating and implementing new approaches to economic development showed all too clearly that technical co-operation was indispensable and had to be increased if the developing countries were to strengthen their institutional infrastructure and utilize their resources and opportunities for development effectively.

26. The necessary new initiatives and programmes could not, however, be launched without additional financing. International resources devoted to technical co-operation had tended to remain static in relative terms, while the scope and complexity of needs continued to grow. Furthermore, fluctuations and uncertainties about those resources had an adverse impact on the delivery of technical services to developing countries. The Council's deliberations on the preparations and financial provision for the third programming cycle were, therefore, of particular significance. The Department of Technical Co-operation for Development shared the common concern that additional resources should be made available to all developing countries in general and to the least-developed, land-locked, low-income and drought-stricken countries in particular.

27. Introducing the Secretary-General's report on technical co-operation activities (DP/RP/21 and Add.1 and DP/RP/22), he said that, in response to decision 79/22 of the Governing Council, the report provided a broader coverage of United Nations technical co-operation activities than in the past. It included an overview of the activities of the Centre on Transnational Corporations, the Division of Human Rights, the Office of Legal Affairs, UNIDO, UNCTAD, UNEP, as well as the five regional commissions. The Department would welcome the Council's advice on any further changes it might consider desirable in the format of the report.

28. An internal realignment had been carried out in the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development. The overriding concern had been to improve, both quantitatively and qualitatively, the delivery of technical co-operation to developing countries. Managerial innovations, such as the team approach to the management of large-scale projects, had been introduced on a pilot basis in order to streamline the Department's activities. Another objective had been to retain the essential flexibility in the programme so that the Department could react expeditiously to new dimensions in technical co-operation.

29. The need to maintain a flexible and open approach to technical co-operation had also been reflected in the type of activities which the Department had executed under the Regular Programme. In decision 79/22, the Governing Council had requested the Secretary-General to present to the Council at its twenty-seventh session specific guidelines for the over-all orientation of the Regular Programme. In accordance with that decision, the Department had suggested a reformulation of guidelines, keeping in mind the fact that the Regular Programme should concentrate its resources in areas less favoured by other funding sources, that it should remain flexible in order to respond quickly and effectively to the technical co-operation needs of developing countries and that it should stress projects of an experimental or pilot nature.

The guidelines proposed in the Secretary-General's report stressed the multiplier effect of activities to be financed by the Regular Programme and the need for those activities to reflect global development policies. Projects should be compatible with development needs of developing countries, particularly the least developed ones, and should be of short duration in view of the very limited funds available.

30. While those criteria were clearly not peculiar to the Regular Programme, they were emphasized to a much greater degree because of the Programme's very limited resources, which were diminishing yearly. For example, the interregional advisory programme produced a multiplier effect through assistance to Governments in identifying and formulating projects for submission to potential donors. Interregional advisers could assist Governments, at their request, in incorporating global development targets into their national development plans. One example was the series of advisory missions being organized in response to General Assembly resolution 34/201 in order to assess the energy and mineral resources of developing countries. The Department had also convened a series of meetings, financed by the Regular Programme, including a workshop in petroleum geology in China, organized in collaboration with the Chinese Government, to discuss the latest developments in hydrocarbon exploration. A pilot project in hydro-power reserves for the least developed countries was in the final stages of preparation with joint financing by the Japanese Government. Those were examples of the way in which the Department's activities had followed the guidelines proposed for the Regular Programme. The Department would, however, appreciate the Council's views, so that those directives could be further clarified.

31. In accordance with paragraph 4 of decision 79/22, endorsing the use of Regular Programme resources in support of the country programming exercise, the Department had informed Governments of developing countries of the availability of advisory services to help them formulate their over-all needs and priorities for technical co-operation as part of their development planning processes. In a number of cases expressions of interest had been received and were being actively followed up.

32. The Department had delivered a programme of slightly over \$100 million in 1979, funded from various sources. That figure included almost \$39 million for natural resources and energy; \$19 million for development planning; \$18 million for statistics, including censuses; and \$9 million for public administration and finance. The total budget for projects which the Department was being asked to undertake in 1980 currently amounted to approximately \$160 million and the Department hoped to increase the delivery percentage during that year.

33. As the needs of developing countries evolved and as they increased their capabilities in fields where the United Nations had traditionally provided assistance, technological advances and social change revealed new problems where adequate local expertise was not yet available. In accordance with its mandate as the executing agency in the United Nations system directly responsible for promoting the necessary institutional infrastructure for economic and social development, and in response to increased demand from Governments, the Department was considerably increasing its programme in the field of development planning and administration. In Africa, for example, the increase in development planning projects was particularly significant.

34. The increased scope of the Department's activities in the field of public administration reflected the changing role of Governments in the development process as well as the need to develop new approaches and strategies, including more sophisticated techniques for the review and evaluation of institutional effectiveness and research. In conformity with General Assembly resolution 34/137 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/47 relating to management of public enterprises and improvements to public accounting and auditing for development, his Department had given help to the International Centre for Public Enterprises in Yugoslavia. Special attention was also being given to strengthening the infrastructure of developing countries for the exploration and effective exploitation of their natural resources, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 32/176. In the minerals sector, for example, the Department had been responsible for 53 UNDP-financed projects. The need for economic evaluation and feasibility studies as well as infrastructure planning to exploit specific deposits had also been emphasized. In support of the Mar del Plata Action Plan for the International Drinking Water and Sanitation Decade, the Department would be participating in a major rural water supply project, for the construction of over 2,500 new wells in six countries of the West African Economic Community. It would also collaborate with the Government of Sweden in organizing an interregional seminar on the same subject.

35. The Department had co-operated with Governments in executing national and regional programmes in energy planning, such as the Central American Energy Programme. In 1981 the Department would organize a workshop in energy planning for the west Africa region in co-operation with UNIDO and IAEA. Other endeavours included wind-energy projects in Mauritius and China, as well as a project in Mongolia to demonstrate the use of new and renewable sources of energy to improve pastures and animal husbandry, and domestic living conditions in rural areas.

36. The use of statistics, data processing and analysis cut across many disciplines. The Department was assisting many developing countries to strengthen their national computer capabilities and in furnishing data processing equipment. Governments were being encouraged to establish computerized water resources data storage and retrieval systems as a tool for the Government planning authorities. In Niger, assistance had been given to a public administration project designed to computerize the administration of state personnel.

37. The Department had made every effort to apply new dimensions policies and guidelines, including the increased use of national experts as field personnel. National co-ordinators were running projects in Turkey, Yugoslavia and India while local consultants had been employed in Peru to undertake energy surveys and in Sri Lanka to co-ordinate training programmes for planners, administrators, and technical officers.

38. The Department had also continued to implement the directives of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council on strengthening co-operation with the regional commissions. The decentralization of all regional and subregional projects had been completed in consultation with UNDP except for a few projects which remained with the Department for specific reasons and with the agreement of all concerned. Some of the funds allotted to the Department under the Regular Programme had been transferred to the regional commissions in order to reinforce their back-stopping capability. The Department would continue to co-operate with the regional commissions in every way that would be helpful to the execution of projects.

39. The Department also attached great importance to the promotion of technical co-operation among developing countries, which had been the subject of the recent high-level meeting at Geneva. The Department welcomed and, to the extent possible, was fulfilling the catalytic role which had been prescribed for the United Nations system, in order to promote self-reliance among developing countries and to contribute to the attainment of the New International Economic Order.
40. Where agency support costs were concerned, his Department shared the common concern that administrative and programme support costs should be kept to the minimum and that funds allocated to technical co-operation should be utilized as efficiently as possible for the maximum benefit of recipient countries. But in order to operate effectively, the Department required an optimum size programme so that it could use its expertise to the fullest possible extent. The recent trend had not been conducive to that position and he would welcome the Council's guidance.
41. The Department was in full agreement with the view that technical co-operation, pre-investment and investment were part of an operational continuum. As stated in the Secretary-General's report and as indicated by the Department's representative in the debate at the beginning of the session, the Department was making every effort to reverse the recent marked decline in investment-oriented projects. A major break-through in that regard could, however, only occur as a result of a policy decision by the Governing Council and member States.
42. With reference to the Administrator's statement that UNDP was prepared to support the executing agencies in forging stronger links with investment sources, he would welcome a consultative arrangement with UNDP similar to that envisaged between UNDP and some of the executing agencies.
43. The Department had collaborated closely with the Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration by providing essential technical back-stopping through its research capability and through assistance to Governments in exploration for mineral deposits which could then be exploited by the Fund. He looked forward to participating in the forthcoming intergovernmental group of experts which would lay the groundwork for a first review of the Fund's activities by the Economic and Social Council.
44. The Department was working closely with UNDP in carrying out work related to the Interim Fund for Science and Technology. A number of project proposals had been submitted for execution in the countries which had expressed interest and he hoped that some of those would be launched during the following year.
45. Mr. ENOKI (Japan) said that his delegation appreciated the Under-Secretary-General's reference to the pilot project on hydropower reserves for the least developed countries which was to be jointly financed by his Government. He wished to assure the Council that his Government would collaborate in the Department's valuable activities in every possible way.



46. Mr. WANG Zichuan (China) said that the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development had been established in accordance with General Assembly resolution 32/197 with a view to integrating most of the entities which were involved in technical co-operation but which had previously been dispersed in different departments of the United Nations. The Department's operational activities covered many areas, including such key sectors of economic and social development as development planning, natural resources and energy, population, statistics, public administration and finance. The Department had accounted for almost half of the total technical co-operation programme of \$213 million delivered by the United Nations in 1979 and had proved itself to be an important organ within the United Nations system of technical co-operation. The Department had been second only to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in the execution of UNDP-assisted projects, with a total expenditure of more than \$66 million. It was also a major executing agency of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities. The Governing Council should therefore give higher priority to the Department's activities so as to enable it to play a greater role in promoting the economic and social development of the developing countries and in the establishment of a new international economic order.

47. His delegation welcomed not only the completion of the realignment of the Department's internal structure, which would further enhance its response to the demands of the developing countries, but also its activities in the field of natural resources and energy which, in 1979, had represented almost 39 per cent of its total programme delivery expenditures. He hoped such activities would be further expanded, as they would be of increasing assistance to the developing countries in their search for solutions to their escalating energy problems.

48. The developing countries had emphasized the need for a further strengthening of the Department's technical co-operation activities in the fields of development planning and public administration. He hoped the Department would expand its activities under Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/47; that resolution had emphasized the need to strengthen technical co-operation in accounting and auditing, which were needed in the development efforts of the developing countries.

49. His delegation endorsed all the proposals made by the Secretary-General in document DP/RP/21 on the future orientation of the Department's work. It was, however, concerned that the resources at the Department's disposal might not be adequate to meet the requirements of the developing countries satisfactorily, and hoped that that situation would be remedied.

50. His Government attached great importance to its co-operation with the Department and had been fully satisfied by results during the previous year. It had hosted study tours organized by the Department on the development and management of water resources as well as on the development and utilization of biogas. An international workshop on petroleum geology had been jointly sponsored in Beijing with the participation of experts from 20 developing countries and more than 10 experts from developed countries; the Department would publish papers read at that workshop. As part of the Department's TCDC-oriented activities, further visits would be arranged in 1980 to study China's small-scale mining, small hydro-power stations, exploration, development and utilization of underground water in semi-arid areas, and flood control and rural development. Under the Regular Programme, the Department had provided China with the short-term advisory services of five experts and consultants in the fields of geology, petroleum and remote sensing, and had

furnished financial support for a Chinese group to study statistics in a number of countries as well as in relevant United Nations organs. UNIDO had provided short-term consultancy services to certain industrial sectors in China. The Department had also executed a number of UNDP- and UNFPA-assisted projects for China, including one on the population census.

51. Mr. FALKNER (United States of America) said that his Government had not yet formulated its views on the statistical information (DP/RP/22), since that document had only been received during the session. The scope of the work on technical co-operation reflected in the Secretary-General's report (DP/RP/21 and Add.1) was admirable and the report would be carefully re-read in the coming months as a reference source.

52. The report, however, indicated that investment follow-up activities had not come up to expectations, a point on which his delegation had commented during the discussion of agenda item 4(c). It hoped that more attention would be paid to that area in the coming year.

53. Miss FRETCHETTE (Canada) said that the essential statistical information contained in document DP/RP/22 was particularly useful and the Council should continue to receive such detailed reports on a regular basis. The Department's mandate covered such areas as development policies, planning, natural resources and energy, which were all of vital importance for development.

54. Her delegation welcomed the guidelines on the Regular Programme of Technical Co-operation described in document DP/RP/21, paragraphs 23-31. In view of the limited resources available to the Regular Programme, it was imperative that such guidelines should be strictly observed, so as to ensure the most productive utilization of resources. Her delegation strongly supported concentration on projects designed for the least developed countries and containing a strong element of TCDC. Such projects should be given the highest priority in the allocation of funds.

55. With regard to table 12 in document DP/RP/22, her delegation considered that there should be a better balance between the countries receiving the beneficiaries of fellowships awarded under the Regular Programme.

56. Her delegation had read with interest the analysis of activities carried out by the Department in various substantive areas (DP/RP/21, part III). It supported the Department's request for a clear definition and demarcation of respective roles to avoid overlap and to make the best use of resources, and would encourage the Department to enter into consultations with interested agencies to achieve that goal.

57. Her delegation welcomed the progress made in setting up a purchasing and contracting operation responsive to the needs of technical co-operation as well as the increasing efficiency of the Technical Assistance Recruitment Service (TARS), as illustrated by the figures provided in paragraph 100 of document DP/RP/21. The recruitment of experts was a most important function of the Department, as it was crucial to the effective and timely implementation of projects; it should therefore be given high priority in the allocation of resources.

58. The Department of Technical Co-operation for Development was the centre for managerial expertise in the United Nations in the field of technical co-operation and, in order to accomplish its task adequately, must set itself the highest standards of efficiency. Her delegation would give its full support to any initiative aimed at reaching that goal.

59. Mr. FESENKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) agreed with the observation in the Secretary-General's report that the performance of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development would be judged by the quality of its programme and its impact on economic and social issues in developing countries (DP/RP/21, para. 114). The report revealed some positive results in providing expert services and training national experts, in supplying equipment for mineral, energy and water resources exploration, and in technical co-operation among developing countries. It showed that there had been a constructive approach to the full utilization of all resources, including the annual Regular Programme contributions of the USSR.

60. One of the Department's main spheres of action was development planning and he noted with satisfaction that 1979 expenditures under that head had increased by \$6.8 million over the previous year.

61. General Assembly resolution 34/137 invited UNDP and other organizations to give consideration to technical co-operation projects designed to strengthen the public sector and improve the performance of public enterprises, and in that context he supported the Department's efforts to become more involved in state sector activities and the financing of development planning. Its work in that respect should be extended and Soviet organizations were well placed to advise on state planning and administration of the national economy.

62. During 1979 experts from developing countries had been trained in the Soviet Union in such fields as engineering and metallurgy, and seminars had been conducted in geology, statistics, seismo-proof building, demography and gerontology. Soviet organizations were ready to expand their Regular Programme activities in those and other branches of study and to organize courses, seminars and symposia.

63. The United Nations system of technical co-operation had been decentralized, in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 32/197; that was a useful measure which would make direction and planning more responsive to the aims of the programme and would facilitate the efficient use of programme resources; it was a process which should be speeded up. It was understandable that the reconstruction of such a complex mechanism could not give immediate results in every branch of activity, so that it was premature to assess the outcome of the re-organization as a whole. However, there was cause for concern regarding the equitable geographical distribution of posts in the headquarters and field activities of the Department. During the past year there had been a serious imbalance, amounting to a violation of the United Nations Charter, in the USSR share of professional posts in the Department, while the position with regard to field experts continued to be most unsatisfactory despite the introduction of the TARS computerized roster. Of the 1648 field experts used by the Department in 1979 only 20, or 1.2 per cent, were from the USSR; of 80 technical consultants in the United Nations Secretariat only one was a USSR national. Thus, a group of market economy countries continued to enjoy a privileged position. Restructuring of the economic and social sector of the United Nations was in fact working against the interests of the Soviet Union which found itself deprived of participation in the implementation of United Nations decisions in the economic field. He strongly condemned such discrimination and the creation of obstacles to the appointment and promotion of Soviet nationals, especially to posts of special responsibility; until such discrimination ceased, he could not approve the results of the re-organization. The United Nations administration in general and the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development in particular must take urgent measures to redress the situation.

64. Ms. SCHELTENA (Netherlands) said that her delegation agreed with the Under-Secretary-General that the resources of the Regular Programme should be concentrated on those fields of activity which were considered to be of high priority by the international policy-making bodies but which were less favoured in other programmes of technical co-operation. Her delegation would like to see such resources used in combination with funds from other sources instead of being employed in isolation.
65. TCDC activities favouring the least developed countries merited the Council's full support. The Department of Technical Co-operation for Development should pay particular attention to providing advisory services in the field of development planning. On that point, close co-operation with UNDP resident representatives was essential, with a view to co-ordinating and reinforcing the efforts of all interested parties.
66. Her delegation had noted with interest the follow-up which had been given to the Governing Council's decision 79/22, welcoming the proposal to use the resources of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, in consultation with UNDP, to improve the country-programming process and develop it as a frame of reference in accordance with General Assembly resolution 32/197. Her delegation would like to receive more information on the results achieved in the future. Projects at the regional level could also benefit from the Department's assistance.
67. Her delegation welcomed the activities of the Department in regard to the recruitment of associate experts and, in particular, the new agreement signed with the Government of the Netherlands regulating such recruitment.
68. The Department had suffered in the same way as had UNDP from a decline in the number of pre-investment and follow-up activities. In that connexion, her delegation endorsed all the steps mentioned in paragraph 127 of document DP/RP/21 and considered that more time should be specifically devoted to that question. The Department's pursuit of a co-operative arrangement with UNDP on the lines of the arrangement between UNDP and FAO represented a positive step; a similar arrangement with the World Bank might be considered.
69. Mr. CORDERY (United Kingdom) said that the format of the Secretary-General's report on United Nations technical co-operation activities (DP/RP/21 and Add.11, DP/RP/22) was an improvement, and he welcomed the coverage given to the activities of organizations within the United Nations other than the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development. It was useful for the Governing Council to have an overview of United Nations technical co-operation and the Department's place in the system; the summaries given in the document were adequate for that purpose.
70. He also welcomed the focus on issues where the Department felt that guidance from the Council was required. In that connexion, it should be borne in mind that although most of the Department's components were well established, it was a relatively new department with a unique and complex relationship to other parts of the United Nations system; its role was diverse and ill-defined. It was therefore important that it should have an opportunity to air its problems and policies in an international forum; it was anomalous that the debate in the Governing Council should be the only occasion on which Governments could offer guidance on a programme of technical co-operation which, as the representative of China had pointed out, was one of the largest in the United Nations system. However, it would be

difficult at the present session to offer the Department clear guidelines regarding all the issues raised in the Secretary-General's report. He could accept the proposed guidelines for the use of Regular Programme funds (DP/RP/21, para. 25), but it was too soon after restructuring to reach firm positions on the wider policy issues. Paragraph 44, dealing with the demarcation of roles in development planning, and paragraph 121, dealing with the demarcation of roles in natural resources and energy, gave examples of the kind of issue it was difficult to decide at the present stage. The question of demarcation had significant implications for the Department as a whole and might well be taken up by the Governing Council at its next session when several relevant developments, such as the experts' review of the Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration, would have been completed.

71. Guidance from intergovernmental bodies was only one of the factors determining the future shape of the Department. Another was the demand for its services. The best guarantee that it would do useful work was its responsiveness to the real requirements of the developing countries. His own reply to the Department's request for guidance on new modalities for technical co-operation would be to set the matter in the context of assistance provided at the request of developing countries, so that new modalities would emerge in response to the real wishes of recipient Governments. What developing countries wanted most was sound projects speedily and effectively implemented, and that should be borne in mind when trying to establish a balance between the two fields referred to in paragraph 114 of the Secretary-General's report.

72. It followed that the measure by which the Department was judged was effectiveness in delivery. Given that the Department's administrative resources were derived largely from UNDP support costs, effective delivery, which would enhance confidence and raise the volume of projects channelled through the Department, was vital to its well-being. He was therefore greatly encouraged by the increased delivery rate reported. Volume was, of course, not the only consideration, but there were indications that quality, for example, in procurement services, had also improved. Expert recruitment deserved particular attention, given the fact that experts accounted for 57 per cent of the programme.

73. If statistics of output were to be evaluated usefully, they needed to be related to the resources used to produce the output. It would therefore be helpful if, when the Council next considered the matter, it could have before it information on the Department's staffing, related to the implementation figures in such a way as to enable the Council to make a comparative assessment of the Department's productivity.

74. Turning to the Secretary-General's statistical report on United Nations technical co-operation activities (DP/RP/22) he noted from table 12 that about 80 per cent of the total of Regular Programme fellowships (column B) were allocated to only one country. It was interesting to compare that distribution with that of fellowships under UNDP projects where Governments could choose freely where to send their fellows. That was an example of the kind of distortion in the programme resulting from contributions made in non-convertible currencies. The search for ways to spend those currencies absorbed time and effort, paid for in convertible currencies, which would have been better spent on activities of more direct use to developing countries.

75. Mr. AHLANDER (Observer for Sweden), speaking on behalf of the four Nordic countries, said that those countries saw a justification for the regular technical co-operation activities of the United Nations and found it helpful that the United Nations should have some relatively modest resources at its disposal to permit practical participation in the development processes of member States.

Many fields covered by those regular activities, such as public administration and social services, were key areas and had little or no place in programmes financed elsewhere in the United Nations system. However, the United Nations Regular Programme for Technical Co-operation had always had some problems in finding its proper identity. An attempt had been made in paragraphs 24-31 of the report (DP/RP/21) to define its proper functions and formulate some criteria for the selection of the work programme. The Nordic countries endorsed the statement in subparagraph 24 (a) that the Regular Programme must in some fundamental way be "different" from technical co-operation activities financed under other funds. That statement, however, appeared to conflict with the ideas expressed in subparagraphs 25 (g) and 25 (j). The innovative character of United Nations technical co-operation activities should therefore be emphasized. The Regular Programme activities should therefore have their own clearly discernible identity, stand on their own feet and produce their own benefits for the developing countries concerned. The four delegations particularly endorsed the idea that Regular Programme resources should be used in support of the global development policies enunciated by the General Assembly.

76. Mr. CZARKOWSKI (Poland) said that the statistical information provided concerning United Nations technical co-operation activities was very helpful. It was a pity that the document containing it (DP/RP/22) had, like other documents relating to the item, been issued so late.

77. There had been far-reaching structural changes in the organization of United Nations technical co-operation activities and it was clear that in future the Governing Council would have to devote more attention to that branch of the Secretariat, and its links with UNDP and other components of the United Nations system.

78. With regard to the future orientation of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, he felt that the Department should concentrate on those areas not adequately covered by other agencies in the United Nations system; he had in mind such areas as development planning and advisory services, including advice on areas in the public sector that needed special attention. However, some caution was necessary in the matter of advisory services, since United Nations activities of that nature had incurred criticism in the past on the ground that they were inconsistent with the basic principles of United Nations technical co-operation, in that the advisory experts had been participating in the process of government; questions of sovereignty had thus arisen. The Joint Inspection Unit might very well review the effective use of advisory services.

79. He agreed with the observation (DP/RP/21, para. 25(b)) that the Department's resources must be directed to activities likely to have a significant impact on the development process. In that context, the area of energy and natural resources seemed particularly suitable for attention by the Department. It was a field not covered in other components of the United Nations system and was crucial to the redressment of the world economic situation as well as that of the developing countries.

80. The report contained details of the technical co-operation activities of the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs (DP/RP/21/Add.1, section H). In his opinion, that branch of the Secretariat did not fully reflect all the basic principles of United Nations technical co-operation, particularly with regard to universality; that applied to the devising of projects, and to the staffing of the Office itself.

81. He noted the United Kingdom representative's reference to the magnitude of a particular figure relating to fellowships (DP/RP/22, table 12, column B). He pointed

participation in the utilization of those funds; no Polish experts were used, nor were any holders of fellowships placed in Poland. It followed that convertibility was not a key that would open all doors or solve all difficulties in the implementation of technical co-operation programmes. The question of the distribution of fellowships needed more attention in future, as did the question of the geographical distribution of United Nations Secretariat posts; he was in full agreement with the observations of the representative of the USSR on that point.

82. Mr. GADEL HAK (Egypt) expressed support for the work done by the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development and endorsed the proposal that increased resources should be made available to that Department, to enable it to increase its development planning activities.

83. Mr. BI JILONG (Under-Secretary-General, United Nations Department of Technical Co-operation for Development) expressed his Department's appreciation of the comments made by members of the Council. He particularly appreciated the fact that they had come from representatives of both developed and developing countries. Those comments would be taken into account in planning the Department's future activities.

84. Miss ANSTEE (Assistant Secretary-General, United Nations Department of Technical Co-operation for Development), replying to specific points raised during the discussion, said that the comments and advice provided were particularly important to the Department, because the UNDP Governing Council was the only intergovernmental forum which specifically considered its work in detail. She was pleased that representatives had in general been satisfied with the first attempt to enlarge the coverage of the Department's annual report, as requested by the Council in 1979. The task had not been easy, because it had been necessary to collect information from many different bodies scattered all over the world. However, since the Council had found the exercise useful, the Department would try to refine the document further the following year and would, in particular, take into account requests from various delegations for more information on services to the least developed among the developing countries and on activities related to TCDC. She apologised for the late distribution of the report (DP/RP/22), which had been due partly to the late receipt of the required information from the other bodies outside the Department, now included in the report's expanded coverage, and partly to late closing of the United Nations accounts.

85. She was glad that the delegations which had referred to the realignment of the Department thought it was moving in the right direction. The Department was evaluating its own performance and was ready to adopt any changes which might prove necessary.

86. The need for greater efficiency in management had been duly noted. The Department shared the concern expressed by the United Kingdom representative regarding its future role, since one of its difficulties was the lack of a specific definition of that role. In that connexion, the representative of Canada had made a useful suggestion concerning the possibility of consultations with other organizations.

87. She fully agreed with the United Kingdom representative that the Department's success depended on its responsiveness to the needs of the developing countries and on the expeditious and effective implementation of projects. Efforts had been made during the past year to improve that performance, one important innovation having been the introduction of the team approach to projects, which was part of the process of integrating within the departmental framework all the different entities which had previously worked separately. It was too early to evaluate that work but a progress report would be included in the Department's next annual report.

88. The United Kingdom representative had also expressed the view that it would be difficult to define the Department's role in certain areas until more time had elapsed. She suggested that it could equally well be argued that the effectiveness of the Department's work could be affected by the lack of precision in its mandate. Governments could give vital guidance in that respect. At present, the orientation of the Department's work was governed partly by guidance from intergovernmental bodies such as the UNDP Governing Council and partly by requests for services made by developing countries.

89. She wished to correct a possible slight misunderstanding with regard to the budget of \$160 million mentioned by the United Kingdom representative. That figure in fact referred not to the supporting budget of the Department but to the funds assigned to the Department as a result of requests from developing countries, i.e. to its operational projects. The fact that that figure had attained \$160 million for the first six months of 1980 as compared with some \$140 million for the same period in 1979 reflected an increased demand for the Department's services; it thus provided exactly the kind of evidence of satisfactory performance rightly advocated by the United Kingdom representative.

90. She was grateful for the general support expressed for the broad guidelines set out in paragraphs 24 and 25 of the report (DP/RP/21). She was pleased that the representative of Sweden had recognized the difficulty of working out such guidelines and agreed that contradictions might emerge. She suggested, however that subparagraph 25 (g) did not basically contradict subparagraph 24 (a), bearing in mind that the emphasis must be on innovation. The Regular Programme therefore had a pilot role and it was clear that, if an innovative activity was started, the very limited resources available would not be adequate for any expansion, so that bridging arrangements might be necessary and could indeed be made without vitiating the essentially "different" nature of the Regular Programme. However, she agreed that there was some contradiction between subparagraph 24 (a) and subparagraph 25 (j), which would be eliminated by the deletion of the words "and even inter-changeably" in the latter subparagraph.

91. In fact, most of the Department's problems were related to its lack of resources. She was therefore grateful to those delegations which had endorsed its need for additional funds.

92. She had noted the comments on pre-investment and investment follow-up, particularly those made by the representatives of the United States and the Netherlands. She could assure the Council that, as indicated in the report, that would be one of the high priority areas of activity during the coming year and a full report would be made to the Council at its next session.

93. She welcomed the Polish delegation's support of the Department's work on natural resources and energy and acknowledged the offers of support in the Department's various areas of competence, particularly the useful contributions proposed by the representative of the USSR.

94. Several delegations had referred to the distribution of fellowships in table 12 of document DP/RP/22. To avoid any possible misunderstanding, she wished to point out that the figures did not relate to individual fellowships but to fellowships awarded in specific contexts such as study tours, seminars and workshops, which had been organized in such a way as to make the maximum use of the contributions available to the Programme.



95. The Department was making the greatest possible effort to ensure adequate geographical distribution of experts and staff. That was not always feasible in field posts because of the need to respond directly to requests from Governments. A number of factors were involved, one of which was the availability of qualified people. The Department's roster was being built up and efforts were being made to ensure that it was as geographically balanced as possible. Even then, the appointment of experts depended on the final decision of the Governments concerned. However, the Department was undertaking a specific study of the pattern of recruitment of experts from under-represented countries in order to identify the stage at which problems occurred and adopt such remedial measures as were within the Department's power. Finally, the Department welcomed the reference by the representative of the Netherlands to the new agreement on associate experts, who could play a key role in the Department's programmes.

(i) INFORMATION ON AGENCY REGULAR AND EXTRABUDGETARY TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION  
EXPENDITURES FINANCED FROM SOURCES OTHER THAN UNDP (DP/488)

96. Mr. HARLAND (Assistant Administrator and Director, Bureau for Programme Policy and Evaluation) explained that part I of the document under consideration (DP/488) contained a description and brief analysis of data on the technical co-operation expenditures of the United Nations system in 1979 and the sources of the voluntary contributions used to finance them. Part II contained the basic statistical data. The report was for the information of Governments and should serve as a reference document rather than a paper requiring substantive comment.

97. Partly for that reason, the report had received negligible attention at previous sessions of the Council. That was not a fair reflection of its value because it was one of the most significant documents before the Council, since it provided a general overview of the total technical co-operation activities of the United Nations system, involving expenditures of some \$1,000 million in 1979. The amount of information needed for the preparation of the report was considerable. The technical section of the report was available in all the working languages and he hoped that even if delegations had not had time to prepare comments for the current session of the Council, due attention would be given to the document before the policy review of operational activities in the Economic and Social Council. Endeavours had been made to align the presentation in the report with the statistical data contained in the report on policy issues pertaining to the operational activities for development of the United Nations system to be submitted to the Economic and Social Council by the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation. During the consideration of the latter report, it was expected that the Economic and Social Council would examine the type of statistical reporting required in future policy reviews. It might therefore be useful if the information in document DP/488 were available to the Economic and Social Council to complement the statistical data contained in the Director-General's report. That proposal was reflected in the draft decision submitted for the Governing Council's consideration in paragraph 50 of part I of the report. The comments of the Economic and Social Council would, of course, be taken into account in preparing any future reports on that subject.

98. Mr. BOURGOIS (Secretary of the Governing Council) read out the draft decision (DP/488, para. 50).

99. The draft decision was adopted.